

Grants Awarded to 80 Congregations



The SOAR! board of directors has approved the awarding of more than \$1.3 million in grants to congregations of Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests.

Every year, religious communities across the country reach out to SOAR! for grants to assist with the care of their aging members. These requests include items such as therapeutic equipment and accessible furniture to keep Sisters mentally and physically healthy. While the needs are basic, they are urgent. Each request has a direct impact on the safety and care of aging religious women and men.

When the SOAR! grants committee meets to review the grant applications, they take a hard look at which needs are most critical. If they could, they would say “yes” to each one.

Thanks to you, this year SOAR! awarded grants to 80 congregations. These grants will benefit 3,198 women and men religious in 22 states.

Because of you, our beloved religious can safely stay at home with their communities and in familiar surroundings.

Your faithful support helps ensure that aging Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests can remain safe and thrive within their loving communities. Your generous support helps us celebrate and honor their lives of loving service. Your goodness is a blessing to many religious.

The Sisters, Brothers and Priests you help remember you in their daily prayers. The SOAR! board of directors joins them in their deep gratitude for your continuing kindness. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE

Join SOAR! supporters at two VIRTUAL
gala events this fall (see page 4).



Dear Friends of SOAR!

Who would have thought that the year 2020 would find us in the midst of a global pandemic? Were you ready to stay at home where you could be safe from the spread of the virus? Were you prepared like the wise virgins in the Gospel of Matthew who carried oil with their lamps when they waited for the bridegroom? I was glad I had everything (well, almost everything) in place to work from my bedroom so I could continue to focus on the mission of SOAR!

Like you, I worried about our aging religious and prayed for their health and safety. With your support, SOAR! is reaching out in new ways to help congregations impacted by COVID-19 and all those working hard to prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

In these times when your financial situation was impacted, I am especially appreciative of the extra donations SOAR! received during the last few months. Your donations are oil for our lamps. I know that you realize our dear Sisters, Priests and Brothers count on us. So, thank you for allowing me to count on you.

May God bless you for your generosity and concern. You are in my prayers.

Blessings,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

COVID-19 Rapid Response Grants

The mission of SOAR! is to keep our aging religious safe and healthy. SOAR! is keenly aware of the signs of the times, and has initiated a new grant program in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The *COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Program* aims to help congregations who are experiencing difficulty providing care to their aging members during this time. Thanks to the new program, communities can quickly receive funds to implement safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, provide care for members suffering from the virus, and ease the burden due to decreased revenue during the pandemic. In addition, funds will be used to address the needs of aging religious impacted by social isolation.

The new COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Program is funded in part by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. However, your support of these efforts is crucial to ensure that we can help the many congregations reaching out to us for support.



The majority of women and men religious in the United States are over the age of 70. In order to stay safe, they can no longer do many of the things that brought joy and fulfillment to their lives of service, such as actively working or volunteering as tutors and chaplains, or providing pastoral care. In some instances, they can't even go to Chapel for personal prayer without signing up in advance, or attend gatherings with their community.

Yet even in the midst of social distancing that is needed in abbeys, monasteries and convents, they still continue their ministry of prayer, and each day they pray with grateful hearts for you. They are grateful for the support of your prayers and for your generosity.

Please remember SOAR! in your will.

Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc., and our Federal tax ID number is: 52-148-5481.

Please visit www.soar-usa.org/inspire to share how a religious Sister or Brother has inspired you, or to read other stories.



2020 SOAR! Grants



ARKANSAS

Subiaco Abbey, *Subiaco*,
Purchase medical
equipment

CALIFORNIA

Missionary Guadalupanas
of the Holy Spirit,
Los Angeles,
Install solar panels

Lovers of the Holy Cross of
Los Angeles, Gardena,
Purchase accessible van

Daughters of Mary and
Joseph, *Rancho Palos
Verdes*, Purchase
adjustable beds and
improve lighting

Sister Servants of the
Blessed Sacrament,
Bonita, Safety repairs and
renovations

Dominican Sisters of
Mission San Jose,
Fremont, Replace lighting
in chapel

Franciscan Friars of
California, *Oakland*,
Install elevator

Abbey of New Clairvaux,
Vina, Replace roof over
dining hall

CONNECTICUT

Sisters of St. Joseph of
Chambers, *Newington*,
Install carpet for
increased safety

The Apostles of the Sacred
Heart of Jesus, *Hamden*,
Install new flooring for
safety

Benedictine Congregation,
Regina Laudis of the Strict
Observance, *Bethlehem*,
Update flooring for safety

IDAHO

Benedictine Sisters of the
Monastery of St. Gertrude,
Cottonwood, Install
automatic door and
purchase lift chairs

