

# SOAR!Notes

## You Are a Beacon of Hope



Your prayers and support open doors that bring joy and peace of mind to aging religious women and men across the United States. Your generosity brings light into their lives and allows them to remain in their congregations surrounded by love and community.

Because of you, congregations can purchase accessible vehicles, making it easier for their members to travel safely to medical appointments and community outings. Supporting independence is essential to aging well, and your contributions make a real difference. Grants for therapeutic equipment help enhance strength and balance, while lift chairs and hospital beds ensure safety and restful nights. Automatic doors and secure flooring empower those with mobility challenges to move confidently and participate fully in daily activities.

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## Thank you, SOAR!

Thanks to SOAR! donors, the Sisters residing at the Bernardine Franciscans' skilled care facility can now enjoy community and other activities together. The grant provided needed funds to update windows and HVAC units in the library and Assumption Hall. The Sisters now enjoy consistent, comfortable temperatures and can continue their ministry of prayer.



*"It is hard to express how grateful I feel for people who care about us. They prove that God is good and God is love."*

- Sister Dolorice Domin, OSF

*"It is so very wonderful to be able to use our big library room for activities again – especially parties! Tell the SOAR! donors that we pray for them every day."*

- Sister Charlene Dalrymple, OSF



## Dear Friends of SOAR!,

We anticipate the birth of Christ with patience and hope during Advent, and then, it seems, Christmas is here in a flash. Let's not rush the season this year. Let us take the time to cherish the gifts of family, friends and community.

The holiday season is a nice time to reflect on Christmas traditions of the past and remember the joy and warmth celebrating with loved ones. My grandmother lived with my family when she was older and unable to live on her own. We used to joke that Grandma got more mail every day than the rest of our family combined, especially during the busy mail season of Christmas. She was a supporter of many Catholic causes and charities. She donated to the Maryknoll Sisters because she loved that they helped people in Japan. She gave to the Benedictine Monks because she knew them from her parish in New Jersey.

I think many of you are like my grandmother. You don't just help one charity or two or even three, but you probably donate to many Catholic causes and good organizations because each has a mission that is meaningful for you. Thank you for keeping SOAR! among the favorite charities you support. It means a lot — it means a lot to me, and it means a great deal to the aging religious you help.

You are in my prayers this Christmas season and always. May God bless you and those you love with happiness and joy. Merry Christmas!

*S. Kathleen Linsmann, STM*

## Donor Spotlight

### Sharing My Story

by Ramon Gonzalez



My life has been blessed by clergy and religious for as long as I can remember. I grew up with Priests that were close to our family. Padre Fernando served my community in Nicaragua and celebrated the sacraments with our family. When I married my wife Liz, he flew in from Spain to marry us. I was blessed to attend Our Lady of Mercy School in Merced, California, when we first moved to the U.S. I remember how Sister Patricia's peaceful presence gently silenced a cafeteria full of students as we all strained to hear her soft words. When I moved to Houston, Deacon Romeo became a guide and mentor. His voice would crack as he held back emotions when he spoke of Our Blessed Mother. I am still living in Houston, working as an engineer, with my wife and our four children: Alex, Elih, Joel and Lizette. I feel blessed again to be a member of St. Bernadette Church, where the good Lord has given us a loving parish led by Father Bob and the wonderful staff he assembled under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

There is a special place in my heart for religious who have devoted so much of their life to the Lord and His sheep. I happen to be a sheep and know firsthand their love. I love their example of humble service with their human limitations made beautiful by our Lord's grace. I hope they know that they are loved and appreciated. I hope they feel cared for by grateful beneficiaries of their toil and prayer! They are some of the most beautiful flowers of our Lord's garden on Earth. I became a monthly donor to SOAR! because it allows me to express that gratitude. SOAR! gives me a way of being part of the care for our aging religious, and I am grateful for that blessing.

*Ramon is a Faithful Friend and has been a loyal supporter of SOAR! since 2003.*

Say "thank you" to our aging religious all year long by becoming a Faithful Friend monthly donor.

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

# SOAR! FALL EVENTS

Each fall, friends of SOAR! gather in New York and Washington, DC, to honor outstanding individuals, to recognize the invaluable contributions of religious women and men, and to share the mission of SOAR!

Our awardees are people of exemplary faith and service. This year at our New York Awards Dinner, SOAR! honored J. Eustace Wolfington, philanthropist and executive producer of "Cabrini;" Jeannie Gaffigan, producer, writer and philanthropist; and Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. Our DC Gala awardees were Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, Archbishop of Washington; Dennis J. Dee, executive director of the Father McKenna Center; and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.



New York Awardees left to right: Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ; Jeannie Gaffigan; SOAR! President Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM; and J. Eustace Wolfington

To view pictures from both events, visit [www.facebook.com/soarusa](http://www.facebook.com/soarusa).

## Did you know?

### 4 facts about St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

- Mother Cabrini founded the Institute of Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in 1880 in Lodi, Italy.
- During her lifetime, she established 67 institutions, including orphanages, hospitals and schools in the United States, Argentina, Spain and France.
- She was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized a saint on July 7, 1946.
- She is the patron saint of immigrants.



(picture taken at the St. Frances of Cabrini Shrine in New York)

## A Gift to Benefit You and Aging Religious

A gift of appreciated stock to SOAR! is a powerful way to support aging religious — and may offer significant tax benefits for you.

SOAR! is partnering with **Stock Donator**, a secure online platform that allows you to contribute stock in a few easy steps.

Visit [www.soar-usa.org/stock](http://www.soar-usa.org/stock) and click "Donate to SOAR!" to begin. You can donate directly from the website or download a form to donate through your broker. A receipt will be generated through your taxes when your donation is complete.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Góral-Makowski at [emakowski@soar-usa.org](mailto:emakowski@soar-usa.org) or (202) 529-7627.



# In Grateful Memory

We remember our dear 2025 Legacy Society Members who rest in God's loving peace.

Joseph Klinko

Isabel A. Kronicz

Joseph D. Liptak

Joseph M. McCarthy

Joan C. Risch

George S. Trovato



Scan this code to make your online donation today. ➤



## You Are a Beacon of Hope, from page 1

Your kindness helps aging Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests flourish and gives congregations peace of mind, knowing they can provide compassionate care today and in the years to come. Your generosity provides support and brightens their days and enriches their lives.

Thank you for helping their light continue to shine!



## MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH PLANNED GIVING



### MyCatholicWill

Protect your family. Honor your faith. Planning ahead ensures your wishes are followed. That's why SOAR! has partnered with My Catholic Will. You can easily create your free will online.

Visit [soar-usa.org/will](http://soar-usa.org/will) to get started.

### Donor-Advised Funds

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) combine the ease of a charitable savings account with the flexibility of strategic giving. They are considered the fastest-growing charitable giving tools in the U.S. It's easy to make a grant recommendation. Visit [www.soar-usa.org/daf](http://www.soar-usa.org/daf) to make a donation directly through your donor-advised fund or call Elizabeth Góral-Makowski at (202) 529-7627.



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)

