

# SOAR!Notes

## SOAR! Grant Awards

Thanks to the goodness of our donors and foundations, SOAR! awarded nearly \$3.2 million in grants this fiscal year! Please see pages 3 and 4 for a listing of the vital projects your generosity helps provide.

## Thanks to SOAR! donors, our aging religious benefit from accessible vans



*"Thank you to SOAR! and your donors for our van. The van isn't only helpful, it's life-giving for me. Prior to having this vehicle, I could no longer go out at all. Now, I go to physical therapy twice a week, and can easily*

*come and go in my wheelchair. It has been a wonderful gift for me!"*

Sister Margaret Rose Ibe, MM  
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic  
Maryknoll, New York

## Nuns of the Battlefield

*"As they went from cot to cot ...  
they were veritable Angels of Mercy."*

– Abraham Lincoln

Did you know that there is a monument in Washington, DC to honor the Sisters who tended wounded and sick soldiers during the Civil War?



An estimated 1,000 Catholic women religious cared for troops on battlefields and in hospitals. The

"Nuns of the Battlefield Monument," which was dedicated in 1924, commemorates their faith and heroism.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) led the effort to establish the monument. Ellen Ryan Jolly, then the president of the group, spent more than a decade researching these brave women and campaigning for the statue.

In 2024, the LAOH also led the drive for the wayside marker offering an overview of the monument to mark the centennial. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of the LAOH — then and now — the legacy of these heroic Sisters endures.

**SOAR! is proud to honor the LAOH at our Washington, DC, Gala this fall.**

# SAVE THE DATE!

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

Thursday, September 18, 2025  
New York Athletic Club

### Honoring:



**Jeannie Gaffigan**  
Producer, Writer,  
Philanthropist



**Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ**  
Executive Director,  
Catholic Charities  
of the Rio Grande  
Valley

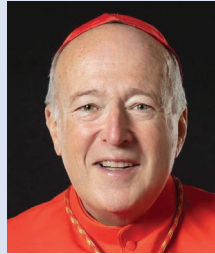


**J. Eustace Wolfington**  
Executive Producer,  
"Cabrini"

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

Friday, November 7, 2025  
Embassy of Italy

### Honoring:



**Cardinal Robert W. McElroy**  
Archbishop of  
Washington



**The Ladies  
Ancient Order of  
Hibernians, Inc.**



**Dennis J. Dee**  
Executive Director,  
The Father  
McKenna Center

For more information, contact Jennifer Christiano at [events@soar-usa.org](mailto:events@soar-usa.org) or visit [www.soar-usa.org/events](http://www.soar-usa.org/events).

## Donor spotlight: **Why I give to SOAR!** – John Sasso



A few years ago, some former elementary school classmates and I decided to have a small reunion. It was for the class of 1959 of our parish school.

We were only able to round up 15 or so of our classmates, but it was a

great time. Great because just about all we talked about was our teachers who were all Sisters. We talked about the great education we had including civics, geography, American history – pretty much all things that students today know almost nothing about. The Sisters not only gave us a great education but instilled in us wonderful values while letting us know we were special. And this was with 50, 60, or even sometimes 70 children in a class!

Many Sisters are now in the sunset of their lives, and they need our help.

I'm grateful that, through SOAR!, I'm able to make a small contribution to their welfare and to make their final years on earth just a little more comfortable. If anyone deserves being remembered, it is them. These Sisters dedicated their lives to us, and they deserve to be honored. We should remember them, thank them and pray for them.