ILLINOIS

Congregation of the
Passion, Holy Cross
Province, *Park Ridge*,
Renovate room for
physical therapy use

Dominican Friars, Province
of St. Albert the Great,
Chicago, Purchase
furniture for aging
in place and improve
lighting

Congregation of the
Resurrection, *Chicago*,
Purchase motorized
scooters

USA Midwest Province of
the Society of Jesus,
Chicago, Purchase
therapeutic exercise
equipment

Benedictine Sisters of
Chicago, Chicago, Renovate
infirmary kitchen
Conventual Franciscan
Friars of St. Bonaventure
Province, *Chicago*,
Replace HVAC system

INDIANA

Sisters of St. Benedict of
Ferdinand, *IN, Ferdinand*,
Replace HVAC system

Sisters of Providence,
Saint Mary-of-the Woods,
Replace water-damaged
walls

KANSAS

St. Benedict's Abbey,
Atchison, Renovate
infirmary shower room

Mount St. Scholastica,
Atchison, Purchase
physical therapy
equipment

Sisters of St. Joseph,
Concordia, Purchase
hospital bed

LOUISIANA

Sisters of the Holy Family,
New Orleans, Repair
plumbing

Congregation of Our Lady
of Mount Carmel,
Lacombe, Purchase
lift chairs

MARYLAND

Missionary Servants of the
Most Holy Trinity,
Silver Spring, Install new
carpet for safety

Benedictine Sisters of
Baltimore, Lutherville,
Install handrails and
upgrade flooring/carpet
for safety

Mission Helpers of the
Sacred Heart, *Towson*,
Make safety repairs
and renovations

St. Joseph's Society of the
Sacred Heart, *Baltimore*,
Install stairlift

Atlantic-Midwest Province
of the School Sisters of
Notre Dame, Inc.,
Baltimore,
Purchase lift chairs

Oblate Sisters of
Providence, *Baltimore*,
Renovate bathrooms and
kitchen for accessibility

MASSACHUSETTS

Benedictine Monks of
Glastonbury Abbey,
Hingham, Purchase
medical equipment

Franciscan Missionary
Sisters for Africa,
Brighton, Make safety
repairs and renovations

MICHIGAN

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

MINNESOTA

Saint John's Abbey,
Collegeville, Install
therapeutic tub

MISSOURI

Franciscan Province of the
Sacred Heart, *St. Louis*,
Renovate room for
physical therapy use

NEBRASKA

Mount Michael Benedictine
Abbey, *Elkhorn*, Install
walk-in tub

Missionary Society of St.
Columban, *St. Columbans*,
Purchase therapeutic
exercise equipment

NEW JERSEY

Sisters of Saint Dominic of
Caldwell, *NJ, Caldwell*,
Upgrade technology

Missionary Society of the
Salesian Sisters, *Haledon*,
Purchase generator

Missionary Franciscan
Sisters, *Tenafly*,
Replace windows

Sisters of Charity of Saint
Elizabeth, *Convent Station*,
Install guardrail

NEW YORK

Oblates to the Blessed
Trinity, *Bronx*, Convert tub
to accessible shower

Franciscan Sisters of the
Atonement, *Garrison*,
Purchase furniture for
aging in place

Missionary Sisters of the
Third Order of St. Francis,
Peekskill, Upgrade
infirmary flooring
for safety

Edmund Rice Christian
Brothers Foundation,
New Rochelle,
Replace hospital beds

Sisters of St. Dominic of
Blauvelt, *NY, Blauvelt*,
Install new flooring
for safety

Parish Visitors of Mary
Immaculate, *Monroe*,
Replace infirmary roof
Dominican Convent of Our
Lady of the Rosary,
Sparkill, Renovate
bathrooms for accessibility

Sisters of St. Dominic of
Amityville, *Amityville*,
Purchase accessible van

Sisters of St. Joseph,
Brentwood, Renovate
medical exam rooms

Daughters of Wisdom,
Islip, Purchase accessible van

Society of the Sisters of
St. Joseph, *Latham*,
Purchase furniture for
aging in place

Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
New Windsor, Purchase
furniture for aging in place

Maryknoll Sisters of St.
Dominic, Inc., *Maryknoll*,
Purchase medical and
therapeutic equipment

OHIO

Dominican Sisters of
Peace, *Columbus*, Replace
therapeutic whirlpool tub

Sisters of St. Francis,
Sylvania, Replace medical
equipment

Sisters of Notre Dame,
Toledo, Purchase lift
chairs and beds

Benedictine Order of
Cleveland, *St. Andrew
Abbey, Cleveland*,
Upgrade boiler system

