

SOAR! Awards 2016 Grants

The SOAR! board of directors approved nearly \$1 million in grants at its May meeting. This year, SOAR! is awarding 52 grants to Catholic congregations of men and women in 17 states; these grants will benefit 2,770 religious men and women whose average age is 78. The grants total \$983,167.

Through your generosity, SOAR! grants assist religious congregations in caring for their elderly and infirm members. Grants cover expenses for very basic needs such as handrails, hospital beds, and emergency call systems.

As a result of this assistance, many more religious will be able to continue to age in place and remain at home with their religious communities. These grants help ensure the safety and dignity of these men and women religious.

It is a monumental challenge for religious communities to care for their aging members. The majority of congregations lack adequate funding for retirement, as the cost of care continues to rise. Meanwhile, the number of religious to support them in the workforce is dropping. A recent study projected that by 2020, religious past age 70 will outnumber those younger than them by four to one.

Your goodness makes these grants possible. The Sisters, Brothers, and Priests you help remember you in their daily prayers. The SOAR! Board of Directors joins them in their gratitude for your continuing kindness.

30th Anniversary Orange County Dinner



Trudy Mazzarella, Director of Tour Ministry at Christ Cathedral and President Emerita at Rosary Academy, accepts the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award.



Members of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, who received the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award at SOAR!'s Orange County dinner. See page 4 for more!



Dear
Friends
of
SOAR!

I often say that donations to SOAR! bring safety and security to aging religious. Let me tell you how that really happens with an example of our *Faithful Friends* monthly giving program participants. Their commitment gives me the confidence to say "Yes" when emergency needs arise and a congregation needs help outside of our regular grant cycle. Just a few months ago SOAR! helped to install a security system in a monastery that had an intruder break in during the night. Our *Faithful Friends* helped those Sisters feel safe and secure in their monastery.

Thank you to all our faithful benefactors who make a difference in the lives of so many aging religious. When a Sister can open the heavy doors to the chapel by pressing the button on the wall, it's because you are faithful. When an aging brother can get from the workhouse barn to the dining room by himself on the scooter SOAR! provided, it is because of your generosity.

God bless all of you who are faithful to supporting aging Sisters, Priests and Brothers and for helping SOAR! to help their congregations keep them safe, healthy and happy.

In gratitude,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sharing Our Stories

Why support aging religious men and women?
Because they're my heroes! And not just Jesuits...

Of course I can never repay the debt that I owe to all the Jesuit Priests and Brothers who trained me, who taught me, who were my spiritual directors, mentors, and counselors. Who, as we say in religious life, formed me. What I owe these men, many of whom are now infirm, ill, and even dying, is beyond measure.

But my other heroes are Catholic Sisters. Honestly, one of the greatest surprises in my life was how wrong I was about Catholic Sisters. After I entered the Jesuits at age 27, I realized that my old stereotypes of Sisters and Nuns — as somewhat out of touch, rather weak-willed, and perhaps even timid — was utterly wrong. Women religious in this country are some of the most vibrant, hard-working and, to use a good word, tough, women I've ever met. And this has been the case throughout American Catholic history. Often they've had to do their ministry in the face of opposition from (male) church leaders.

The contributions of women religious in my life are too numerous to mention. I think of Sister Janice Farnham, RJM, one of my teachers in graduate theology studies, who once took a four-hour train ride to see my father on his death bed. "She's a great lady," my dad always said. Or Sister Maddy Tiberiii, SSJ, who was not only an intrepid teacher in a tiny school in rural Tanzania, but a gifted spiritual director as well, and beloved at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, Mass. Or Sister Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, a professor of theology at Fordham University, author of *She Who Is*, and my favorite living theologian.

It pains me that Catholic Sisters in general were historically so poorly paid and, therefore, have so little to support their elderly Sisters now. I think that one of the most important charities that a Catholic can give to is SOAR!. I pray that everyone might remember these heroes and help them. Just as they have helped you.

James Martin, SJ

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., is a Jesuit Priest, author and editor at large at *America*, the national Catholic magazine. His most recent books are *Seven Last Words*, *The Abbey* and *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*. **Father Martin will be honored at the SOAR! 30th Anniversary Dinner in New York on September 21.**



At the SOAR! office, we are blessed to hear so many stories of how religious have made such a difference in the lives of our grateful donors and their families.

If you would like to share a story about how religious have nurtured you and why you support SOAR!, drop us a note at info@soar-usa.org or call (202) 529-7627 and speak with Eleanor La Prade.