*John founded a medical device company, which he sold before he retired. A graduate of LaSalle University, John served our country in Vietnam. John and his wife Mori are members of St. Anthony Parish in Ambler, PA. They have three children and five grandchildren "who are universally acknowledged to be the cutest children in the United States."*

# 2025 SOAR! GRANTS

## ALABAMA

Saint Bernard Abbey  
Cullman  
*Purchase hospital beds and lift chairs*

## ARIZONA

Crosier Fathers and Brothers  
Phoenix  
*Replace flooring*

## ARKANSAS

Subiaco Abbey  
Subiaco  
*Purchase medical equipment*

## CALIFORNIA

Abbey of New Clairvaux  
Vina  
*Install automatic door openers*

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose  
Fremont  
*Install automatic doors*

Lovers of the Holy Cross Sisters  
Gardena  
*Renovate bathroom for accessibility*

Missionary Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit  
Los Angeles  
*Emergency Grant: Install security cameras*

Sisters of Social Service  
Encino  
*Upgrade foundation for facility safety*

Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart  
Northridge  
*Renovate bathrooms for accessibility*

## COLORADO

Benet Hill Monastery of Colorado Springs  
Colorado Springs  
*Replace kitchen equipment*

## CONNECTICUT

Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Hamden  
*Renovate bathrooms for accessibility*

Congregation de Notre Dame  
Fairfield  
*Purchase furniture for accessibility*

## DC (WASHINGTON)

Josephite Fathers  
*Replace windows*

## DELAWARE

Oblates of St. Francis De Sales  
Wilmington  
*Upgrade water system for safety*

## IDAHO

Center for Benedictine Life at the Monastery of St. Gertrude  
Cottonwood  
*Repair roof*

## ILLINOIS

Congregation of the Passion, Holy Cross Province  
Chicago  
*Upgrade fire system*

USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus  
Chicago  
*Purchase adaptive furniture*

## INDIANA

Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis  
Oldenburg  
*Install security system*

Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand  
Ferdinand  
*Replace flooring*

## KANSAS

Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia  
Concordia  
*Purchase hospital beds and mattresses*

St. Benedict's Abbey  
Atchison  
*Purchase solar panels for energy efficiency*

## KENTUCKY

St. Walburg Monastery  
Villa Hills  
*Emergency Grant: Upgrade elevator*

## MARYLAND

Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity  
Silver Spring  
*Purchase adaptive furniture*

School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic Midwest Province  
Baltimore  
*Purchase adaptive furniture*

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate  
Catonsville  
*Purchase generator*

## MASSACHUSETTS

Congregation of the Sacred Hearts  
Fairhaven  
*Replace flooring*

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston  
Brighton  
*Purchase medical equipment*

St. Joseph's Abbey  
Spencer  
*Purchase hospital beds and mattresses*

## MISSOURI

Conception Abbey  
Conception  
*Upgrade infirmary call system*

## NEBRASKA

American Province of Servants of Mary  
Omaha  
*Purchase accessible vehicle*

## NEW JERSEY

Augustinian Recollect Sisters  
Belvidere  
*Upgrade elevator*

Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth  
Elizabeth  
*Emergency Grant: Safety renovation to building*

Capuchin Franciscan Friars Province of the Sacred Stigmata of St. Francis  
Union City  
*Purchase accessible van*

Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary  
Summit  
*Improve HVAC system*

Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus  
Cherry Hill  
*Purchase and install stairlift*

Missionary Society of the Salesian Sisters  
Haledon  
*Replace flooring*

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth  
Convent Station  
*Purchase adaptive furniture*

## NEW YORK

Congregation of the Infant Jesus  
Rockville Centre  
*Replace hospital beds*

Congregation of the Passion Eastern Province  
*Renovate bathrooms for accessibility*  
*Emergency Grant: Purchase adaptive furniture*

Daughters of Wisdom  
Islip  
*Emergency Grant: Purchase hospital beds*

Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary  
Sparkill  
*Upgrade technology*

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers  
North America Province  
New Rochelle  
*Upgrade lighting*

Franciscan Sisters of Peace  
Haverstraw  
*Emergency Grant: Upgrade elevator*

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement  
Garrison  
*Install and expand alert call system*

Marist Brothers of the Schools  
New York  
*Renovate facility for accessibility*

Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic  
Maryknoll  
*Provide programming for aging Sisters*

Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict  
Huntington  
*Upgrade HVAC system*

Sisters of Charity of New York  
Bronx  
*Purchase adaptive furniture*

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Brentwood  
Brentwood  
*Purchase therapeutic equipment*

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt  
Blauvelt  
*Emergency Grant: Safety renovations to facility*

