



Society of the Sacred Heart™
United States – Canada

Mission Advancement Annual Report 2018-2019



Let love be your life for all eternity.
Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat





All Is

And I ventured out into the rising new day,
laying witness with a look and with wonder:
I am for and of this and all of these
and this and these are of me—
The shaft of light and the birdsong,
my neighbour, the elder, the child,
the hills, the waters, the deserts,
the places and the people who ache, who suffer...
My heart is of this whole;
My mind and spirit are drawn
into the tumble of laments and graces—
mine and yours and those of creation.
And in that teeming whirlwind we
are called to let go, called to bloom;
Called to awe and called to question;
Called to action, called to stillness,
to the fullness of our humanity
and to the divine recognition
that all is held in Love,
that all is called by Love.

Kimberly M. King, RSCJ, Halifax, NS

Contributors

On the cover:

Joan Magnetti, RSCJ, in conversation with a student at Catholic Academy of Bridgeport in Connecticut.

.....

Preceding page:

Members of the Central Team from Rome visited with students at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland, accompanied by Provincial Team member, Diane Roche, RSCJ, and the Head of the Conference of Sacred Heart Education, Suzanne Cook, RSCJ.

.....

Photo credits:

Laura Beeson
Linda Behrens
Muriel Cameron, RSCJ
Erin Everson
Gwen Hoeffel, RSCJ
Jerry Naunheim
Encarni Pindado
Ellen Schlafly Shafer
Caitlin Taylor

Designer: Peggy Nehmen

.....

We are so grateful to all of our contributors to this issue of our annual report!

If you have ideas for articles for next year's issue, please send them to Eliza Lynn, elynn@rscj.org or call 314-652-1500.



| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Kim King, RSCJ |
| 3 | Sheila Hammond, RSCJ |
| 4 | Laura Guerra |
| 5 | Mary Finlayson, RSCJ |
| 6 | Lori Wilson |
| 7 | Peggy Gorman |
| 7 | Laura Haroian |
| 8 | Theresa Chu, RSCJ |
| 9 | Joan Gannon, RSCJ |
| 10 | Susan Maxwell, RSCJ |
| 11 | Ann Smith, RSCJ |
| 12 | Irma Dillard, RSCJ |
| 13 | Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ, and Reyna González, RSCJ |
| 14 | Jean Bartunek, RSCJ |
| 14 | Ana De Armas |
| 15 | Kelly Weber |
| 16 | Bill Hobbs |
| 16 | Alison Seaton |
| 17 | John Michael Reyes |
| 17 | Julian Beauvais |
| 18 | Jerry Naunheim |
| 20 | Sandy Ahlheim |
| 21 | Roselie Bellanca Posselius |
| 22 | Cathie Ott |
| 23 | Catherine Kinabrew |
| 24 | Kathy McGrath, RSCJ |
| 24 | Donna Dolan, RSCJ |
| 25 | Michael Pera |
| 26 | Bridget Bearss, RSCJ |
| 28 | Ellen Schlafly Shafer |
| 29 | Patricia Rice |
| 30 | Alexis Foldes |
| 31 | Jo Wright, RSCJ |
| 32 | Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ |
| 33 | Nat Wilburn |
| 34 | <i>Cor Unum Legacy Society</i> |
| 36 | Antonia Ponder |

November 1, 2019

Dear Sacred Heart Community,

AS OUR PARTNERS IN MISSION, you walk with us and share the call of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat to *let love be your life for all eternity*.

Love breaks us open to feel the suffering of others and to choose love in the midst of hatred and fear, to be “artisans of hope in our blessed and broken world.” (Report from the 2018 JPIC meeting)

During this last year, your generosity has helped us to embrace love, as the Society of the Sacred Heart, in so many ways:

- By gathering in ministry across the world through our global service day.
- By celebrating together the closing of the Bicentennial of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne and her companions who brought Sacred Heart education to this continent.
- By committing ourselves to difficult conversations about our own participation in the sin of slavery and exploring the ways that racism still pervades our present reality.
- By allowing our hearts to be broken by the sight of families separated on the border and by finding ways to support the efforts of those who are directly addressing the physical and emotional needs of these, our brothers and sisters.

We are also aware that there are many ways that you, the members of our extended Sacred Heart family, have opened your own hearts over this past year. We have gathered, in this report, stories, articles and photos that celebrate the transformative love of God in the lives of alumnae/i, RSCJ, Associates, Children of Mary, Network school educators, friends, and colleagues.

We offer these articles as a way of showing our appreciation for the partnership that allows the Society of the Sacred Heart to continue *to discover and reveal God's love in the heart of the world*. May they fill you with hope.

With gratitude and hope,



Sheila Hammond, RSCJ
Provincial
United States – Canada Province



A visit from Rome

This fall, we were honored by a visit from Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, our Superior General, and three members of the Central Team, Marie-Jeanne Elonga, RSCJ, from the province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Monica Esquivel, RSCJ, from Mexico and Daphne Sequeira, RSCJ, from India. The fourth member of the Central Team, Isabelle Lagneau, RSCJ, from France, remained in Rome. The Central Team came to meet us and to experience how the USC Province is living our mission in the various ministries and communities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

They also brought to us their experiences of how the Society and our colleagues and Associates throughout the world are living the mission of the Society. It was thrilling to recognize the similarities with our own sense of communicating God's love, as well as identifying how differences of cultural, economic and political background impact how we respond to the call to make known God's love.

As we said farewell to the Central Team, we were very grateful to be part of the worldwide Sacred Heart family!



Rosie Quilter, RSCJ, began her work with ARISE in 2013.

LOVE IS ACKNOWLEDGING the humanity that all of us have, regardless of our skin color, religion, gender, socio-economic status and nationality. I believe the biggest example of *letting love be our life and our guide* is accompanying the most vulnerable in our community and being a catalyst for change.

ARISE is a community-based, nonprofit organization that promotes the personal development and empowerment of the immigrant community, especially women, children and youth of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Through educational programs, we strengthen the organized community and civic participation.

What drew me to the ministry of ARISE was the devotion to marginalized communities through an accompaniment approach, which I believe distinguishes it from most organizations. I learned to partner-up with communities, meeting them where they

Accompanying the most vulnerable

By Laura Guerra, Staff member at ARISE, and participant in the 2018 Sacred Heart Global Citizen Program



Laura Guerra (with microphone) speaks at an action organized by ARISE (A Resource in Serving Equality) centered in the Rio Grande Valley.

are, walking with them on their journey, treating them like family.

