

Why We Support SOAR!

Neither of us can remember when or how we first heard of SOAR!, but we know we gave our first donation in June 2011.

My wife, Sherri, had a grand-aunt, Sister Casmir, who was a Sister of St. Benedict in Crookston, MN. As for me, being a Thalidomide baby, I spent a fair amount of time being cared for by Sisters of Charity and Sisters of St. Francis in the Denver hospitals I was in.

This was long before I started my 12-year tutelage in Catholic school. Finding this way to “give back” to those who had played important roles in our lives was an easy decision.

Over the years, we would try to include a donation or two to SOAR! as part of our annual charity plan. Then in 2017, we began to take a serious look at our own retirement budget plans, and our focus on SOAR! became clearer. Since we were not blessed with any children and have older siblings, we recognized the challenges of planning for our retirement years without the benefit of a “next generation” to be there to help us if we ever needed any support – physically, emotionally, or even financially.

We recognized this as a shared challenge possibly facing the many Sisters, Brothers and Priests who had touched our lives growing up and continue to be there for us as we grow older. This recognition inspired us to include SOAR! as a beneficiary of our Trust. In doing so, we have felt a deeper connection to those at SOAR! who have reached out to us and have appreciated the offer of prayers for us over the years. We, in turn, lift the entire SOAR! community in our daily prayers.



We probably would never have taken the time to document our “SOAR! Journey,” until someone from SOAR! asked if we would. We realized it would be a good opportunity to share the manifold blessings that we have found in being a part of SOAR!’s legacy to others.

Terry and Sherri have been supporters of SOAR! since 2011 and have recently become Faithful Friends. They reside in Arizona where they are blessed to spend time caring for Sherri’s 95-year-old father. They also host a weekly Rosary on Zoom with Terry’s older siblings and a few nephews.

Dear Friends of SOAR!



On my early Saturday morning walk in the park, I am starting to notice signs of spring. Instead of trying to avoid stepping on patches of ice, I am now noticing the bright green grass and the

trees that are beginning to blossom. I love this time of year when new life appears all around us.

SOAR! is moving forward while trying to read the signs of the times. In the last few years, we noticed our grantmaking timeline was becoming an obstacle for some congregations of religious women or men in applying for assistance. In 2025, we changed our guidelines and now congregations can apply for a grant on their own timeline. This allows Sisters, Priests and Brothers to get help when they need it the most.

Thanks to our generous benefactors, SOAR! now provides funding all throughout the year. It is only with your ongoing assistance that we were able to make this change to our procedures and be more responsive to our aging religious.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of SOAR!, and we are still learning new ways to do things. Thank you for being a part of the SOAR! family.

S. Kathleen Lunsman, STM

You Bring Joy to Their Hearts

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities in Liverpool, NY received a grant to purchase lift chairs and new mattresses. The grant has improved the mobility and comfort of the Sisters. What's more is that the Sisters have found joy in knowing they are loved by people they have never met and who understand their needs are important.

We received numerous comments from the Sisters and are sharing two of them here:



Sister Ann Helene Koenig, OSF, says, "I love my new chair. After many years, my old chair finally wore out. The new one is great because it's wide enough for me and my Boston Terrier Clare to sit together. I can get out of it very easily. The new chair is supportive and comfortable for my

bones. My ministry of crocheting prayer blankets is very important to me, and my new chair is the perfect spot for me to sit and crochet comfortably for hours."

Sister Eugene Marie Schneider, OSF, shared, "Thank you so much for providing my new mattress. It is very comfortable. I still wake up with some aches and pains, but that's probably because I am 100 years old! God bless you for your good works on behalf of all our Sisters."



Thank you for bringing joy to religious women and men across the United States!

Become a member of our

Legacy Society

Estate planning is an important step for everyone. It provides for the future needs of your family and loved ones. It can also ensure that charitable organizations you support, such as SOAR!, are remembered.

