

Grants Awarded to 80 Congregations



The SOAR! board of directors has approved the awarding of more than \$1.3 million in grants to congregations of Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests.

Every year, religious communities across the country reach out to SOAR! for grants to assist with the care of their aging members. These requests include items such as therapeutic equipment and accessible furniture to keep Sisters mentally and physically healthy. While the needs are basic, they are urgent. Each request has a direct impact on the safety and care of aging religious women and men.

When the SOAR! grants committee meets to review the grant applications, they take a hard look at which needs are most critical. If they could, they would say “yes” to each one.

Thanks to you, this year SOAR! awarded grants to 80 congregations. These grants will benefit 3,198 women and men religious in 22 states.

Because of you, our beloved religious can safely stay at home with their communities and in familiar surroundings.

Your faithful support helps ensure that aging Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests can remain safe and thrive within their loving communities. Your generous support helps us celebrate and honor their lives of loving service. Your goodness is a blessing to many religious.

The Sisters, Brothers and Priests you help remember you in their daily prayers. The SOAR! board of directors joins them in their deep gratitude for your continuing kindness. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE

Join SOAR! supporters at two VIRTUAL
gala events this fall (see page 4).



Dear Friends of SOAR!

Who would have thought that the year 2020 would find us in the midst of a global pandemic? Were you ready to stay at home where you could be safe from the spread of the virus? Were you prepared like the wise virgins in the Gospel of Matthew who carried oil with their lamps when they waited for the bridegroom? I was glad I had everything (well, almost everything) in place to work from my bedroom so I could continue to focus on the mission of SOAR!

Like you, I worried about our aging religious and prayed for their health and safety. With your support, SOAR! is reaching out in new ways to help congregations impacted by COVID-19 and all those working hard to prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

In these times when your financial situation was impacted, I am especially appreciative of the extra donations SOAR! received during the last few months. Your donations are oil for our lamps. I know that you realize our dear Sisters, Priests and Brothers count on us. So, thank you for allowing me to count on you.

May God bless you for your generosity and concern. You are in my prayers.

Blessings,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

COVID-19 Rapid Response Grants

The mission of SOAR! is to keep our aging religious safe and healthy. SOAR! is keenly aware of the signs of the times, and has initiated a new grant program in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The *COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Program* aims to help congregations who are experiencing difficulty providing care to their aging members during this time. Thanks to the new program, communities can quickly receive funds to implement safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, provide care for members suffering from the virus, and ease the burden due to decreased revenue during the pandemic. In addition, funds will be used to address the needs of aging religious impacted by social isolation.

The new COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Program is funded in part by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. However, your support of these efforts is crucial to ensure that we can help the many congregations reaching out to us for support.



The majority of women and men religious in the United States are over the age of 70. In order to stay safe, they can no longer do many of the things that brought joy and fulfillment to their lives of service, such as actively working or volunteering as tutors and chaplains, or providing pastoral care. In

some instances, they can't even go to Chapel for personal prayer without signing up in advance, or attend gatherings with their community.

Yet even in the midst of social distancing that is needed in abbeys, monasteries and convents, they still continue their ministry of prayer, and each day they pray with grateful hearts for you. They are grateful for the support of your prayers and for your generosity.

Please remember SOAR! in your will.

Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc., and our Federal tax ID number is: 52-148-5481.

Please visit www.soar-usa.org/inspire to share how a religious Sister or Brother has inspired you, or to read other stories.



2020 SOAR! Grants



ARKANSAS

Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco,
Purchase medical equipment

CALIFORNIA

Missionary Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit, Los Angeles,
Install solar panels

Lovers of the Holy Cross of Los Angeles, Gardena,
Purchase accessible van

Daughters of Mary and Joseph, Rancho Palos Verdes, Purchase adjustable beds and improve lighting

Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Bonita, Safety repairs and renovations

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Fremont, Replace lighting in chapel

Franciscan Friars of California, Oakland,
Install elevator

Abbey of New Clairvaux, Vina, Replace roof over dining hall

CONNECTICUT

Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery, Newington,
Install carpet for increased safety

The Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Hamden,
Install new flooring for safety

Benedictine Congregation, Regina Laudis of the Strict Observance, Bethlehem,
Update flooring for safety

IDAHO

Benedictine Sisters of the Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Install automatic door and purchase lift chairs

ILLINOIS

Congregation of the Passion, Holy Cross Province, Park Ridge,
Renovate room for physical therapy use

Dominican Friars, Province of St. Albert the Great, Chicago, Purchase furniture for aging in place and improve lighting

Congregation of the Resurrection, Chicago,
Purchase motorized scooters

USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, Chicago, Purchase therapeutic exercise equipment

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Chicago, Renovate infirmary kitchen

Conventual Franciscan Friars of St. Bonaventure Province, Chicago,
Replace HVAC system

INDIANA

Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, IN, Ferdinand,
Replace HVAC system

Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the Woods,
Replace water-damaged walls

KANSAS

St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Renovate infirmary shower room

Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Purchase physical therapy equipment

Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia, Purchase hospital bed

LOUISIANA

Sisters of the Holy Family, New Orleans, Repair plumbing

Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lacombe, Purchase lift chairs

MARYLAND

Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, Silver Spring, Install new carpet for safety

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore, Lutherville, Install handrails and upgrade flooring/carpet for safety

Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, Towson, Make safety repairs and renovations

St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart, Baltimore, Install stairlift

Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Inc., Baltimore, Purchase lift chairs

Oblate Sisters of Providence, Baltimore, Renovate bathrooms and kitchen for accessibility

