



With Grateful Hearts...

Our aging religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests and their communities are truly grateful for the outpouring of support from SOAR! donors.

Thanks to you, SOAR! continues to raise awareness of issues facing aging religious and provide grants. SOAR! grants ensure the safety, health, and vitality of religious women and men. Your generosity helps them to age in place and to remain vibrant members of their communities.

We receive many thank you notes from the Sisters, Brothers and Priests who benefit directly from your goodness. We wanted to share a few of them here:

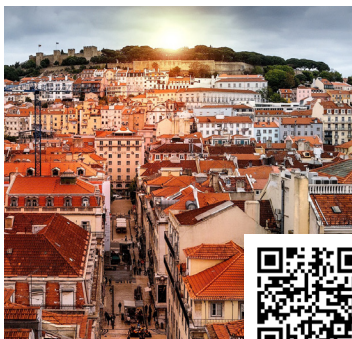
- In June, the **Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart** of Jesus in Reading, PA installed two automatic stairlifts. Now they can move safely from floor to floor and remain active in their community for years to come.
- The **Missionary Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit** from Los Angeles, CA received an emergency grant for a new security gate from SOAR! When the old gate was broken, the Sisters would take turns making sure no one entered their driveway or patio area. Now they can continue their ministry of presence and prayer with peace of mind.

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"Arthritis in my knee is making daily tasks more challenging. What a boost to be able to navigate the basement steps to our laundry without fearing a fall. A million thanks to SOAR! for your kindness," said Sister Marie Clark, MSC



"I feel secure having our new security gate, it gives us all peace of mind and it is easy to open and close," said Sister Aida Sansor, MGSps. "We are very grateful to all the donors of SOAR! for making this possible, gracias."



Travel to Portugal with SOAR!

May 2-10, 2024

Join Sister Kathleen and friends of SOAR! on a pilgrimage to a country that will nourish your heart and soul. Stops include Lisbon, Coimbra, and of course, Fatima.

For more information, contact Jennifer Christiano at events@soar-usa.org, visit www.soar-usa.org/portugal or call Anita at Far Horizons at (973) 287-1718



Dear Friends of SOAR!

Am I the only person who thinks time is speeding up? It seems the older I get the faster time goes by. It's almost hard to believe it is nearly the end of 2023. The winter weather in the northeast naturally calls us to slow down. The Advent season in our church calls us to slow down as well as we wait with hopeful expectation for Christ's coming. Advent is a time to reconsider those extra commitments and tasks we took on during the year and to take stock of what is important in life.

You are important to the elderly religious we serve. You bring hope to them, not only during Advent and Christmas, but all year long. Since pandemic restrictions are mostly lifted, I am able to visit our grantees again. What a joy to see the people you and I are helping in person! If there is a common message or theme I hear at each place I visit, it is gratitude! I hear, "Thank you, SOAR!" and "Tell your donors we are grateful," over and over again.

Do not think for a minute that your generosity is taken for granted or quickly forgotten. You and all of the benefactors of SOAR! make a difference every single day. Thank you.

May God bless you with joy, peace and good health. I will remember you in my prayers on Christmas Day and throughout the Christmas Season. Merry Christmas!

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

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- **Saint Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart in Washington, D.C.** received a grant to install new lights in the grounds and hallway at St. Joseph's Seminary. Now it is easier and safer for aging Josephite Brothers and Priests to travel throughout their building. *"SOAR! has helped us again, what a blessing to see things brighter," said Father Robert Zawacki, SSJ.*

Thank you for helping our religious age with dignity and grace!

Sister Mary Bader, DC, receives the 2023 Good Samaritan Award

SOAR! presented Sister Mary Bader, DC with its 2023 Father Bob Brown, OSFS Good Samaritan Award at the November 1, 2023 Gala in Washington, DC. Sister Mary, a Daughter of Charity, is currently a member of her congregation's Provincial Leadership Team. Prior to that, Sister Mary served for 18 years as CEO of St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families in Hyattsville, MD.



The Good Samaritan Award is named after the late Father Bob Brown, who was an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales. Father Brown was pastor at St. John Neumann Parish in Reston, VA, a former SOAR! board member, and faithful advocate of SOAR! and its mission.

In her acceptance remarks, Sister Mary noted: "Looking at tonight's guests, I see several hundred other Good Samaritans – yes, each of you! Your generosity of treasure and good deeds – those known and seen and those quiet gestures – are the workings of the Good Samaritans of the 21st Century. Your support of the mission of SOAR! adds a new dimension to the Good Samaritan story. You are providing for the retired Good Samaritans of years gone by. Thank you for this honor and please allow me to share it with you."

Sister Mary's dedication to caring, serving and encouraging others embodies both the message of the Good Samaritan and Father Bob's motto: "The measure of love is to love without measure."

Congratulations to Sister Mary, and a heartfelt thanks to all the Good Samaritans out there!



