

## SOAR! Helps in an Emergency

**In** October, St. Michael Villa, the retirement home for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, was seriously damaged in a fire. All of the Sisters evacuated safely, but they needed help meeting their immediate needs.

Thanks to our donors, SOAR! quickly responded. Within 24 hours, SOAR! sent the Sisters a \$10,000 grant.

Almost every request we receive has a degree of urgency, but there are times when something has to happen right away – and there is nowhere else to turn. In the past 12 months, SOAR! has awarded a half a dozen emergency grants. Requests included:

- a new oil tank for a congregation whose 54-year-old oil tank gave up at the beginning of winter;
- a patient lift for an elderly Sister who would be

confined to her bed without it after she returned to the convent from the hospital; and

- a security system for Sisters, so that they could have peace of mind after a break in.

More and more, congregations are turning to us to help them not only with planned renovations, but in emergencies as well.

With limited resources, Catholic religious know how important it is to make careful plans for the future. But they also know how quickly an emergency can throw them off track. In times like these, SOAR! is there to support them.

You help us continue to be that reliable resource for aging Sisters, Brothers and Priests in their time of need.

The Sisters, Brothers and Priests we serve are getting older every day. You help us give them peace of mind.

**THE SISTERS at  
BENET HILL MONASTERY  
in Colorado Springs, Colorado  
received an  
EMERGENCY GRANT  
from SOAR!  
for a security system.**





Dear Friends of SOAR!

When I turned 30 (a few years ago!) I felt like I was at my prime – physically, spiritually and intellectually charged to take on any challenge in ministry, ready to be the best religious Sister I could be. I saw turning 30 as a new beginning. And now, that’s how I feel about SOAR!

When the founding board met in 1986 to develop the mission for Support Our Aging Religious and strategize how best to serve religious, I wonder if they envisioned an organization that would still be going strong 30 years later? Or did they feel the financial deficits and challenges facing women and men religious would be resolved in 10 or 15 years? Certainly the needs of aging religious have changed, and so SOAR! has adapted as well to face those challenges and to meet those needs. So, while we celebrate the history of SOAR! this year and mark the milestone of turning 30, it really is a new beginning.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us and for being a part of our future. It is only with the financial support and prayerful concern of our benefactors that we are able to reach out to aging Sisters, Priests and Brothers and make their lives a little bit better by offering safety, comfort and dignity. Now that SOAR! is in its prime, let’s work together to take on new challenges and be the best organization we can be.

Happy New Year!

In Gratitude,

*Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM*  
Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM  
President

## Sharing Our Stories

Mr. Scully has always been around Catholic religious. He knows of the “good work” they’ve done.

Growing up in Oregon, Francis “Bud” Scully remembers how he was educated by Catholic Sisters.

“They were wonderful. They had a principal that I loved. She was just darling – Sister Evelyn Mary,” he said. She was a cultivated woman who knew “how to behave like a lady” and a deft manager of people, he said. “She had some real smarts and she knew just how to operate.”

“I loved her, I was a teacher’s pet in the eighth grade.”

His own sister entered the Society of Holy Child Jesus in 1947 at age 25 and became Sister Mary Joel Scully.

Later, he was introduced to the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles, who took care of his sister. “I thought, they’ve got some real spunk,” he said.

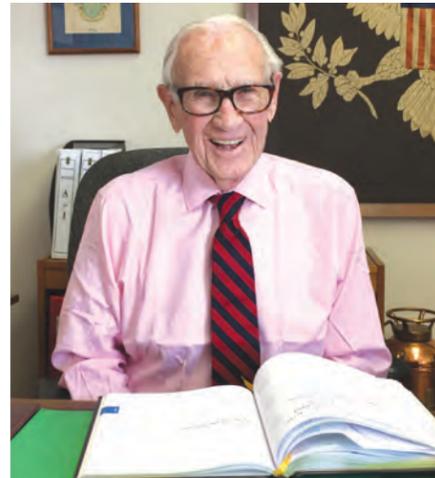
Through his life, he said he saw firsthand the challenges that Catholic religious congregations faced caring for their aging members.

When he was introduced to SOAR! through his friend, board member John Coleman, Mr. Scully said that he generously responded because he knew personally that Catholic religious need help.

“The nuns really did a lot of wonderful things, in hospitals, in schools, in charities, in general,” he said.

Sisters, Brothers and Priests gave their lives in service to others and expected little in return. Supporting SOAR! is one way people can say thank you for the good work of our Catholic religious.