2016 SOAR! Grants

ARKANSAS

Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco
Upgrade hospital beds and mattresses

CALIFORNIA

Sisters of Notre Dame of California
Thousand Oaks
Replace windows

Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles, Alhambra
Purchase hi-low beds for elderly Sisters

Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
Bonita
Renovate bathrooms

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - San Francisco, San Francisco
Purchase special recliner chairs

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose
Fremont
Install ADA therapy pool-lift chair

COLORADO

Benet Hill Monastery, Colorado Springs
Install security system

CONNECTICUT

Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church, Baltic
Make refectory doors handicapped accessible

ILLINOIS

Sisters of the Living Word, Arlington Heights
Purchase new mattresses

The Congregation of the Passion, Holy Cross Province, Park Ridge
Purchase furniture for aging in place

Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Lisle
Renovate bathrooms

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Chicago
Purchase furniture and physical therapy equipment

INDIANA

Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand
Install security system

LOUISIANA

Sisters of the Holy Family - New Orleans
New Orleans
Replace thermostats and update heating/cooling system

MARYLAND

Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity
Silver Spring
Replace fan coil units in bedrooms

St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart (Josephites), Baltimore
Purchase hospital beds

Atlantic Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Baltimore
Purchase medical equipment

MASSACHUSETTS

St. Joseph's Abbey (Cistercian Abbey of Spencer)
Spencer
Install infirmary fire alarm and sprinklers

Religious Venerini Sisters, Worcester
Renovate bathroom

Sisters of St. Anne, Marlborough
Purchase medical lift and recliner chairs

Glastonbury Abbey (Benedictine Monks)
Hingham
Replace flooring including some asbestos abatement

Cistercians of the Strict Observance
Wrentham
Purchase two-way radio system for infirmary staff

Daughters of St. Paul, Boston
Upgrade accessibility of dining room buffet area

MISSOURI

Ursuline Sisters of the Central Province
St. Louis
Renovate bathroom

School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province, St. Louis
Renovate bathrooms

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sisters of Holy Cross, Manchester
Purchase furniture for Chapel

NEW YORK

Medical Missionaries of Mary, City Island, Bronx
Replace windows and furnace

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, Garrison
Purchase medical equipment and supplies

Congregation of the Passion (Eastern Province)
Rye Brook
Purchase electric scooters

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, New Rochelle
Purchase and install a wheelchair elevator

Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary (Dominican Sisters of Sparkill), Sparkill
Install emergency phones in elevators

Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Jamaica
Purchase refridgerator for infirmary and replace AC/heating units

Dominican Sisters of Amityville, Amityville
Install handrails

Sisters of St. Joseph - Brentwood, New York
Brentwood
Purchase hospital beds

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet - Albany Province, Latham
Purchase shower chairs and lift chair

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, Syracuse
Install saftay upgrades for bathrooms

Sisters of Divine Compassion, White Plains
Install chair lift

Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, Monroe
Replace heating oil tank

OHIO

Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
Cleveland
Install walk-in showers

PENNSYLVANIA

Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Erie
Purchase electric lift chairs

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Danville
Renovate bathrooms

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary-Scranton, Scranton
Replace flooring in infirmary

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Aston
Purchase hospital beds and bariatric chairs

Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great - Fox Chase Manor, Fox Chase Manor
Make health care exam room and bathroom handicap accessible

Handmaids of the Sacred Heart, Haverford
Replace flooring and renovate bathrooms

Canons Regular of Premontre, Paoli
Renovate bathrooms

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary - Immaculata, Immaculata
Replace medication carts in infirmary

St. Joseph Villa, Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
Reading
Install 55 handicap accessible toilets

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern PA
Erie
Install personal wireless emergency call system

TEXAS

Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, San Antonio
Install new fire alarm and monitoring system

WISCONSIN

School Sisters of St. Francis - Milwaukee
Milwaukee
Purchase lift and transfer devices

Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, Sinsinawa
Purchase healthcare equipment



Celebrate Our 30th at the Fall SOAR! Dinners!

September 21, 2016 ~ New York Athletic Club, New York City
November 4, 2016 ~ National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
Visit www.soar-usa.org/events for details or contact Sister Kate Clancy, IHM at kclancy@soar-usa.org or (202) 529-7627.

SOAR! held its 30th Anniversary Orange County Awards Dinner on May 7 at the Christ Cathedral Cultural Center in Garden Grove, California. The dinner brought together nearly 150 people to support aging religious.

At the dinner, SOAR! presented the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award to the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Orange and to Trudy Mazzarella.

Mrs. Mazzarella, Christ Cathedral Director of Tour Ministry and Rosary Academy President Emerita, said she accepted the award "in honor of all the women religious and congregations who have served with great care, with great love, and with great sacrifice."

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, who were established in California in 1912, serve the community in a variety of ministries.

"Whether we are in education, healthcare, parishes, social justice, advocacy, formation, or walking with people in their spiritual journeys, our goal is this:

We live and work so that all people may be united with God and with one another," said the congregation's president Sister Jayne Helmlinger, who accepted the Sisters' award.



Attendees enjoy the SOAR! Orange County awards dinner. Standing from left is Doug Cooper, SOAR! board member Mary Pat Cooper, Chris Scibelli, Anne Marie Scibelli, John Viggiano. Seated from left is Ed Farrell, Kay Faley and Mary Ann Viggiano.



JOIN A SPECIAL GROUP of our most committed supporters – become a monthly donor! Just think, you won't have to write any more checks or search for stamps. You will also help SOAR! save on administrative and mailing costs. Best of all, being a *Faithful Friend* means our aging religious can count on your faithfulness to SOAR! to help address practical needs for their safety and comfort.

Visit www.soar-usa.org to learn more.

**Please consider remembering SOAR! in your will or estate plans.
Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc.
Our federal tax ID number is 52-1485481.**

A CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION SERVING ELDERLY SISTERS, BROTHERS AND PRIESTS SINCE 1986.



The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the mission and needs of SOAR! and to express our gratitude to our donors.

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