

Saying Thanks SOAR! helps donors share gratitude

Many donors support SOAR! as a way to say “thank you” to the religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests who helped shape their lives.

Rather than a way to “pay it forward,” John Sherwood of West Virginia likes to think of giving to SOAR! as a way to “pay it backwards” to help the religious who formed him — specifically the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, who taught him in school.

He remembered running into them years later:

...I was sitting in a funeral parlor for my dad’s viewing when two ladies, very smartly dressed, walked up to me and said, “Oh, John Michael, we are so sorry for your loss.” Since I had dropped “Michael” from my name as soon as I graduated from 8th grade, I knew they had to be the nuns from at least 25 years earlier. Apparently they regularly reviewed the obituaries in the Baltimore Sun and visited their former students! I was moved, thankful and surprised, since I had never seen them other than in their black habits.

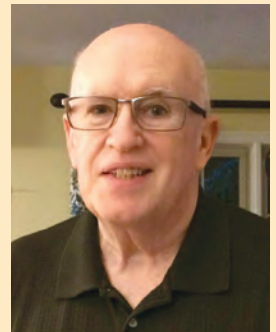
SOAR! donors have shared many moving stories about how Sisters, Brothers and Priests changed their lives.

Mike and Marianne Fenwick of Nebraska say that their donation is nothing compared to the blessings they received from these selfless men and women.

“I did not even realize the foundation for morality and justice that was started in me until my wife and I raised our own four children,” Mr. Fenwick writes.

“I can never repay these fine religious men and women but please know that...they are always remembered, respected and regarded as unselfish models of how to follow Jesus.”

Dolores and Ed Thompson of Pennsylvania both attended Catholic schools, and for many years, they too hoped for a way to give Sisters and Brothers “the recognition and thanks” they deserved for all their years of dedicated service.



John Sherwood
of West Virginia

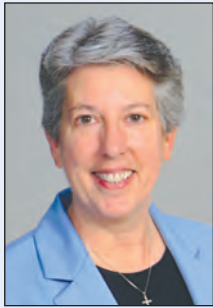


Mike and Marianne Fenwick
of Nebraska



Dolores and Ed Thompson
of Pennsylvania

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Dear Friends of SOAR!

Dear Friends,

I spend most of my workday talking with friends – you! If I'm not on the phone, then I'm at my desk writing a note

to one of our friends of SOAR!. Each one of you is an important part of our ministry. You might be an aunt or uncle of a Sister, or a niece or nephew of a Brother or you might have a sibling who is a religious. Even if you aren't related to a religious, Sister, Brother or Priest, you are an important family member to us.

Faithful Friends, a special group of benefactors, are committed to making automatic monthly donations to help our aging religious. Once the recurring donation is set up with a bank or with a credit card, the Faithful Friends do not need to do another thing. But that doesn't mean that I stop thinking about them. If you would like to be part of this group, see the article on page 4 for instructions or call the office and speak with Paul Wilson.

Just like children in a family, one is not more important than another to their parents. I am grateful to all the friends of SOAR! in keeping our mission alive. Your faithfulness and commitment to ensure that our elderly religious are safe and have what they need are inspiring.

When you feel the need to reach out to a friend, please think of us. Please reach out to me with your special intentions so I can join you in praying for them. Reach out to me with your stories about how religious men and women touched your life so I can share in your joy. Thank you for being a friend of SOAR!

In gratitude,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM
President

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"And here (SOAR!) was a chance for us, the laity, to give them both," she writes.

"We have been happy to send our donation every month."



Larry and Barbara Soletti
of California

Larry and Barbara Soletti of California give to SOAR! for similar reasons. When an old high school classmate introduced Mr. Soletti to SOAR!, he also thought back to his time in Catholic school. He had fond memories for him of the Sisters of the Holy Cross who had taught him.

"They were terrific and SOAR! is a great way to payback," he says.

"The more I learned of your work, the more it became clear that your work is truly a holy mission. I wish I could do more!"

From the start, SOAR! was a grassroots organization dedicated to helping address the practical needs facing the safety and care of aging religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests.

Frank Butler of Washington, DC, who helped found SOAR! in 1986, recalled that it brought together people from all walks of life, and they had one thing in common: gratitude.

"SOAR! is a community of gratitude recognizing Christian women and men through whom God has worked for the betterment of humanity," he wrote.

Every day, men and women religious remember SOAR! donors in their prayers and are grateful in turn that they decided to say "thanks."

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.



California Awards Reception



At the awards reception, Sister Grace Duc Le of the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Los Angeles accepted a \$15,000 grant from SOAR! that will provide accessibility renovations to ensure the safety and health of the elderly Sisters at the Motherhouse.



SOAR! held an awards reception at Newport Beach Vineyards & Winery in Orange County, California on Saturday, March 24. The event honored, from left, Betty and Terrance Barry and Sherry Alberoni Van Meter for their leadership in the Catholic community and raised money to support aging Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests.

SOAR! participated in **National Catholic Sisters Week** with a Trivia event in Arlington, Virginia on **March 13**. It was a great opportunity for young professionals to meet and mingle with Sisters whose congregations have been helped by SOAR! grants.



Join SOAR!

at our fall events to benefit
aging and infirm religious

Thursday, September 27, 2018

New York Athletic Club

New York, New York

Friday, November 2, 2018

The Embassy of Italy

Washington, DC

For details, call Annika Rowson
at (202) 529-7627 or events@soar-usa.org.
You can also visit our website at
www.soar-usa.org/events for more
information.

Faithful Friends

SAY "THANK YOU" ALL YEAR LONG

It's time to say thank you to our aging religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests who've helped us and continue to help us with their prayers. You can say "thank you" all year long by becoming a **Faithful Friend**.



Faithful Friends belong to a special group of dedicated donors whose monthly gifts help ensure that SOAR!'s mission to provide grants to assist with care of elderly and infirm religious continues. Our elderly religious women and men can remain safe at home with their communities and surrounded by love because of SOAR!'s **Faithful Friends**.

Monthly donations increase SOAR!'s effectiveness by helping save on administrative costs. That means every gift can go even further to help aging religious in need.

It's easy to give through your credit card or bank account. Your contributions are deducted automatically each month, and changes can be made at any time.

Faithful Friends receive an annual statement of their yearly gifts and receive the SOAR! Update and two mailings a year. Rest assured, you are faithfully remembered in the prayers of the congregations we assist.

A monthly gift can make a world of difference to aging religious. It's a wonderful way to say "thank you" to our Sisters, Brothers, and Priests every month!

For more information on Faithful Friends, please visit www.soar-usa.org/giving. You can also call or email Paul Wilson at (202) 529-7627 or pwilson@soar-usa.org.

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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