



Diocese holds Holy Hour for vocations in Parsippany
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Award to be given to founder of Several Sources Shelters

NEW YORK — The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, the highest honor of Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR), will be presented to Kathy DiFiore, founder of Several Sources Shelters, at the annual SOAR Benefit Dinner to be held at the Tavern on the Green here, Tuesday, Oct. 7.

DiFiore left the corporate world to turn her home into a shelter for expectant mothers and newborns. The demand for help for pregnant women with no where to turn has grown, and she now works with a corps of volunteers in operating four residential shelters in New Jersey and a 24-hour national hotline for pregnant women. A fifth shelter, Ladies Rest, located in Newark, assists women in the inner city who are homeless.

DiFiore, a native of Rochester, N. Y., received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Rochester and her master's degree from New York University. From 1970 to 1978 she was a member of the New York State advisory group to the U.S. Civil Rights Committee.

At this year's dinner, SOAR will also present the Father Victor Yanitelli award to two Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, N.Y.: Sisters Dorothy and Jeanne Burns. Although they are not biological sisters, over the past 60 years their journeys have been parallel — each taught school before responding to the challenges of Vatican II to advocate for and serve the poor.

Sister Jeanne Burns served for 23 years as an elementary school teacher. In 1972, she began helping the elderly. The small beginning developed into the 33 Club — an outreach program that assists the elderly in midtown Manhattan in a variety of ways with the help of volunteers of all ages.

Sister Dorothy Burns taught elementary and high school for 27 years. From 1974

to 1987, she served as a pastoral minister for Catholic Charities in New York City in the Office of the Disabled and managed the summer camp for disabled children and adults.

In 1988, she began to serve people in need through the Encore Community Services, a city-funded program for people who are elderly, homeless, and mentally ill. At the program site, two meals are provided to 300 people, and 200 other meals are delivered to shut-ins.

SOAR is a nonprofit organization of persons committed to assuring financially stable and personally secure futures for elderly and infirm members of religious congregations in the United States.

Since the founding of SOAR close to 900 grants totaling more \$9 million have helped religious congregations to purchase medical equipment, install elevators and fire and alarm systems, and replace windows and roofs. Proceeds from the benefit dinners have helped to make the SOAR grants possible.

Tickets to the dinner may be obtained by calling Peg Zukowski (732) 564-9975 or e-mail bpzduk@aol.com.