In Grateful Memory

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

Ralph A. Cipolaro

John P. Di Bello

Lorraine G. Gay

John and June Goulart

Mary Alice Grinnell

Patricia M. Jankowski

A Gift for the Future

In both large and small ways, the life of every person makes an impact. You are an important part of the life stories of your family, friends, and colleagues. Your life also affects the organizations you care about.

One way to share your story and values with those you love into the future is to establish a legacy.

Creating a will is one of the best things you can do. A will ensures your wishes are fulfilled and brings you and your family peace of mind. Your will can also include bequests to charitable organizations you trust and support. Naming a favorite charity like SOAR! in your will helps the good work of the mission continue.

Yet as noted in a recent Caring.com survey, over 65% of adults do not have a will. If you die without a will, your estate will be settled based on the laws of the state in which you reside.

If you currently have a will, it's important to review it every

few years to make sure it is up-to-date. Life events like marriages, births, deaths, or changes in real estate or finances are just some situations where you may want to consider changing your will.

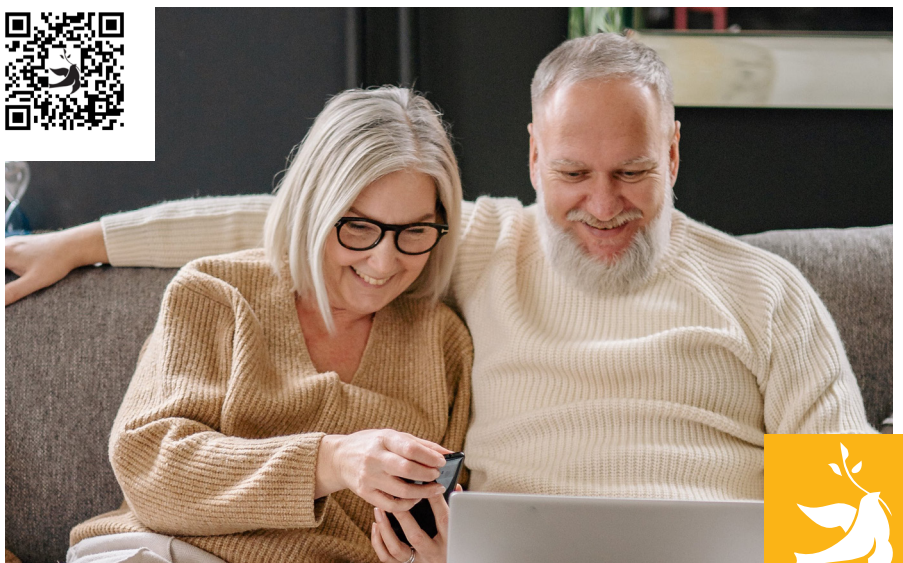
SOAR! has two free resources to help you plan your will or estate.

The SOAR! Inventory and Planning Guide can help you identify and locate all your important documents. You can download the file at www.soar-usa.org/guide.

SOAR! also has partnered with My Catholic Will. You can create your will online for free in as little as 15 minutes. Visit www.soar-usa.org/will or scan the QR code to get started.

Planning now ensures your life and values will continue to make an impact on the people and causes close to your heart in years to come.

Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. and Our tax ID number is 52-1485481.



Celebrating Our Fall Events

This fall we gathered to celebrate religious life and to honor extraordinary individuals at our annual events. On September 13 we celebrated our New York Awards Dinner at the New York Athletic Club, and November 1 we gathered for our Washington, DC Gala at the Embassy of Italy.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton awardee Cardinal Gregory with Sister Gilmary Kay, RSM, and Kathleen Curran, SOAR! Board Chair



These events are a wonderful way to share the mission of SOAR! and the impact our donors make on the lives of aging religious. To view more pictures, visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/soarusa



SOAR! President Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM in New York with Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Awardee Tania Tetlow, President of Fordham University, and Father Victor Yanitelli Awardee Sister Eileen McCann, CSJ.



Geoff and Lulu Gonella accepting the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

SOAR! Highlight

In August, SOAR! President Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM was presented with the 2023 Caritas Award by the Catholic Development Council of the Nonprofit Alliance.

The Caritas Award recognizes an individual whose extraordinary service has positively impacted countless lives. Awardees reflect humility and selflessness in going above and beyond to serve the needs of others.

“Sister Kathleen’s energy, genuine care for others, and generosity of heart and spirit are gifts in and of themselves,” said Shannon McCracken, Nonprofit Alliance CEO. “What’s extra special is that she inspires others to follow her example, creating a multiplying effect across Catholic and faith-centered missions. The TNPA Catholic Development Council is a stronger community today because of her leadership.”



A CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION SERVING AGING SISTERS, BROTHERS AND PRIESTS SINCE 1986.

SOAR!
Support Our Aging Religious

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 Lunsmann, IHM
Editors: Elizabeth Góral-Makowski and Eleanor La Prade



P.O. Box 96409 | Washington, DC 20090-6409 | (202) 529-7627 | www.soar-usa.org