



# SOAR!notes

Support Our Aging Religious

## Thank You for Being Part of the SOAR! Mission

A few years ago, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Garden decided to apply for a grant from SOAR! for stairlifts. The Sisters' ministry includes running a Montessori school.

One of the Sisters was not so sure about the grant request. She doubted the usefulness and practicality of stairlifts in helping the Sisters remain mobile. This Sister was a cornerstone of the local community. She was well-known and beloved, not only by the Sisters, but also by the parents and the children at the school.

When the Sister became sick, however, her attitude completely changed! While using the stairlift may have slowed her down a bit, she was able to navigate easily between the bedroom floor and the dining room areas on the main floor to the chapel and the community room on the lower level. This allowed her to stay in tune with everything that was going on in the community and to not feel isolated. It made all the difference to her and to the Sisters who benefitted from her vitality and presence.

Sister has since passed away, but The Daughters of Our Lady of the Garden are all grateful for the life-changing gift the stairlift continues to bring to the members of their community. Thank you SOAR! donors!

*Thank you to the Daughters of Our Lady of the Garden – Middletown, Connecticut, for sharing this beautiful story.*

## Your Gifts at Work



*Sister Juana Olmedo,  
FMH Mother Superior,  
Our Lady of the Garden,  
Middletown, CT*

*"In the last several years, I have had three fusion surgeries on my lower back," said Sister Juana. "Before and after the first two surgeries we did not have any chair lifts in the convent. After we received a grant from SOAR! to install two chair lifts in the convent, my third surgery posed no problem in allowing me to go between floors and be with the rest of the community, especially during times of prayer. Every time I use the lift, I bless all of the wonderful people at SOAR!, together with the donors who made this possible!"*



## From the desk of Sister Kathleen

Dear Friends,

As I write this note, the Washington, DC area where our office is located has had less than 7 inches of snow – for the entire winter season! Is it me, or did we used to have a winter season of many significant snowstorms? My favorite memories are not of dangerous storms, but rather of days when schools were closed and attendance at the local sledding hill was near 100%!

My childhood memories, like many of yours, are filled with parish bingo nights, school carnivals and Sunday Mass – all places where we saw the Sisters. Times change, and we all know there are fewer religious women and men today. Their memories of school days, spring concerts and graduations are the same as ours – treasured. The Sisters, Priests and Brothers who were present in so many of the activities of former years are the ones who need our help today. Thank you for supporting SOAR! so that together we can help them.

This year Easter comes a little early. May you enjoy the beauty and warmth of the spring season as we celebrate the new life and hope only the resurrection of Jesus can bring.

Blessings,

*S. Kathleen Lunsman, STM*

## SAVE THE DATE

### SOAR! Fall 2024 Events

#### 38<sup>th</sup> Annual New York Awards Dinner

Wednesday,  
October 9, 2024  
New York Athletic Club  
180 Central Park South  
New York, NY 10019



#### 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington, DC Gala

Friday, November 2024 (Date TBD)  
Embassy of Italy  
3000 Whitehaven Rd. NW  
Washington, DC 20008

More details are forthcoming. Contact Jennifer at [events@soar-usa.org](mailto:events@soar-usa.org) for more information.

## Top 5 Reasons to Become a Faithful Friend

*Faithful Friends* is an automatic monthly giving program to support SOAR!. Here are the top five reasons to become a Faithful Friend today!

- 1) It's easy! There's no need to hunt around for stamps or write checks.
- 2) It's flexible! You can easily increase, decrease or stop your gift by calling the SOAR! office.
- 3) You provide steady support to SOAR! and its mission. Monthly giving provides a steady source of support, and helps ensure SOAR! is there for religious communities.
- 4) It's environmentally friendly! Faithful Friends receive the SOAR! newsletter and two mailings a year, so your mailbox won't be cluttered with loads of paper.
- 5) You say "thank you" all year long to the wonderful religious who have educated and cared for us and our families.

To sign up online, visit [soar-usa.org/faithfulfriend/](http://soar-usa.org/faithfulfriend/)