Your legacy can be a gift forever. Joining the SOAR! Legacy Society is a meaningful way to live out your faith. By including SOAR! in your bequest or beneficiary designation, you help sustain our ministry. Your generosity enhances the quality of life of aging Sisters, Brothers, and Priests whose religious communities need assistance in providing care for their elderly members.

Those who remember SOAR! in their estate

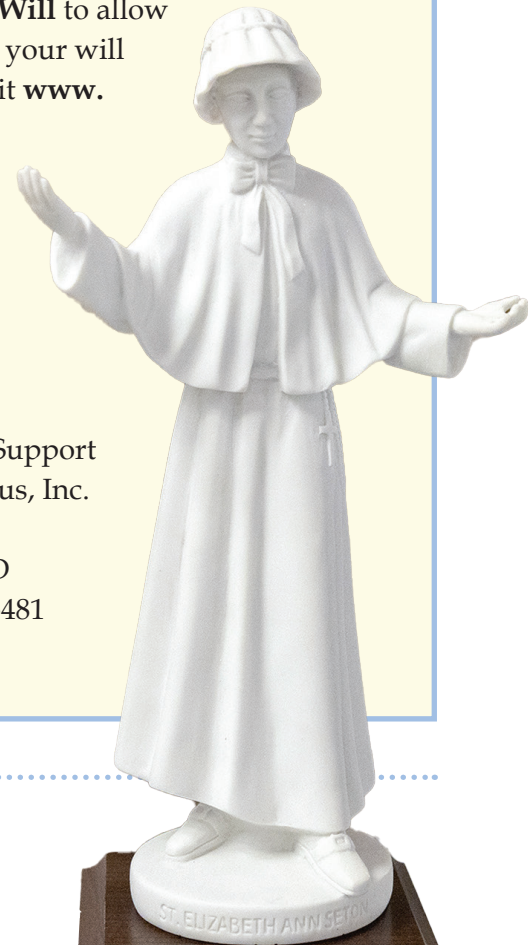
plans are welcomed into the **SOAR! Legacy Society**, a special group honoring individuals who share our vision of ensuring aging Catholic religious live in safety, comfort and dignity. Through a legacy gift, you leave a faithful witness of generosity and hope.

Members of the SOAR! Legacy Society are remembered in the prayers and good works of the Sisters, Brothers, and Priests whose lives are enriched by SOAR! grants.

If you do not yet have a will, creating one can be simple. SOAR! has partnered with **My Catholic Will** to allow you to easily write your will online for free. Visit www.soar-usa.org/will to begin.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

Our Legal Title is Support
Our Aging Religious, Inc.
(SOAR!)
Our Federal Tax ID
number is: 52-1485481



celebrate 40 years at our Fall events

Our Fall 2026 events will take place in New York in September and in Washington, DC in November. These events are a great way to share the mission of SOAR! and the impact donors make on the lives of aging religious women and men. Stay tuned for more information.

Statue designed by Sister Margaret Beaudette, SC



Ways to Give

Faithful Friends — Join the SOAR! sustainer program and give automatically each month. Your gifts provide steady support and is a wonderful way to say “thank you” to aging religious all year long. It’s easy to give directly from your bank account or credit card.

Donor Advised Funds (DAF) — You can recommend SOAR! for a grant from your charitable giving fund. You can also set up annual, quarterly or monthly grants or name SOAR! as the beneficiary of your DAF.

IRA — If you are 70 ½ or older, you can donate up to \$111,000 tax-free from your IRA through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The QCD is sent directly from your IRA trustee to SOAR! Contact your IRA administrator for more information.

Stocks — Donating appreciated stock is a powerful way to support aging religious, and may offer significant tax benefits for you. SOAR! partners with Stock Donator, a secure online platform that allows you to contribute stock easily. Visit: <https://soar-usa.org/giving/stock/>

You make a
life-changing
difference



They’ve helped us all our lives. Now we can help them.
In the past year, caring friends like you have generously provided:

104
GRANTS

\$3,174,023
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

\$30,519
AVERAGE GRANT

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SOAR! is listed in The Official Catholic Directory

SOAR!
Support Our Aging Religious

40
1986
2026
Years of Caring



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