



SOAR!notes

Support Our Aging Religious

Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has designated 2025 as a Jubilee Holy Year, inviting us to renew ourselves as *“Pilgrims of Hope.”*

As the Holy Father beautifully reminds us: “We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and far-sighted vision.”

Our donors bring this hope to aging religious and are a beacon of light in their lives. Thanks to their generosity, congregations of Sisters, Brothers, and Priests can turn to SOAR! for immediate and practical needs that ensure the safety and vitality of their aging members.



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

That flame of hope is alive in the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Haverford, Pennsylvania, who recently

Continues on page 2...



Recently, the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Columbus, Ohio received a grant to install an updated nurse call light system to replace noisy, outdated call bells.

“This change... promotes the health needs of residents and caregivers. Besides providing a new sense of quiet and restfulness, we experience the atmosphere of home and peace which promotes time for reflection, prayer, and peace,” said Sister Colleen Gallagher, OP, pictured.



From the desk of Sister Kathleen

Dear Friends of SOAR!

When I share stories about SOAR!, I usually focus on the lives of the Sisters, Priests and Brothers we support. I do not often write about the inner workings of our organization. However, I think it is important from time to time to share some “inside” stories.

The board of directors of SOAR! meets several times each year and provides oversight and governance of the organization. The board is comprised of 16 talented, experienced and caring individuals who all share a desire to help religious women and men. I am so grateful for their support of our wonderful staff. At the meeting in December, the board of directors approved a three-year strategic plan for SOAR! The three-year plan encourages growth in our grantmaking program to allow for more help to be awarded to more of our aging religious. The plan also calls for SOAR! to seek out religious communities who may not have heard about the help we can provide.

I am grateful that our board of directors envisions a long future for Support Our Aging Religious. As the president of SOAR!, I am committed to providing help to aging religious in the United States for many years into the future. Here’s how you can help me: If you are aware of a religious community of women or men who do not receive grants from SOAR!, please tell them about us! And, of course, the other way you can help is by continuing to support our organization with your prayers and your donations.

Thank you for the many and varied ways you support our aging religious. *May God continue to bless you for your generosity and goodness.*

S. Kathleen Lunsman, SHM

Continued from page 1:

received a grant for an accessible van. With reliable and safe transportation, aging Sisters can remain connected to their community when they move into St. Joseph’s Villa, their assisted living facility.

“There has been a significant increase in the quality of life for our senior Sisters,” the Handmaids shared. *“There is hope!”*

The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters in Reading, Pennsylvania, also look to the future with hope. They received a grant to update gathering spaces for their aging Sisters. Now the Sisters can enjoy a healthy, comfortable environment as they live in community.

“Thank you to SOAR! I understand you



The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

do so much to make our lives better,” said Bernardine Franciscan Sister de Marie Sawicki. “We are so grateful for your help. God bless you for your caring hearts!”

Through their support of SOAR!, donors do more than ensure the safety and well-being of aging religious – they provide hope and peace of mind.

Why I am a Faithful Friend

Maria* has been a supporter of SOAR! since 2011 and a Faithful Friend monthly donor since 2013. She recently shared why her commitment to SOAR! is so important to her.

I owe so much to the Sisters who taught me. They fostered my creativity and encouraged my curiosity to learn about the world. Their guidance inspires and blesses my life to this very day.

My favorite elementary school teacher, Sister Mary Pieta, passed away in 2011 at the age of 103. I wanted to do something to honor her **and** the countless religious whose vocation to educate students has made a tremendous impact on our world. I found SOAR! on the internet. Once I learned about the mission, I knew right away that I wanted to be part of this effort. And, as they say, 'The rest is history!'

My monthly donation to SOAR! is a heartfelt gift of thanksgiving. My gift, while not very large, combines with the generous



gifts of other people. Together, we make a difference in the lives of Sisters from so many communities.

Catholic religious women and men devote their lives in service to God and others. I am happy to give back to them through my support of SOAR! and its work.

** Maria asked we only use her first name.*

Say "thank you" to aging religious all year long. Become a Faithful Friend monthly donor. www.soar-usa.org/faithfulfriend

SAVE THE DATE

SOAR! 2025 Fall Events

39th Annual New York Awards Dinner

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025
New York Athletic Club

39th Annual Washington, DC Gala

Friday, Nov. 7, 2025
Embassy of Italy



Contact Jennifer at events@soar-usa.org for more information.

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/



Create a Lasting Legacy

Some of our most dedicated friends choose to continue their support by remembering SOAR! in their will. When you create a legacy through a gift to SOAR! you help assure the safety, comfort, and vitality of aging Sisters, Brothers, and Priests in the United States.

To let us know if you have chosen to leave SOAR! in your estate plans, or if you have questions, contact Elizabeth Góral-Makowski at (202) 529-7627 or emakowski@soar-usa.org

Scan the QR code below to learn more about planned giving options or visit soar-usa.org/giving.



If you don't already have a written 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 to start your will today and provide a legacy gift to SOAR!

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.

Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc.

Our federal tax ID number is 52-1485481

Stay Connected with SOAR!



[Facebook.com/soarusa](https://www.facebook.com/soarusa)



[@soarusa](https://twitter.com/soarusa)



www.linkedin.com/company/soarusa

SOAR!
Support Our Aging Religious

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

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

PO Box 96409 • Washington, DC 20090-6409 • (202) 529-7627 • www.soar-usa.org