By practicing empathy, patience, love and active listening during home visits and community meetings as “animator,” together with my companion Andrea Landeros, we are able to build trust and flourishing relationships with community members. This enables us to co-create change with the community.

We recognize the human dignity in all of us, as sons and daughters of God, while also helping others find their voices to advocate for themselves. Some

of my favorite moments where I let love be my guide are ordinary moments where we held community meetings, celebrated birthdays, led educational workshops and accompanied leaders to Commissioner’s Courts.

During all these moments, we deepen a relationship or uplift community voices. In many cases, basic needs, like installation of streetlights or drainage systems, are brought to their communities.

Giving hope and setting an example for the Rio Grande Valley. *Letting love be our life.*



Inviting others to know love

By Mary Finlayson, RSCJ, Director of Vocation Ministry

AS DIRECTOR OF VOCATION MINISTRY for the United States – Canada Province, my role is to share the mission and charism of the Society with women who are discerning God’s call to love, to give their life to love by discovering how their own charism, their gift for the world, might best be lived and shared.

I remember asking myself that question 34 years ago: How can I be my most loving self? With whom and where?

Of course, the next task to explore with discerners is whether their personal charism harmonizes with our RSCJ charism to discover and reveal the love of the Heart of Jesus in the Society of the Sacred Heart. On my desk, I have a pink paper that says: “Go to the Heart of Jesus and draw from it, and when you need more, go back to the Source and draw again.”



Lisa Buscher, RSCJ, (far left) and Mary Finlayson, RSCJ, (in green) welcoming pilgrims at the Vocation Fair of World Youth Day 2019, Panama.

That quote from Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat was given to me as a young discerner and resonates now more than ever.

As my relationship with Jesus, with love, with Christ present in everyone, deepens and grows, I feel an ever-stronger call to share it, to invite others to know love in themselves, given to them to share with the world.



rscj.org/vocations

Associates of the Sacred Heart

As Associates, we are committed to being wholly contemplative, wholly apostolic, wholly both. It is our desire to understand our woundedness and to experience the woundedness of the world. We wish to respond to the needs of the world as individuals and as a province, locally and globally.

The heart of our lives is found in the experience of contemplation, individually and communally. As Associates, we commit ourselves to prayerfully listening to the beckoning of the Spirit so that we may respond with courage and confidence and with both bold strength and tender care.

Associates want to communicate in ways that demonstrate the values of mutuality, trust, consistency, transparency and a desire to build bridges of relationship. We want our communication to invite others to join with us to make visible God's love as we experience and respond to the woundedness of the world.

We take responsibility for the life of the community we create. We commit ourselves to a careful, strategic and disciplined view towards an examination of our structures and processes to best serve the needs of the members and our commitment with the Society of the Sacred Heart.



rscjassociatesusc.org

Growing spiritually

By Lori Wilson, Co-Chair of the USC Associate leadership team, West Harrison, NY

THE ASSOCIATES ARE PEOPLE who live out Madeleine Sophie Barat's charism to make known the love of the heart of God in our wounded world.



In 2011, I became an Associate with the Fairchester group.

In 2001, I was a teacher at Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, Connecticut. I knew I had come home spiritually after speaking to Joan Magnetti, RSCJ, headmistress at the time. Sophie's charism reflected my own personal mission statement,

which was to reflect God's love in all situations with every person I met.

Over the next 10 years, I was asked about becoming an Associate. I read about Sophie and the Society, met RSCJ around the world, and grew more confident that God was calling me. At that point, I was personally ready to become an Associate. And my spirituality grew.

Later, in September 2018, I was a principal of an inner-city school, and it flooded. We had to move schools while extensive damage was repaired. I relied on my spirituality to hold me as I needed to support my students, teachers, families and the workers. Each person needed something different – a shoulder to cry on, a listening ear, someone with whom they could collaborate. They needed to know that God was in the middle of all of it.

If not for my spirituality, I would not have had the inner strength to remain calm, focused and steadfast in what I was called to do and be in the midst of it all.

Responding to a call

By Peggy Gorman, Co-Chair of the USC Associate leadership team, Halifax, NS

THROUGH MY WORK as the head nurse caring for the RSCJ in need of health support at Barat residence in Halifax and after reading Sister Phil Kilroy's book on the life of Madeleine Sophie Barat, a seed was planted in my soul. The opportunity to respond to the call to live the charism of the Society followed.

Together with five other women, I responded to that call and, after one year, I made a formal commitment as an Associate to share the spirituality of the Religious of the Sacred Heart and to make known the love of the heart of Christ in my personal and professional life.

During the past year as a member of the province Associate leadership team, I have been fortunate to work with the other team members to help create a long-range plan that invites each one of us to deepen our awareness of our woundedness and to respond to the woundedness of our world.

My daily prayer is a time when I place my needs and requests in the heart of Christ and, from that place, live out Sophie's call to love.



A moment of deep sharing during our 2018 November gathering of the USC Associate Leadership Team. L-R: Peggy Gorman, Angela Lagrange Scott, Sergio Vasquez

Prayer

By Laura Haroian, Associate,
St. Louis, MO

Please guide our journey as
Associates as we:

Engage our minds

Enrich our spirits

**Open our hearts to reveal the love
of Christ in all we do.**

Be our companion on the journey
as we build our tapestry through our
encounters with each other.

Weave our threads beyond our borders
to a broader frontier by engaging with
each other, our collaborators, and with
all whom we come in contact.

Inspire and encourage us as we build
community through our encounters
that deepen our connections in both a
contemplative and apostolic manner.

We pray for the **grace** to deepen our
spiritual lives and yield to our call as
Associates to actively engage in social
justice and to take an active role in
social awareness that compels to action.

Finally, help us to remember our
commitment that bonds us together
in our love and devotion to the charism.



God is in it

By Theresa Chu, RSCJ, Resident at Caritas, Halifax, NS

LIVING AT OUR ELDERCARE COMMUNITY, Caritas, with a number of Sisters of Charity and 16 Ladies of Victoria Hall, there are moments when I feel, in turn, embarrassed, frustrated or peaceful and happy.

At dinner recently, for instance, I forgot to wear my glasses; that is not too serious. But forgetting to put in my dentures after washing could affect not only the speed of chewing but also my looks! That is more serious.

So there I was, too lazy to go up three stories – on a lift, of course, and pushing a walker, back bent, right side pulled by gravity more than the left, an additional cane hanging somewhere – to put one of my “spare parts” back in. So I decided to struggle through the meal trying not to draw attention to myself.