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
Liverpool  
*Purchase furniture for accessibility*

Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester  
Rochester  
*Replace therapeutic tub*

Sisters of St. Mary of Namur  
Eastern Region  
Buffalo  
*Replace HVAC system*

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
New Windsor  
*Upgrade generator*

## OHIO

Benedictine Order of Cleveland  
Cleveland  
*Install security system*

Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus  
Cincinnati  
*Purchase kitchen equipment and AEDs*

*Grants continue on next page.*



Congregation of the Blessed  
Sacrament  
Highland Heights  
*Replace flooring*

Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Columbus  
*Purchase therapeutic equipment*

Sisters of Notre Dame of the  
United States  
Chardon  
*Purchase therapeutic and medical  
equipment*

Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania  
Sylvania  
*Purchase lift chairs and scooters*

#### OREGON

Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel  
Mount Angel  
*Improve sound system in Chapel*

#### PENNSYLVANIA

American Province of the Sisters  
of the Redeemer  
Meadowbrook  
*Purchase furniture for accessibility*

Benedictine Sisters of Erie  
Erie  
*Purchase furniture for accessibility*

Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh  
Bakerstown  
*Purchase accessible vehicle*

Bernardine Franciscan Sisters  
Reading  
*Emergency Grant: Upgrade alert  
system*

Carmelite Community of the Word  
Gallitzin  
*Replace roof*  
Daylesford Abbey  
Paoli  
*Renovate bathrooms for accessibility*

Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of  
Jesus  
Haverford  
*Renovate facility for safety*

Missionary Servants of the Most  
Blessed Trinity  
Philadelphia  
*Purchase accessible vehicle*

Missionary Sisters of the  
Precious Blood  
Reading  
*Replace windows*

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius  
Danville  
*Upgrade flooring*

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Aston  
*Purchase hospital beds and  
mattresses*

Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden  
Baden  
*Upgrade technology*

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern  
Pennsylvania  
Erie  
*Purchase dining room chairs*

Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil  
the Great  
Jenkintown  
*Upgrade elevator*

Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the  
Great-Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Province  
Uniontown  
*Purchase stairlift*

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate  
Heart of Mary  
Scranton  
*Purchase accessible van*

#### PUERTO RICO

Sisters of St. Dominic  
Bayamón  
*Emergency Grant: Repair roof*

#### TENNESSEE

St. Cecilia Congregation  
Nashville  
*Replace hospital beds*

#### TEXAS

Franciscan Sisters of Christ the Light  
Panhandle  
*Emergency Grant: Purchase standby  
generator*

Institute of the Daughters of Mary  
Help of Christians  
San Antonio  
*Replace air-conditioning unit*

Missionary Sisters of Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph  
Corpus Christi  
*Replace air-conditioning unit*

Sisters of St. Mary of Namur  
Western Province  
Fort Worth  
*Emergency Grant: Repair HVAC*

Sisters of the Society of Our Lady of  
the Most Holy Trinity  
Corpus Christi  
*Purchase medical equipment*

#### VIRGINIA

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia  
Bristow  
*Install automatic doors*

Our Lady of the Angels Monastery  
Crozet  
*Purchase hospital beds and chairs*

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Sisters of St. Benedict St. Placid Priory  
Lacey  
*Replace furniture*

#### WISCONSIN

School Sisters of St. Francis  
Milwaukee  
*Upgrade kitchen equipment*

Sinsinawa Dominicans  
Sinsinawa  
*Purchase accessible van*

The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi  
St. Francis  
*Emergency Grant: Purchase stairlifts*



Do you have a written will? If you don't, you may have thought about it.

SOAR! has partnered with My Catholic Will. Visit [soar-usa.org/will](http://soar-usa.org/will) to start your free will today and provide a legacy gift to SOAR!

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

## Faithful Friends

Say "thank you" to our aging religious all year long. Become a Faithful Friend monthly donor! Visit [www.soar-usa.org/faithfulfriend](http://www.soar-usa.org/faithfulfriend).

Scan this code to make your  
online donation today. ➤



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](http://www.soar-usa.org)