MASSACHUSETTS

Benedictine Monks of Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham, Purchase medical equipment

Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa, Brighton, Make safety repairs and renovations

MICHIGAN

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – Monroe, Monroe,
Purchase accessible van

MINNESOTA

Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, Install therapeutic tub

MISSOURI

Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart, St. Louis,
Renovate room for physical therapy use

NEBRASKA

Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey, Elkhorn, Install walk-in tub

Missionary Society of St. Columban, St. Columbans, Purchase therapeutic exercise equipment

NEW JERSEY

Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, NJ, Caldwell,
Upgrade technology

Missionary Society of the Salesian Sisters, Haledon,
Purchase generator

Missionary Franciscan Sisters, Tenafly, Replace windows

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, Install guardrail

NEW YORK

Oblates to the Blessed Trinity, Bronx, Convert tub to accessible shower

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, Garrison, Purchase furniture for aging in place

Missionary Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, Peekskill, Upgrade infirmary flooring for safety

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation, New Rochelle, Replace hospital beds

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY, Blauvelt, Install new flooring for safety

Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, Monroe, Replace infirmary roof

Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary, Sparkill, Renovate bathrooms for accessibility

Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, Amityville, Purchase accessible van

Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, Renovate medical exam rooms

Daughters of Wisdom, Islip, Purchase accessible van

Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Latham, Purchase furniture for aging in place

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, New Windsor, Purchase furniture for aging in place

Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc., Maryknoll, Purchase medical and therapeutic equipment

OHIO

Dominican Sisters of Peace, Columbus, Replace therapeutic whirlpool tub

Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, Replace medical equipment

Sisters of Notre Dame, Toledo, Purchase lift chairs and beds

Benedictine Order of Cleveland, St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, Upgrade boiler system

Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity, Euclid, Install solar panels

Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Purchase adaptable furniture and beds

Glenmary Home Missioners, Cincinnati, Renovate bathrooms for accessibility

PENNSYLVANIA

Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh, Bakerstown, Purchase therapeutic exercise equipment

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern PA, Erie, Purchase pressure mattresses and cushions

Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Inc., Erie, Renovate kitchen for accessibility

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville, Replace dining room chairs

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – Scranton, Scranton, Purchase furniture for aging in place

Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, Jesus Lover of Humanity Province, Jenkintown, Replace windows

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Mid-Atlantic, Merion, Install security system

Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity, Philadelphia, Purchase furniture for aging in place

Daylesford Abbey, Paoli, Renovate bedrooms and bathrooms for accessibility

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – Malvern, Malvern, Purchase wheelchair sanitizer

Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, Reading, Purchase medical equipment

Sisters of Divine Providence, Allison Park, Make structural repairs following earthquakes

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, Charleston, Purchase lift chairs and hospital mattresses

Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare, Travelers Rest, Install hearing loop

VERMONT

Benedictine Monastery, Westfield, Install accessible shower

VIRGINIA

Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Crozet, Make safety repairs and renovations

WISCONSIN

School Sisters of St. Francis, Milwaukee, Renovate infirmary kitchen

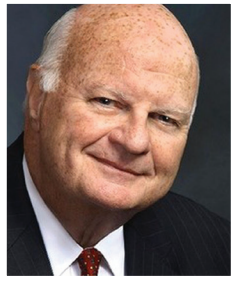
Sinsinawa Dominicans, Inc., Sinsinawa, Purchase furniture for aging in place



SOAR! 2020 EVENT HONOREES

NEW YORK

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 • 7:00 PM EDT



Gary S. Horan, FACHE
President and CEO
Trinitas Regional Medical Center,
Elizabeth, NJ



Joseph E. Nyre, Ph.D.
President
Seton Hall University
South Orange, NJ

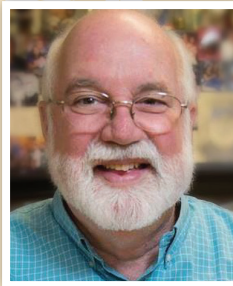


Sister Ann Marie Pierce, IHM
Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Scranton, PA

DC NATIONAL GALA

Friday, November 6, 2020 • 8:00 PM EST

Father Greg Boyle, S.J.
Founder/Director
Homeboy Industries
Los Angeles, CA



Genevieve L. Murphy
Former SOAR! Board Member
Boca Raton, FL

SOAR! Events Are Going VIRTUAL!

For the first time in its 34-year history, our SOAR! events are going VIRTUAL! This change is part of our response to the coronavirus pandemic and our concern for the ongoing potential risks to the safety and well-being of our guests. So, this fall, we are opening our doors wide and inviting **everyone** to take part. You won't want to miss this unique opportunity!

Our SOAR! virtual events benefit aging religious, and funds raised will be earmarked specifically to help keep our religious safe in this COVID-19 environment. They will also help us to be prepared for any emergency needs that may arise for our aging religious throughout the year.

While there is no charge to attend these virtual events, pre-registration is required. By attending these virtual events, you will have the chance to hear from SOAR! President Sister Kathleen Lunsman and to meet some of the religious communities we help through your generosity. We will also honor some truly wonderful individuals whose witness of their Catholic faith and generosity have brought health, healing and support to those in their communities and beyond.

Please join us and celebrate religious life and help SOAR! make a difference! Each event will last less than 40 minutes. We are including a "Save the Date" insert in this newsletter that you can put on your bulletin board or wall to remind you of the events. To learn more or to register to attend, please visit www.soar-usa.org/events. We look forward to having you join us!

A CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION SERVING AGING 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