Frustration could come during mealtime from table conversations, as well. Everyone contributes, and there are moments when I feel I had a wonderful episode of my own to share but, just at that moment, the waitress comes to our table to take orders. By the time she goes the full round of four, my story was lost. Even if someone comes back to the topic, the momentum was gone, and gone forever! What a pity!

I have prayed the Ignatian prayer every day for many decades: “Take, oh Lord, and receive my memory...” One day I was particularly annoyed because I forgot something and could not remember no matter how I tried. Then it dawned on

me: God is answering my prayer and beginning to take my memory, at least part of it for the moment. This realization brought me great joy because God is in it, and the Holy Spirit is giving me this awareness!

Living among many sisters, this is a kind of awareness I could share with others, too. One of the joys of living at Caritas is having more like-minded people with whom to share one’s experiences. Then there is the fact of slowing down in walking, thinking and mobility, in general. Getting slower and slower is normal for people at my age, I know, but to experience it is another story, and we would naturally try to fight it.

I also am experiencing a different outlook on life, generally speaking, including the way I see nature and people. I understand better why someone’s collar was crooked at the back or someone else having different coloured stockings on her two legs. Instead of rushing over to put things right, I might now check my own legs to see if I have the same colour on my legs.

Is this the way God teaches me to love my neighbour as myself?

The Holy Spirit is invisible, intangible and easily forgotten, but the Spirit of Love cannot be more visible, more tangible, more concrete in our day-to-day lives.

Above: Caritas residents, Sisters Theresa Chu (left) and Madeline Thibeau (right) are visited by Sister Anne-Marie Conn.



Lives given in love

By Joan Gannon, RSCJ, Assistant coordinator of the Teresian House Community, Albany, NY

RUMPS PHRASE, “We’re all just walking each other home,” is, for me, what this time of my life in serving in eldercare in Albany is about. I do not think of myself as taking care of people or even as providing much of a service. It is just a holy time, a time to “gather stones together.” Apparently, the Indonesian word for these years is “lancia,” meaning something like “bonus.”

In our culture, old age isn’t something to be desired. It is an “on the shelf time” when productivity has come to an end and, therefore, in the eyes of some, value. Happily, we do not belong to a religious congregation that understands age that way. Our constitutions tell us, “This may be the most contemplative period of our life, keeping its prophetic and apostolic power through the truth and depth of our relationships and the joy with which we bear witness to the fidelity of God’s love.”

In my own experience, it is a time to learn the pleasure that comes from doing things slowly and attentively. It’s

a time to learn the freedom that comes from actually doing what we have always talked about doing: letting go. A time to experience the truth that each moment, “the grace of each raptureless moment,” can be a revelation, a growth moment, a moment of communion.

The other day one of my sisters said how much she wishes she had spent more time getting to know the wonderful people in her life, including her own blood sister. For me, this is also a time to attend to those incomplete things in our lives – the things we wish we had done more heartfully. I do believe our remembering can be a second chance at living those moments the way we wish we had.

Rilke says, “Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going.”

Yes, there are terrors as well. Who doesn’t occasionally waken in the middle of the night when defenses are low and wonder about diminishment, illness and death? About the fate of our country and the fate of the earth? But

then God says, as does Rilke’s poem, “Give me your hand,” and there is peace.

Finally, it is a graced time to allow ourselves to elect silence; “to listen to the heartbeat of God in the heartbeat of humanity;” to know that our every breath and heartbeat in union with our God’s is part of God’s compassionate, merciful love for this suffering world.

When reading for the first time the Chapter 2016 documents, including the image of the RSCJ setting sail together in a boat, a group of our elder sisters wondered what their place would be. “We are in the engine room,” said Beatrice Brennan, an RSCJ who all her life had been on the frontier of new initiatives. Her image reminded us as elders, our prayer and our lives given in love supply the fuel for the boat to accomplish its journey.

Above: Sisters Joan Gannon, Pat Reid, Muriel Cameron (visiting from Chicago), Betty Renard and Judy Garson.



My ministry of prayer and love

By Susan Maxwell, RSCJ, Resident at Oakwood Retirement Center, Atherton, CA

WHEN I ARRIVED AT OAKWOOD in Atherton, California, in 2015, it was the second time I had come for treatment of a broken vertebra, but this time has necessitated a longer stay. This time the fall that brought me here was caused by a cancerous tumor on my spine and has required more intense follow-up in regaining my ability to walk, as well as a concern for the return of more cancer.



But, through my painful, slow treatments, I was carried forward by my commitment in prayer to the millions of refugees all over the world who would be so profoundly grateful for the medical treatment I was receiving.

At the same time, I was meeting many new people here, both RSCJ and staff. When asked about my former life, I described it as 10, 11, 12, 3. Ten years immediately after making my final commitment in the Society, serving as headmistress at Bloomfield Hills; 11 years as director of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools; 12 years as director of our school on Sheridan Road in Chicago; and three years as a member of the Provincial Team.

So, what was to be my ministry here as I continued to regain my health? One very real blessing was I had known Rich Dioli, the director of Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton, for more than 30 years. He has served in a variety of roles. Early on, after my arrival at Oakwood, Rich asked me to serve on the Board of Trustees of this flourishing institution.

But, in my stronger moments, I still had the nagging question of what my ministry should be...

Slowly, it came to me, in times of prayer and reflection, a real call to see my ministry as my life of prayer and my life of loving: love in the community, with the staff here and, thanks to technology, with many others.

It has been a very real adjustment, and I am certain the pull and tug to be more active than is possible will remain with me. At the same time, I am filled with profound gratitude for this environment of Oakwood that enables me to pray and love each day.

Above: Sacred Heart students visit with RSCJ at Oakwood including (L-R): Sisters Helen Rosenthal, Sis Flynn, Trudy Considine, Lucie Nordmann, Ada Burns, Yasuko Mary Theresa Teshima, Anne Davidson (now RIP), Barbara Carey, Pat Shaffer and Nancy Lassotovitch



Serving in sacred space

By Ann Smith, RSCJ
Sacristan and Liturgist
for the chapel at Oakwood

I BEGAN WORKING in the sacristy as a student at Barat College in Lake Forest, Illinois. It was good to have learned in the “old, very strict” regime. Sister Skiba, the sacristan at Barat, trained us well and carefully. So when asked, in the many places I have lived, I could fulfill a need.

When I arrived back in the United States from Africa, I lived at Oakwood, our eldercare community in Atherton, California. Sister Bunny Flick (also a Barat College alumna), then the director of Oakwood, asked me to step in for Sister Mesa who was the sacristan and in failing health. It was a privilege to work in such a sacred space and to be of service.

