

Helping Sisters Hear

Assistive listening devices are just one way SOAR! donors spread smiles.

It's frustrating not being able to hear well. It's something that happens to many of us as we age.

For aging Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests, who often live in large Motherhouses, the sometimes cavernous rooms and chapels make it almost impossible to understand what's being said, even with hearing aids on. It can be a challenge to participate in Mass, at prayer and in the life of their community.

SOAR! often receives grant requests for hearing loops and assistive listening devices. Thanks to our donors, SOAR! grants help replace frustration with smiles.

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago received a grant to install a sound loop in their chapel. The new system helps Sisters with hearing loss participate in Mass and engage more fully in prayer throughout the day.

Now elder Sisters can share in community activities without having to ask someone to repeat what they said.

The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Monroe, Michigan received a grant to install assistive listening devices in their community room. The Sisters use the new system to participate in prayer gatherings, retreats, conferences and more.

For Sister Frances Mlocek, the assistive listening devices have transformed day-to-day conversations.

Before the system was installed, Sister Fran said she could hear people speaking, but she couldn't understand what they were saying.

"I just sort of sat there trying to understand what words were being spoken," Sister Fran said. "I might catch a word here or there that I could understand."

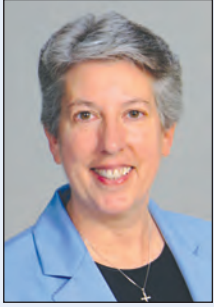
Thank you for bringing smiles to the face of Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests.



Many Sisters, like Sister Eileen Houlihan, IHM, pictured here, are smiling because of SOAR! donors' generosity in helping provide grants for assistive listening devices.

To learn more about how you can spread smiles and help our aging religious, visit www.soar-usa.org/smile.

Dear Friends of SOAR!



Dear Friends,

I look forward to the arrival of the mail each afternoon in our office. Along

with take-out menus for the newest pizza place or sandwich shop, I get interesting newsletters from the many religious congregations we help, and letters and notes from people like you. I enjoy hearing from donors and learning more about what or who inspires you to contribute to SOAR!

Yesterday I received a beautiful card from the provincial of a congregation that regularly receives a SOAR! grant. She wrote, *"God bless all of you in your work and your endeavors for our aging religious."* While Sister Ann Joachim sent the note to me, I know she is really expressing her gratitude to all of **YOU**. I echo Sister's words of gratitude to each one of you who help us provide care to aging religious who need our help.

SOAR! is blessed with partners in mission – some of whom are featured in this newsletter. The individuals and organizations we honor at our events are worthy recipients of the SOAR! awards for their leadership and witness to faith. *May God bless them and you for your endeavors for our aging religious.*

In gratitude,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM
President

Sharing Our Stories

My name is David Thompson and as a donor to SOAR! for 25 years, I wish to convey how the Sisters influenced my life and encouraged me to contribute to SOAR! as my act of "Thank You."

The first sphere of influence came early in my life. I was adopted as an infant from Father Baker's Home in Lackawanna, New York. The Sisters of St. Joseph cared for those infants at that time in 1941 when I was born. My soon-to-be parents were from Syracuse, New York. They adopted me at 6 months of age, and my new sister followed a few years later after my parents were unable to have more children following my brother's birth.

All three of us were educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. From Kindergarten through Grade 12, my sister and I attended a parochial school. My brother graduated from that same school and following his graduation, he entered a seminary. He was ordained to the Syracuse diocese in 1959. Upon her high school graduation, my sister entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and she is still very active within her community. She was given the name Serena by our adoptive parents, after the Sister in charge of looking after the infants at Father Baker's Home. She is still called Sister Serena today.

After my high school graduation, I had some schooling at St. Bonaventure University before I was drafted by the U.S. Army and sent to Vietnam. Father Juvenal Lawlor, OFM, at the university was a major influence on my life, along with many other Sisters and Brothers, all of whom helped to form me in my Catholic faith and to whom I owe a great deal.

In summary, many religious Sisters and others guided me to a life of prayer and a discipline of diligence and stick-to-itiveness that allowed me, based in the Midwest, to have a very successful career in wine sales for over 30 years. For that guidance and encouragement, I will always be grateful.

Sincerely,

David D. Thompson

David has been retired for 17 years but remains extremely active in numerous projects and organizations in the Kansas City area.



DAVID THOMPSON

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 Elizabeth Góral-Makowski or drop us a note at info@soar-usa.org.



Support Our Aging Religious

RECOMMEND A GIFT TO SOAR! THROUGH YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND.

Donor Advised Funds are one of the fastest growing charitable giving programs.

A DAF is an easy way to make the most of tax benefits and recommend gifts to SOAR! and other favorite charities.

YOU CAN VISIT

www.soar-usa.org/giving
to make a donation through DAF Direct or call **Elizabeth Góral-Makowski** at (202) 529-7627 to learn more.

SOAR! participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

Federal employees and military personnel can designate Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!) as a recipient of their CFC contributions.

Our CFC number is 10041.



Awards Dinners in NY and DC



From left, the honorees at the New York Awards Dinner, held Sept. 27, were **Deacon Kevin McCormack**, **Sister Tesa Fitzgerald, CSJ**, **Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R.**, and **Rabbi Joseph Potasnik**.



Left to right: **Fran Butler**, **John Butler**, former SOAR! board member **Judi Teske**, **Robert Abbott** and **Joanne Abbott** were among the over 200 people at the SOAR! Washington, DC Awards Dinner on Nov. 2, 2018.



At the Washington, DC dinner **Sister Mary Bourdon, RJM**, left, received the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, and **Michael Shumaker**, right, accepted the Saint Katharine Drexel Award for law firm Jones Day.

I wish I had known...

A couple of years ago, I received a note inviting me to a memorial Mass honoring a person who was a regular donor to SOAR!.

It was a beautiful Mass attended by family and friends. As I listened to the eulogy, I learned about someone who was strong in faith, valued friendship, and always put others first. After Mass, the family presented me with a \$10,000 bequest to SOAR!. Joe (not his real name) left SOAR! in his estate plans. And I didn't know.

I wish I had known so I could personally say "thank you" to Joe during his lifetime. I wish I had known about his plans to leave a lasting legacy and his desire to help aging religious even after he was gone.

If you are considering including SOAR! in your estate plan, please let me know. Your membership in the Legacy Society will ensure our beloved religious can receive the care they need in future years. I'd love to say "thank you" to you.

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

To review SOAR!'s legacy brochure, visit www.soar-usa.org or call our office at (202) 529-7627. Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. and 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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