

BECAUSE OF YOU...



Since its founding in 1986, SOAR! has dedicated its mission to providing for the practical needs facing aging and infirm Catholic religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests.

The grants SOAR! provides through the generosity of good people like you have a positive impact on the aging religious, their communities, and those they so selflessly serve. It is **because of you** that our aging religious can remain active, vibrant members of their communities. **Because of you**, they can live their lives with dignity, safety, and peace of mind.

Imagine having pain when standing or walking. Upright walkers encourage Sisters to stand straighter, thereby improving their health AND decreasing the risk of falls. **Because of you**, Sisters benefitting from this SOAR! grant can use these walkers, move with less pain, and gain both confidence and greater independence.

Navigating around an enormous Motherhouse with its long hallways and multiple floors can be challenging for the most fit person! **Because of you**, SOAR! has provided grants for scooters, making it easier for Sisters to attend Mass, visit other Sisters, and participate in the life and ministry of their community.

These are just two examples of the many, vital needs of aging religious today. Your help ensures that aging Sisters, Brothers and Priests can age with dignity and grace.



An upright walker allows Sister Peggy Dawson, MM to walk safely and with less pain.



Because she has an electric scooter, Sister Annette Langenderfer, OSF can continue her work in pastoral ministry.

BECAUSE OF YOU...

SOAR! *can continue its mission. We are truly grateful!*



Dear Friends of SOAR!

When I was in fourth grade, our teacher arranged for our class to be pen pals with students in another state. I remember getting excited each time I received a letter from my pen pal because I knew it was written just for me.

I get the same feeling when I receive mail from you. I know that you are taking the time to send me notes along with your generous donations. When you tell me about the Sisters who taught you, I feel the love and joy you experienced in school. When you tell me about your grandchildren who have stopped going to church, I add them to my prayer list. And when you tell me about the loneliness you have experienced since a loved one has died, I feel your pain and pray that God heals your heart.

I care about you and your intentions in the same way you care about the work of SOAR! This time of year, I see many of our donors at the awards dinners in New York and Washington, DC. And while I don't get to see all of you, I feel I've grown to know you and what is in your heart by being pen pals.

So keep the letters coming! Thank you for contributing to the good work SOAR! is doing for our aging religious.

In gratitude,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM
President

Sharing Our Stories

Jenny and I both very much admire the courage of the religious who SOAR! assists. Jenny commented, "Imagine walking away from the world to serve others! We think it's a wonderful thing to be able to help those who have helped so many and asked for nothing in return."

Thinking about why we support SOAR! brought up a lot of memories for me. When I was a kid I needed tutoring in math. My Mom sent me to the School Sisters of Notre Dame

in Wilton, CT. The Sister there must have had a Herculean amount of patience. I still remember "Six times eight is forty-eight and seven times eight is fifty-six" – I always had trouble with the eights in the times tables.

"We think it's a wonderful thing to be able to help those who have helped so many and asked for nothing in return."

When I got a little older, my Mother had a renewal in her Catholic faith. She again enlisted the help of a Sister from the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and Sister Shawn (Joan) Kavanagh prepared me for my first communion. Sister Shawn and

I have kept in contact over the decades – she was even at our engagement party. Her prayers were like oxygen to spark the embers for my own renewal and return to our Catholic faith. She is a monument of courage. To this day she takes care of the sickest kids and has even taken care of real brats – namely me!

When I think about these stories – and then I hear that a ramp for a van is needed or automatic doors are needed for a convent – it's very easy to give! You want to visit your friends? Sure! No problem, I'll help! You need a ramp so you can get to the doctor easier? You helped me – let me help you!

We all must have stories about the kindness of a priest, or the patience of a Sister. It's easy to think and realize there was always a priest or Sister encouraging us along the road – telling us not to be afraid – heroically encouraging us to try and try again!

Faithful Friend monthly donors since 2015, Paul and Jenny Lathrop live in Washington State where they both work in the software industry.



Jenny and Paul Lathrop



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 is SOAR! New York dinner chair Ed Morrissey, awardees Father Ed Leahy, OSB and Sister Gerardine Mueller, OP, SOAR! president Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM, SOAR! New York dinner chair Stephanie Marcantonio, and Sister Donna Ciangio, OP.



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., the Archbishop of Newark, greets Sister Gerardine Mueller, OP.

NY photos: Christy Ward of MC Ward Images

NY

To enjoy more pictures,
please visit: www.soar-usa.org/eventpictures

From left is United Bank president Michael Fitzgerald, Dr. Carolyn Woo, and Washington, D.C. dinner chair David Kuzma. Dr. Woo and United Bank were both honored at the event.



Pam and Denis Lucey chat with emcee Leon Harris, center, at the SOAR! Washington, D.C. Awards Dinner on November 1.

DC photos: JC Martins of EAPHOTO

DC

In Grateful Memory



We remember in prayer our dear 2019 Legacy Society members who rest in God's eternal peace.

George W. Black, Jr.	Jacqueline M. Fetsko
Sara S. Brennen	Lois M. Hernandez
Rev. John A. Coghlan	Margaret Klumpp
Lela V. Condon	Richard J. Meyers
Arthur Endrizzi	



The SOAR! Legacy Society is a special group of people who have named SOAR! as a beneficiary in their will or planned gift. 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 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.

FAITHFUL FRIENDS MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM



It's time to say thank you to our aging religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests who've helped us and continue to pray for us. You can say "thank you" all year long by becoming a

FAITHFUL FRIEND monthly donor.

To learn more,
visit www.soar-usa.org/giving

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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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Editor: Elizabeth Góral-Makowski
Co-Editor: Eleanor La Prade