The second major part of my work that has greatly impacted me is preparing the funerals of 77 sisters to date. It began about a month after I arrived in 2008. At that time, the secretary created the cards and programs. Soon after, I was asked to do it because I had some computer skills.

Among the first was a wonderful RSCJ I had known years earlier, but by the time of her death, she had serious dementia. I asked the secretary for a photograph I could use for the program and card. She pointed out the framed picture of all the sisters in cameo photos on the wall and said that was it. It was so clearly not respectful of a creative

and gifted person, but obviously someone with dementia. I was quite upset. I had worked with her and that photo was not her.

That is when I started asking for peoples’ files, family photos, interesting tidbits each of us saves and just can’t throw away. Reading biographies and reviewing photos opened a world of wonder to me as I repeated this process over and over. There were a number of converts, sad stories, dangerous stories, war stories and miraculous coincidences. This work has allowed me to see the beauty, diversity and unpredictability of vocations to the Society of the Sacred Heart.

The third part of my ministry is preparing daily offertory petitions. Having lived in the Uganda/Kenya Province for 14 years, overwhelmed at times by all the upheaval in our country and world, I was not inspired by the petitions printed in booklets; though pious words, they did not touch my spirit or move me deeply to prayer.

At the same time, I was reminded what the Old Testament prophets had to do. They gathered the difficult news of the day, so they could analyze it and announced it to the people in an urgent manner as a means to pray for, to thank or to change direction in order to get out of the negative situation overwhelming them at the time.



I “borrowed” this pattern, because we have all received the Holy Spirit and are called to pray with power for our world in its pain. Through the lens of the daily scripture readings and a review of *The New York Times* and BBC daily briefings, I read, pray and, then, compose daily petitions that speak directly to the news of the day. This adds real flesh and bones to our prayer life at Oakwood.



Confronting our history

By Irma Dillard, RSCJ, Member of the Slavery, Accountability and Reconciliation Committee



IN APRIL 2016, *The New York Times* published an article, “272 Slaves Were Sold To Save Georgetown,” featuring Georgetown University.

It was time for our province to confront our own history. Provincial Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, established the Society of the Sacred Heart’s Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Committee, with a focus on the on-going issue of racism in the world and the Society of the Sacred Heart’s participation in the historic sin of slavery. As the group worked together, the committee name became the Slavery, Accountability and Reconciliation Committee.

I agreed immediately to participate. As one of three African American RSCJ in the United States – Canada Province, I felt it my duty and responsibility to get to the truth. I had to know how our foremothers treated the enslaved, as well as find out their names and their descendants.

I believe we must be about what is written in the committee’s mandate: “It is time to listen . . . to telling the fuller story . . . to confront a painful part of our legacy . . . to **commit to truth**, healing and reconciliation for a better future.”

Some of this was accomplished when RSCJ gathered with the descendants in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, on September 23, 2018, to honor the ancestors enslaved on this property. We were able to give the descendants the names of their people.

The ritual, “**We Speak Your Names**,” was powerful – my heart was full! I knew we had done something right! Because enslaved people were treated as chattel, they are rarely found in government birth and death records and, instead, must be traced through the property ledgers of the people who owned them. By using this approach, members of our committee were able to identify a number of descendants.

I believe if Madeleine Sophie were here today, she would have also written to us:

“Let us leave acts, not words.

Nobody will have time to read us.”

Ashé!

Above: Descendants gathered to honor their enslaved ancestors at Grand Coteau, LA, pictured here at the former slave quarters.

Members of the Slavery, Accountability and Reconciliation Committee: Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ (Chair), Maureen Chicoine, RSCJ, Irma Dillard, RSCJ, Marilyn McMorrow, RSCJ, Cathy Mooney and Emory Weber.



rscj.org/news/descendants-gather

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

One Society in one world

By Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ, and Reyna González, RSCJ

The Office of Educational Initiatives and Leadership, Stuart Center, Washington, D.C. / White Plains, NY

THROUGH THE CONSULTING ARM of our work at the Stuart Center, we offer a range of services to nonprofits, schools and religious congregations. Over the years, we have helped many groups – domestically and internationally – to navigate the path of true soul-searching related to mission and vision.

How do we live the mission today in ways that respond to the pressing, complex needs of our world while remaining faithful to our legacy? What is needed to fulfill a vision beyond the crafting of a mere vision statement? These are questions and processes that touch the very heart and passion of the people who commit themselves to works of social justice and education.

When we were selected to shepherd the JPIC international process as consultants and facilitators of the international meeting in the Philippines last October, we were very happy to put our experience and expertise to use at the service of the international Society. In collaboration with the International JPIC Coordinating Committee, we were able to hear from so many RSCJ, mission partners and collaborators throughout a process of serious reflection and critical analysis culminating in the document, *Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World*.

Such close and thorough engagement from start to “end” was a true labor of love. It was affirming and inviting; humbling and empowering. In short, it was transformational in the crystallization of certain truths that ground us anew in mission.

The “borders” that distinguish one province from another are and should become blurred. We are one Society in this one world.

Our greatest mission impact will come about when we:

- actively participate in moving from “camps” (provinces, lay persons and RSCJ, the Society and other religious groups and NGOs, etc.) to joining forces for good
- consistently engage in the steady trickle of small, unwavering action over periodic splashes in fits and starts
- remember a life of love rooted in the Heart of Christ nudges us regularly into restlessness and is not one that reinforces security or complacency
- realize that whatever road we are called to walk in this blessed and broken world, we must walk it arm-in-arm with others, as ambassadors of love and artisans of hope.



Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ (left) and Reyna Gonzales, RSCJ (right) with the JPIC logo at the International meeting in the Philippines.

 rscj.org/news/jpic-artisans

Sacred Heart educators



My path as an RSCJ

By Jean M. Bartunek, RSCJ
Professor at Boston College

WHEN I AM ASKED what drew me to become an RSCJ, I have to say the answer is complicated. But oversimplifying things, I decided to become a teacher my first day of kindergarten, and I decided to become a sister my first day of first grade.

These decisions kept evolving, and, by the time I was in college, I wanted to get a doctorate and become a college professor as my teaching role. Reverend Mother Agnes Regan, then head of the Chicago vicariate, assured me I could do both as an RSCJ. And sure enough, she was right.

After graduating from Maryville College (now University) in St. Louis, I entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in August 1966. I celebrated the 50th jubilee of my first vows last February.

Today, I am a professor in the management and organization department, within the Carroll School of Management at Boston College, where I have taught since 1977. I am also the current dean of the fellows (an honorary society) of the Academy of Management, my professional association.