## Why I support SOAR!

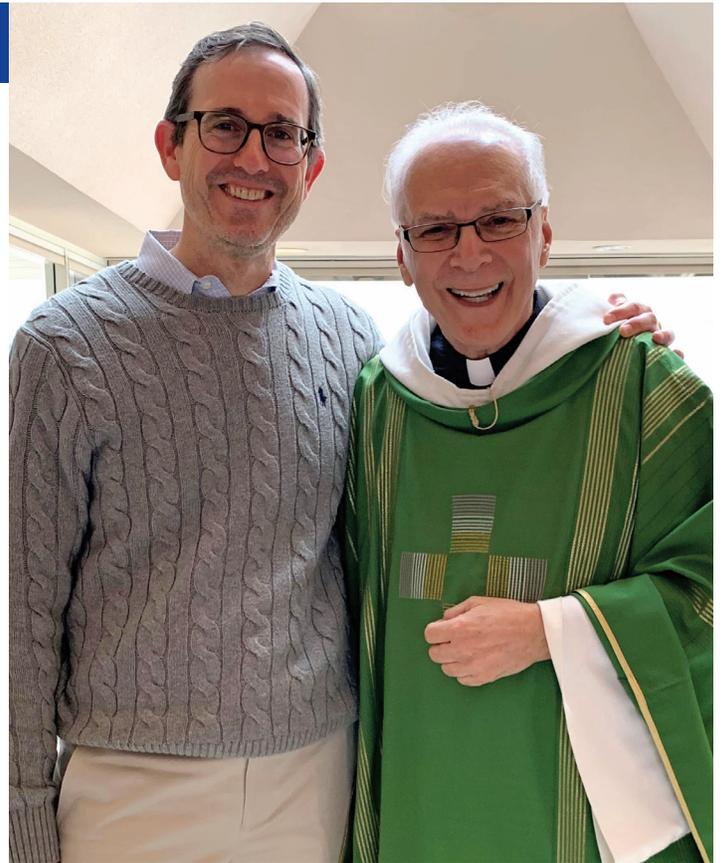
by Dr. Andrew Lehmann

Religious women and men have been a blessing to me for my entire life. The Sisters of Mercy, Marist Brothers, Jesuits, Lasallians, parish priests, and so many others have directly contributed to the education and spiritual growth of myself and my family and children. They have been instrumental in building what is truly the cornerstone of our lives, faith in Christ Jesus. They have been teachers, mentors, and friends.

Caring for these women and men who have spent their lives in service to the Lord is of great importance. In dedicating their lives to God, they have foregone having the families who would be their caretakers in later years. That leaves us lay religious to care for them. It is our duty.

The cost of caring for the elderly is always growing. I work as a physician, primarily for the elderly, and see our older patients' needs daily and the tremendous expense they incur. The cost of scooters, walkers, beds, medical equipment, medications, and more is enormous. If our treasured aging religious are to have the care they need, organizations like SOAR! are vital.

Religious women and men have dedicated their lives to prayer and service. When they pray for God to deliver their needs, we are His hands and feet to do His work. Caring for those who devoted their lives to God, and to us, is our duty. This is why I support SOAR!



*Dr. Andrew Lehmann, pictured above, left, with Father Adam Forno, has served as an Internal Medicine Physician in Boca Raton, FL for 20 years. He has been married to Jeannette for 20 years and they are raising four children. He enjoys lecturing at his parish, St. Joan of Arc. He has been a SOAR! donor since 2019.*

## Share a Favorite Memory With SOAR!

If you have a special memory of a religious Sister, Brother or Priest who has benefitted your life, and you'd like to share with SOAR!, please scan the QR code below or visit [soar-usa.org/favoritememories/](https://soar-usa.org/favoritememories/)



## Leave a Lasting Legacy

Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests have made a lasting impact on our lives. Now it's our turn to help them.

Leave a lasting legacy and remember SOAR! in your will or estate plan.

- Every gift makes a difference.
- Every gift expands your legacy of love.

To learn more about including SOAR! in your estate plans, contact Elizabeth Góral-Makowski at (202) 529-7627 or [emakowski@soar-usa.org](mailto:emakowski@soar-usa.org) or visit [www.soar-usa.org/giving](http://www.soar-usa.org/giving).

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



### MyCatholicWill

If you don't already have an estate plan, chances are you may have thought about it.

Did you know that SOAR! has partnered with *My Catholic Will*? You can create your will easily online for free. Visit [soar-usa.org/will](http://soar-usa.org/will) today to start your will today and provide a legacy gift to SOAR!

### An Important Message We want to Thank You!

If you are a donor who transfers gifts directly from your broker or bank, please include your name along with your gift. This is especially helpful if you are making a qualified distribution from your IRA or donating stock.

We have recently received some gifts that did not have a donor name. Without knowing who the donor is, we are unable to send a thank you letter or receipt for tax purposes. If you've recently sent a gift to SOAR! but have not received an acknowledgement letter, please contact Elizabeth Góral-Makowski at (202) 529-7627 or [emakowski@soar-usa.org](mailto:emakowski@soar-usa.org). SOAR! is grateful for your generosity and we want to acknowledge you.

Support Our Aging Religious is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to helping congregations of Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests care for their aging members.

### Stay Connected with SOAR!



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This newsletter communicates the mission and needs of SOAR! and expresses our gratitude to our donors.

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