Sisters of the Most Holy
Trinity, *Euclid*,
Install solar panels

Sisters of St. Francis, *Tiffin*,
Purchase adaptable
furniture and beds

Glenmary Home
Missioners, *Cincinnati*,
Renovate bathrooms for
accessibility

PENNSYLVANIA

Benedictine Sisters of
Pittsburgh, Bakerstown,
Purchase therapeutic
exercise equipment

Sisters of St. Joseph of
Northwestern PA,
Erie, Purchase pressure
mattresses and cushions

Benedictine Sisters of
Erie, Inc., *Erie*, Renovate
kitchen for accessibility

Sisters of Saints Cyril and
Methodius, *Danville*,
Replace dining room chairs

Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart
of Mary – *Scranton*,
Scranton, Purchase
furniture for aging
in place

Sisters of the Order of
Saint Basil the Great,
Jesus Lover of Humanity
Province, *Jenkintown*,
Replace windows

Sisters of Mercy of the
Americas, Mid-Atlantic,
Merion, Install security
system

Missionary Servants of
the Most Blessed Trinity,
Philadelphia, Purchase
furniture for aging in
place

Daylesford Abbey, *Paoli*,
Renovate bedrooms
and bathrooms for
accessibility

Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of
Mary – *Malvern, Malvern*,
Purchase wheelchair
sanitizer

Bernardine Franciscan
Sisters, *Reading*,
Purchase medical
equipment

Sisters of Divine
Providence, *Allison Park*,
Make structural repairs
following earthquakes

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sisters of Charity of Our
Lady of Mercy,
Charleston, Purchase
lift chairs and hospital
mattresses

Franciscan Monastery of
St. Clare, *Travelers Rest*,
Install hearing loop

VERMONT

Benedictine Monastery,
Westfield, Install
accessible shower

VIRGINIA

Our Lady of the Angels
Monastery, *Crozet*,
Make safety repairs
and renovations

WISCONSIN

School Sisters of
St. Francis, *Milwaukee*,
Renovate infirmary
kitchen

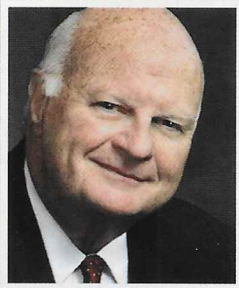
Sinsinawa Dominicans,
Inc., *Sinsinawa*,
Purchase furniture
for aging in place



SOAR! 2020 EVENT HONOREES

NEW YORK

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 • 7:00 PM EDT



Gary S. Horan, FACHE
President and CEO
Trinitas Regional Medical Center,
Elizabeth, NJ



Joseph E. Nyre, Ph.D.
President
Seton Hall University
South Orange, NJ

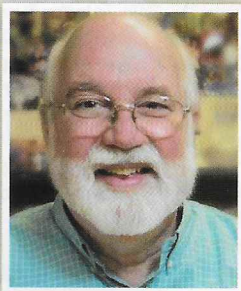


Sister Ann Marie Pierce, IHM
Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Scranton, PA

DC NATIONAL GALA

Friday, November 6, 2020 • 8:00 PM EST

Father Greg Boyle, S.J.
Founder/Director
Homeboy Industries
Los Angeles, CA



Genevieve L. Murphy
Former SOAR! Board Member
Boca Raton, FL



SOAR! Events Are Going VIRTUAL!

For the first time in its 34-year history, our SOAR! events are going VIRTUAL! This change is part of our response to the coronavirus pandemic and our concern for the ongoing potential risks to the safety and well-being of our guests. So, this fall, we are opening our doors wide and inviting **everyone** to take part. You won't want to miss this unique opportunity!

Our SOAR! virtual events benefit aging religious, and funds raised will be earmarked specifically to help keep our religious safe in this COVID-19 environment. They will also help us to be prepared for any emergency needs that may arise for our aging religious throughout the year.

While there is no charge to attend these virtual events, pre-registration is required. By attending these virtual events, you will have the chance to hear from SOAR! President Sister Kathleen Lunsmann and to meet some of the religious communities we help through your generosity. We will also honor some truly wonderful individuals whose witness of their Catholic faith and generosity have brought health, healing and support to those in their communities and beyond.

Please join us and celebrate religious life and help SOAR! make a difference! Each event will last less than 40 minutes. We are including a "Save the Date" insert in this newsletter that you can put on your bulletin board or wall to remind you of the events. To learn more or to register to attend, please visit www.soar-usa.org/events. We look forward to having you join us!

A CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION SERVING AGING SISTERS, BROTHERS AND PRIESTS SINCE 1986.

SOAR!
Support Our Aging Religious

The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the mission and needs of SOAR! and to express our gratitude to our donors.

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