I have no idea if I am living Saint Madeleine Sophie's call to *let love be your life*. I would feel much more comfortable with others' assessment rather than mine.

I will say, though, what inspires me is Saint Madeleine Sophie's statement, "The Society has need of saintes savantes; do become one."

It means a lot to me that our Society does not set holiness against intellectual rigor, but encourages their relationship. I often feel most fully an RSCJ when I am conducting scholarly research; it can be, for me, a strongly contemplative activity.



Attend to one another

By Ana De Armas, Sacred Heart educator,
Miami, FL

I AM THE UPPER SCHOOL RELIGION department chair and the director of campus ministry and service learning for the upper school at Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami, Florida. This role is about tapping into a young person's desire to be in relationship with others and helping them understand the value of establishing reciprocal relationships with the people in the organizations they choose to engage with.

When I began this ministry, I knew nothing about the Society of the Sacred Heart, Madeleine Sophie Barat, Rose Philippine Duchesne or Mater Admirabilis, even though my mother went to a Sacred Heart school in Colombia when she left Cuba in 1961.

One of my colleagues told me to keep the *Goals and Criteria* on my desk, pick one criteria a day to focus on and we would meet once a week to talk. At first, it was just the two of us. We soon realized other people in our school community could benefit from this, and we began having monthly meetings during lunch to talk about and unpack the mission and vision of our school(s). We are now going on our third year!

If I would not have learned about Mater, Sophie, Philippine, and the *Goals and Criteria*, I would not have been as invested in this community, and our greater Sacred Heart network, as I am. Love, in its very nature, is ecstatic – it longs to go forth and out.

Madeleine Sophie understood this and her love went forth, as well. This is what drives me every day. This is why this is not just a job; this is a vocation.

 rscj.org/goals-criteria



Following in Sophie's footsteps

By Kelly Weber, Sacred Heart educator, Bryn Mawr, PA

AT SACRED HEART ACADEMY

Bryn Mawr in Pennsylvania, I teach upper school world history and social justice and am the community service coordinator. More recently, I helped create a program called Courageous Conversations in which students receive dialogue training based on the Essentials of Dialogue from the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change.

With colleague Kerri Schuster, we lead students through the skills and watch them have dialogues about contemporary societal issues. Since its inception, the program has grown

to include more sessions and develop stronger student leadership and faculty training.

I specifically was drawn to this work when students continually asked for space to discuss difficult topics, such as climate change, gun violence and racism. I drew on my experience in leading the student portion of the Spirituality Forum in 2017, which centered on dialogue. The connections between dialogue work and the five goals of Sacred Heart schools are apparent, specifically social awareness and action and the building of community.

Saint Madeleine Sophie's call to *let love be your life* is the foundation of Sacred Heart education. Watching students take the time to be introspective about their own identity and then

to listen to the perspective of others demonstrates a call to love. As we grow in understanding and empathy for each other, our communities strengthen.

With so much discord in our world, I find courage when I reflect on Sophie's life during the terror of the French Revolution. Her world was filled with division and violence, yet she chose to believe in hope and love as she persisted in her call to educate young women.

My students' bold undertaking to face the issues of our time strengthens my commitment to follow in Sophie's footsteps. Taking time to listen to the needs of students and work with them to create transformative experiences is one of the most rewarding parts of being a Sacred Heart educator.



Meeting the needs of our school communities

By Bill Hobbs, Director of Program Planning, Network of Sacred Heart Schools, Washington, D.C.

IN THE INTRODUCTION to the 2005 *Goals and Criteria*, there is a description of our schools as being “independent but never isolated.” Some may regard that as a curious statement, but I look upon it as reflecting the great diversity of our schools, in varied locations across Canada and the United States.

For a relatively small network, we have such variety with girls’ schools, boys’ schools, co-educational and co-institutional schools. We have elementary, high, PK through grade 12, and middle through high schools. Our smallest school is just a little over 125 students and our largest approaches 1,200 students.

To meet the needs of our school communities requires creativity and wisdom. Working in conjunction with the Conference of Sacred Heart Education, we are constantly pondering: “How do we make Sacred Heart education relevant for today’s students, and their children, and their children’s children?”

I was drawn to the Network by the values we espouse in the *Goals and Criteria* and how we ask everyone in the school community – students, faculty and administrators, parents and board members – to commit themselves to living out these values.

Our recent Education to Mission Conference in Houston focused on *An Orientation to Mission* handbook, a new resource for schools and Sacred Heart educators.

We also gathered Sacred Heart student leaders for Sacred Heart Rising, a conference directed toward students in grades 11 and 12, who are rising or emerging leaders in their school communities. They not only shared their individual school experiences but created a common Sacred Heart community over the course of three days. Unique individuals and schools – a common mission.

Each day, whether working at my computer, participating on a video-conference with colleagues planning a program, visiting a school or helping to coordinate a conference or event, I am conscious of Madeleine Sophie’s call to *let love be your life*. These are challenging times, and there is much disruption in our religious, social and political lives. My daily commitment is to use Madeleine Sophie’s call to us – and the larger mission of the Society – to guide my footsteps in my work and ministry, illuminate my interactions with all I meet, and set the vision for the work we do at the Network.



sacredheartusc.education



Paying love forward

By Alison Seaton, Sacred Heart educator, Bellevue, WA

MY JOB AT Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart has many components, which keeps life interesting! I direct the high school choral program, teach 5th and 6th grade music, serve as the 11th and 12th grade level dean and work on adult education to mission. The common thread binding my work into a coherent whole is the building of community.

I came to Forest Ridge 23 years ago on the recommendation of one of my private voice students. At my interview, I was struck by the obvious care and respect that was shown each student and the love of learning that was evident all around campus for all disciplines.

As I am now a mature teacher, both in years and experience, I pray always to show the love to my students that has been so unstintingly shown to me by my colleagues and past students.

By paying that love forward, Sophie’s vision and love stays alive.



The Holy Spirit called me to this work

By John Michael Reyes, Sacred Heart educator,
Atherton, CA

THE FIRST TIME I worked with the RSCJ was at the 2013 Spirituality Forum at Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton, California, where I fell in love with the spirit and mission of Sacred Heart education and spirituality. Little did I know I would return to the same campus years later.

I was not looking for a job at the time; the job description literally “fell in my lap.” On a whim, I applied. It was scary how smooth the process was – a consolation and grace as I look back on it. I knew God was up to something good.

I have worked with various populations in liturgy, from college-aged to geriatrics, and now is the opportunity to be with lower and middle school students.