*Bud Scully is a retired insurance broker and the chairman of Financial Guarantee Insurance Brokers. He lives in Pasadena, California.*



BUD SCULLY

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

Religious women and men have blessed our days with their wisdom and presence. For our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the pearl anniversary, we’ve asked religious to share with us their pearls of wisdom. You can find these wonderful insights from those whose communities have been blessed by the generous support of SOAR! donors and friends online at <http://soar-usa.org/30years/>.



In honor of its 30th anniversary, SOAR! received this special Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis. Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, presented the blessing to SOAR! president Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM in August.



At its gala dinner in New York on September 21, SOAR! recognized, from left, Father James Martin, SJ; Sister Mary O’Neill, PBVM; and ArchCare, represented by CEO Scott LaRue.



SOAR! celebrated its awards dinner in Washington, DC on November 4. From left are honorees Kevin Sexton, Denny Hattler and Bishop of Arlington Paul Loverde with SOAR! president Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM and board chair Kathryn Caballero.

## CELEBRATE SOAR! IN CALIFORNIA

SOAR! is looking forward to its upcoming Los Angeles dinner benefitting aging and infirm religious.

WHEN:

Saturday May 20, 2017

WHERE:

The California Club

For details, contact Maggie Cerise at [mcerise@soar-usa.org](mailto:mcerise@soar-usa.org) or (202) 529-7627.

Your gift made to SOAR! by December 31 may generate income tax deductions that could help reduce your tax bill for 2016. Thank you for your generosity!

Did you know you can help support aging religious throughout the year with a convenient automatic monthly donation? Becoming a Faithful Friend is an easy way for you to assist SOAR! in its vital mission. Visit [www.soar-usa.org](http://www.soar-usa.org) and click on DONATE TODAY, or call our office at (202) 529-7627.



# IN GRATEFUL MEMORY

Let us remember in prayer our dear Legacy Society members who have died this past year. *May they rest in peace.*

Mrs. Emily DeCarolis • Rev. Eugene A. Leonard • Mr. Lester J. Rendich, Jr.  
Mr. Bernard T. Rachuba • Mr. Albert T. Steele

## YOUR GIFT CAN BE A LASTING LEGACY

You can help strengthen the impact of the important work of SOAR! through a commitment to the SOAR! Legacy Society. This special group of people has named SOAR! as a beneficiary in their will or planned gift. Please let us know if you are remembering SOAR! with a legacy gift, so we can thank you. Your generosity and example may inspire others to make a planned gift to ensure that aging Catholic religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests live in safety and with the comfort and dignity they so deserve.

To review SOAR!'s Legacy brochure, visit [www.soar-usa.org](http://www.soar-usa.org) or call the office at (202) 529-7627. Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. and our federal tax ID number is 52-1485481.

*In all matters regarding estate or planned charitable giving, please consult with your attorney or professional financial or tax advisor.*

SOAR! recognizes the following SOAR! Legacy Society members who have informed us that SOAR! is part of their estate plans:

Jose Andrade	John Fackeldy	Michael Lake	Rev. Vincent J. Sheehy
William G. Bergan	Ellen Gavin	Joseph F. McCarthy	David E. Thompson
Barbara A Busch	David Karas	Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Moran	George Trovato
Ralph A. Cipolaro	Alice E. Kinsman	Elwood Morton	Joan Zelten
Deborah Dowling	Joseph Krizmanich		

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.

**Did you know? SOAR! is a participant in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Federal employees and military personnel can designate Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!) to receive their contributions to the CFC. Our CFC number is 10041.**

**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.

President: Sister Kathleen Lunsman, IHM  
Editor: Elizabeth Góral-Makowski  
Co-Editor: Eleanor La Prade



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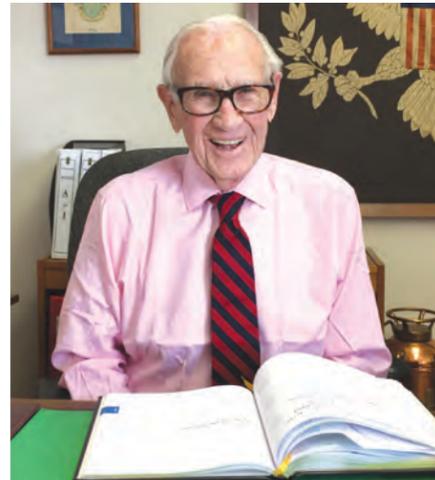
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