My vocation is rooted in Catholic ritual with my baptism as its foundation. I find meaning in my life by having the opportunity to prepare worship for students hungering – though they do not know it – for Mystery revealed through word and proclamation, action and ritual, space and environment, and sound and silence.

Saint Madeleine Sophie wrote, “If I had my life to live over again, I would live it more according to the Holy Spirit.”

I believe the Holy Spirit called me to this work and trusts me in revealing God’s love for the sake of the whole community at this moment in time. I see this affirmed in my students when their eyes light up, and they connect liturgy and life; or when I begin singing a snippet of a song and the students take over and claim it as their own. I feel the Spirit moving when we gather “in the round,” and we see each other as an actual community praying and praising.

All this reminds me of how what I love – that is liturgy – is able to help our students know God loves them and how to share that love with the realities of the world.

Sophie’s vision, Janet’s philosophy

By Julian Beauvais
Sacred Heart educator, Montreal, QC

I AM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD of ethics



and religious studies at the Sacred Heart School of Montreal. I was originally an English, history and drama teacher, but began teaching religion courses several years ago. When the opportunity was given to me to head

the department, I gladly accepted.

Deepening my understanding of the *Goals and Criteria* and Saint Madeleine Sophie’s vision for education has truly affected my teaching practice, allowing me to recognize the time-tested truths contained therein are just as relevant now as they were when they were written hundreds of years ago.

I have also discovered an affinity for the works of Janet Erskine Stuart, RSCJ. I find her articulation of the philosophy behind a Sacred Heart education a perfect match for my own, in that “it is not so much what we say or do that educates; what really educates is who we are.”

From ‘Barat Hall Boy’ to man of character

By Jerry Naunheim, Alumnus of Barat Hall, professional photographer



 jerrynaunheim.com

MY CONNECTION to the Sacred Heart of Jesus began with my baptism in 1955.

In 1964, I became a Barat Hall Boy in St. Louis and my heart began its union with the Religious of the Sacred Heart.

In 2007, 43 years later, my connection to the RSCJ evolved into a relationship with the Society of the Sacred Heart when I was hired to document many of their schools and residences throughout the United States.

I like to think I was hired based on my photographic skills alone, but I suspect the fact that I was one of the Barat Hall Boys may have influenced Sister Shirley Miller to bring me into the fold.

One of my former colleagues at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Pam Schaeffer, recommended me to the sisters as someone who loved to photograph the joys of life, the beauty of childhood and the infinite treasures of people in their “golden years.”

My first assignment was to capture the love radiating from the retired sisters across the country, traveling from the far west of California to the far east of upstate New York.

Next, I was sent back to Albany, New York, to document the closing of the Kenwood Convent of the Sacred Heart, where hundreds of the sisters completed their novitiates. It was a bittersweet moment, combining the sadness of an era-gone-by with the sweetness of the love and wonderful memories of the women who began their lives of service to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Kenwood.

Since then, I have traveled to almost every Sacred Heart school in the United States and Canada to document the continuing influence of our beloved Saints Madeleine Sophie Barat and Rose Philippine Duchesne.

Saint Madeleine Sophie's call to *let love be your life* is so beautifully expressed every day in all the schools of the Sacred Heart throughout the USC province and, I'm sure, across the world.

There is truly nothing I enjoy more than capturing the inherent love and innocence in the eyes of the little ones and the wisdom and lifelong dedication in the eyes of our beloved retired sisters.

By the way, when I was one of the little ones, we called them "Mother," never "Sister"!

I remember with tearful joy Mother Johnson, who was the principal at Barat Hall in St. Louis. She loved the boys with a passion, and her goal was to send us out into the world as young men of character.

We lovingly referred to her as M.J., but never within earshot of her keen hearing. After the reforms of the Vatican II days, we were asked to call her Sister Johnson, but to us boys, many now in our "golden years," she will always be M.J.

Top: Students at Stuart Country Day, Princeton, NJ

Middle: Ruth Hanson, educational technology teacher with students at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, Houston, TX

Bottom: Ann Taylor, RSCJ, with Intermediate School students from Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart, Miami, FL



The power of sharing Philippine's story

By Sandy Ahlheim, Director, Shrine of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne

THE SHRINE IS the sacred home of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne. It was built to honor the French missionary Religious of the Sacred Heart who had a desire to serve God and bring God's love to the Native Americans. Pilgrims from around the world visit the holy grounds where a saint lived, bring their prayers and petitions to Philippine's sarcophagus, explore the 1835 brick convent building, and gaze into the little room in which she died.

As director of the Shrine, I have the privilege of sharing Philippine's story with all who visit her home, her school and her final resting place in St. Charles, Missouri. As a parent and teacher at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, the Shrine was always a place of comfort, peace and tranquility throughout my week. Stopping by the Shrine for a visit with Philippine was a treasured opportunity.

After becoming a docent, I experienced the power of sharing Philippine's story and her deep devotion to revealing the love of God. It was a transformative experience in my life. The opportunity to share this sacred place full time opened up, and I felt compelled to answer the call.

The foundation of the Society of the Sacred Heart is relational. Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's call to *let love be your life* is a reminder to embody the relational experiences in my daily life. Sharing Philippine's life, love and legacy at the Shrine has provided an opportunity to make personal connections, create relevance and generate awareness of the sacred that surrounds us. It has been a privilege to ignite passions and share joy with the people, and through my work, at the Shrine.

 duchesneshrine.org





A moment of harmony and confidence

By Rosalie Bellanca Posselius, President, Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart (AASH)

PART OF THE Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart (AASH) mission is to foster a spirit of unity and ongoing communication among alumnae/i of the Sacred Heart throughout this nation and the world. I was drawn to this organization through such communication and an opportunity to convene with hundreds of fellow alumnae/i and the RSCJ in New York in 1991.

That first biennium conference profoundly inspired me; it reengaged that which I had learned as a Sacred Heart student. After that, I attended as many AASH conferences as possible, always leaving them with a stronger and deeper connection to the Sacred Heart. My faith was renewed, and I felt that I had been given the tools to more fully understand the abiding message of the Society that is so deeply rooted in love.

Our AASH gatherings over the last year have energized me. Hosting our regional meetings in St. Charles, Missouri, last November gave us the opportunity to attend the Mass celebrating the culmination of the bicentennial of Rose Philippine Duchesne coming to North America. Witnessing the gathering of so many from around the world to honor Philippine's journey and her legacy transcended any differences we may have and revealed our impenetrable bond given to us as *children of the Sacred Heart*.

Similarly, our national conference, held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April, reaffirmed our shared goal. During a meeting to discuss how we, as an organization, should discover ways to more effectively communicate our message, serve our constituents and adapt to our changing world, one moment stands out. Despite the anxiety of facing change and the customary reluctance and difference of opinion, it was a moment of harmony and confidence. It was derived from our steadfast unity of purpose. You could feel it; it filled the room. We were together, *Cor Unum*, to share Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's call to *let love be your life*.

AASH board of directors 2019-2021: Front row (L-R) Linzee Evans LaGrange and Rosalie Bellanca Posselius. Standing (L-R): Patricia Murret, Maria Asteinza, Deborah Newhouse Dunham, Marcia Tufarolo, Rhonda Raffi Meegan, Kathleen Devers Sawyer, Christine Ahern, Stephanie Chaczyk. Not pictured: Maggie Sieger Kaspura





Heartfelt dedication

By Cathie Ott, VDOH Mums of Alums, St. Louis, MO

OVER THE COURSE of my family's 40 years at Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School (VDOH) in St. Louis, Missouri, I realized that because ours is the legacy of two saints – Madeleine Sophie Barat and Rose Philippine Duchesne – it is a sacred imperative to learn and to understand deeply the Society of the Sacred Heart's rich spirituality. Consequently, my desire has been to create and organize stewardship opportunities to enable us to become saintes savantes, the learned saints, that Sophie urged for the Society and for Sacred Heart education: a mission of head, heart and soul.

Sponsored by the Mums of Alums, the Sacred Heart Spirituality Speakers Series at VDOH began in 2005 with the hope that these prayers and reflections by Religious of the Sacred Heart and others would focus on the roots and aspects of Sacred Heart spirituality, mission and history. Presented three times annually, this series provides inspiration to both new and long-time community members to a heartfelt dedication to living the founders' vision, in our school and in our families.

What better gift could the Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill alum mothers give to our Sacred Heart family than to provide this opportunity for prayer, reflection and stewardship of the mission of Saints Sophie and Philippine!

For the younger set, the GrandMums' Conge also is sponsored by VDOH Mums of Alums. A Sacred Heart family reunion for mothers of our alums and their grandchildren, this

homecoming is a themed morning of storytelling, live music and drama, literature, and related crafts and activities, all culminating with the children crowning Mater and, of course, Gouter-to-Go. This is Esprit de Coeur and Formation to Mission for the young ones.

The most recent Conges – Philippine, Part I (2017) and Part II (2019) – celebrated our American founder and pioneer educator, as well as her mission journeys of the heart to spread the gospel and Sacred Heart education to her American children, to her frontier schools and beyond.

From the heart, I thank the many companions who have collaborated in the above Sacred Heart spirituality opportunities, which guide us in revealing the mission of the Sacred Heart and inspire us to follow, with wisdom and courage, in the blessed footsteps of Madeleine Sophie Barat and Philippine Duchesne.

The Mums of Alums group at Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School was created to promote the goals and mission of the school, to promote sociability among its members, to strengthen ties to the Religious of the Sacred Heart and to sponsor related good works. All mothers of VDOH grads are eligible members.





Sacred Heart found me

By Catherine Kinabrew, New Orleans, LA
Associate, Alumna of the Rosary and monthly donor

ONE THING I LOVE about the Society of the Sacred Heart is the generous opportunities we have to enrich our faith lives. It doesn't matter which hat we wear – alumnae/i, Associate, Child of Mary, faculty/staff, board member, parent, student, donor – each hat has its particular way to connect us to Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's singular message to *let love be your life*.

Even better, if we access the internet, we can find a wealth of prayers at rscj.org. What a profound blessing!

For all I have been given through the Society, I found a way to give back as a monthly donor. Sister Shirley Miller taught me how important it is for WOMEN to put their monies in places that matter. She also taught me that it doesn't take a gift of millions, but it's the faithful who give what they can. Everyone counts. Giving each month is my way to say thanks.

Along my Sacred Heart journey, I continually experience Saint Madeleine Sophie's motto as a lived concept. My present situation is a great example. In April 2019, I was employed at Hotel Hope, a temporary shelter for homeless women and children in New Orleans. Recently, one of our guests (pen name: WOTR) sent me a prayer. (See right panel)

Imagine my surprise – a Hotel Hope mom so open to sharing her deep faith in God's love for her!

All I can say is this: In many ways, the Society of the Sacred Heart found me, first as a young child and later as a donor. My response is to give back, to simply *let love lead my life*. Always surprising and inspiring me. Thank you, WOTR. Thank you, Saint Madeleine Sophie, for all of the ways your message continues to touch my life.

Above: John and Cathie Kinabrew at the Grand Canyon. John is also an Associate and a Co-Coordinator of the New Orleans Associates group.

God is good all the time
and when I'm down
he's by my side.
Never gets weary,
never gets tired,
strong and mighty.
Under his wings I hide.
He rocks me gently at night.
He wakes me up,
starts my day off right.
Yes, he's good all the time.
I will stay with him
til I close my eyes
because he's good all the time.

WOTR – Words of the Redeemed

Spiritual direction and retreats

Sophie's Well, a center for Sacred Heart spirituality

By Kathy McGrath, RSCJ, Core Team member of Sophie's Well, St. Charles, MO



A UNIQUE COMPONENT involved in spiritual direction and any training for it is listening to the action of God in one's life and in the lives of others, deeply listening to the Holy Spirit.

During 2018-19, Sophie's Well entered its fourth year of offering spirituality programming to the Sacred Heart community and beyond, serving over 700 people. This work originated with a call in 2015 to a spiritual ministry that wasn't located in one building. Today, this collaborative ministry continues to expand its reach to new communities, listening to the Holy Spirit, and learning and responding to the spiritual needs of those within and beyond the United States – Canada Province.

Jane O'Shaughnessy, RSCJ, Mary Pat White, RSCJ, and I currently form the Core Team of Sophie's Well. In addition, this year, 23 other RSCJ and four colleagues in mission, who are all trained in spiritual direction for our roles as companions on the retreats, participated in the work of Sophie's Well.

This past year, Sophie's Well offered a total of 60 events ranging from Busy Person's Retreats (BPRs), guest direction at various retreat houses, individual and group retreats, and spiritual direction training. Retreats offered included weekend Preached Retreats, eight-day retreats and a 30-day retreat, a mindfulness retreat, a hiking retreat for young people and a Busy Person's style retreat at a college. In addition, the Core Team of Sophie's Well provided well over 100 hours of spiritual direction to a variety of seekers across the country (including young adults in Contemplative Leaders in Action).

Participation in the BPRs alone included 287 faculty, staff, alumnae/i, parents and trustees at 20 Sacred Heart schools in the U.S. and Canada as well as the Provincial Office in St. Louis. Participants value meeting one-on-one with a spiritual companion as well as being on retreat and sharing their faith life with their colleagues. Many appreciate having time to stop, pray and reflect in the midst of their very busy lives in their schools or workplaces. Sophie's Well offered the first month-long Busy Person's Retreat this past year at Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart.

For many, these experiences help to deepen their relationship with God. We feel privileged to respond to so many who seek to discover the depth of God's love for them and to, in turn, reveal that love to others.

 rscj.org/sophies-well



Receiving more than I give

By Donna Dolan, RSCJ, Halifax, NS

AT EVERY EASTER VIGIL, the Religious of the Sacred Heart renew our baptismal promises. We re-commit ourselves to involvement in the life of the community and to being a Christian in the world of our time.

To minister as a member of the Society of the Sacred Heart, we take seriously our own formation, both initial and on-going, and “we learn to contemplate reality and to experience it with His Heart, to commit ourselves to the service of the Kingdom and to grow in love: ‘Have this mind among yourselves which was in Christ Jesus.’ (Phil. 2:5).” Constitution #21

In recent years, my ministry has been in retreat work, spiritual direction and working with those experiencing grief and loss. One of the beautiful characteristics of being involved in this ministry is that there is always a mutuality of giving and receiving. There is a sense of responsibility and accountability, too.

I belong to a peer supervision group that meets monthly. Another religious, three committed lay women and two Anglican priests form the group. We help each other to grow in our own relationship with Christ and to become more and more the kind of ministers we are called to be.

As I look back over my years of ministry, I can truly say that I have received much more than I ever gave.



A warm welcome

By Michael Pera, Assistant Archivist, United States – Canada Province, St. Louis, MO

I HAVE BEEN WORKING at the province archives for 12 years, since quite literally walking in the door and asking Frances Gimber, RSCJ, for a job. It was my first encounter with the Society of the Sacred Heart, and I have been overjoyed to serve its mission and charism and how welcome I have felt ever since.

Since I started at the archives, I have married and had five children, each of whom has spent time learning about the Society close up. I imagine my children are some of the very few who say, “Archives!” with the same level of excitement as they say, “Zoo!”

In addition to the fascinating work of preserving and making known Sacred Heart heritage, I’ve been able to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in Busy Person Retreats.

I have had the blessing of excellent retreat directors and been able to feel a deeper sense of community with the provincial office staff in St. Louis.

On my last retreat in the fall, one of the prescient suggestions of my director was to seek out new prayer styles, and, in particular, she recommended Taizé prayer. Not only was this a valuable way for me to meet God more closely, it became a new way to share prayer with my children. For several months, it was both the way I prayed and the way my youngest, John, fell asleep at night.

The warm welcome my children have received from the RSCJ and wider Society has been typical of the generous heart Madeleine Sophie spoke of in many letters. That generosity resonates with the many stories of simple acts of kindness to children I have learned

at the archives: Philippine sharing her missionary ambitions with children in the garden at Grenoble; Madeleine Sophie arranging favorite food for a new student; warm memories of cache-cache with students.

It is this reverence and respect for children, and the acute understanding of the fragility and strength of childhood, which stands as a through line between the Society’s past, present and future.

Above: Michael Pera and his son, John, participate in the Feast of the Sacred Heart held in the chapel at Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School in St. Louis.

 [rscj.org/about/archives](https://www.rscj.org/about/archives)



Stuart Center

A new frontier

By Bridget Bearss, RSCJ
Executive Director of the Stuart Center
Washington, D.C.

JUST A YEAR AGO, I arrived at the Stuart Center in Washington, D.C., in response to a call from the USC Province Leadership Team. I knew it was, in fact, a new frontier calling me in the direction of a very new ministry. After 26 years in Detroit, Michigan, at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, and in service to the metropolitan area, it was to “leave and take” the lessons of love given to me in a place I will always call home. Yet, I knew to make the Calls of our General Chapter 2016 a way of life is to be willing to be called into and from silence for the sake of the one body that binds us together in the heart of Jesus. I arrived in the district of “taxation without representation” learning again the grit and grace required to be “teachable” and ready to learn the history and hope of the Stuart Center.

The Stuart Center, located in Northeast D.C., has had a long history of Society presence in this city of paradox and possibility. The names of this house have changed with the transforming grace of our province history – from Varnum Street to CEDC to Stuart Center – always grounded in inextricable union of education and justice.

With the vision of Kit Collins, RSCJ, and the previous leadership of Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ, the Stuart Center today is grounded in the vision of each General Chapter since 1970, invoking each member of the Sacred Heart family to take seriously our call to “love tenderly, walk humbly and act justly.” (Micah 6:8)

Today, the Stuart Center is a vibrant work of the USC Province with two interconnected dimensions of mission. The Conference Center and CEDC (Create, Educate, Design, Communicate) provide services to religious congregations and like-minded nonprofits by providing meeting and gathering space in the conference center and creating “open-source” website design and graphic design.

The Stuart Center is home to three offices of the USC Province: the Offices of Ministry, JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation), and EIL (Educational Initiatives and

Leadership). Together, these offices create programs, resources and ways of connecting the one body on behalf of the priorities of the province and the Stuart Center: anti-racism, environment, immigration, peace-making and non-violence, poverty and youth.

The offices of the Conference of Sacred Heart Education and the Network of Sacred Heart Schools are located at the Stuart Center. This shared space provides the opportunity for these two important works of educational mission and justice to collaborate and coordinate as we shape the journey ahead.

Also, the Religious of Jesus and Mary, whose provincial offices are housed at the Stuart Center, create a community of shared resources and relationships.

Being Artisans of Hope in our Blessed and Broken World shapes the mandate for the Stuart Center for the years ahead. This document was the result of the JPIC international meeting held in the Philippines in November 2018 (see page 13). Uniting our Sacred Heart family, the emergent themes – power, advocacy, care of our common home and people on the move – will be reflected in the Stuart Center’s work.

There have been times I wanted to shield my eyes and heart from my new reality: direct experience of racism, the suffering of immigrants and misuse of power, the dilemma of lawmakers on Capitol Hill caught in the political quagmire, and the need to create networks of solidarity on behalf of those without voices. I have discovered a new classroom where learning and acting commingle in the challenge of the Stuart Center.

I have learned why organizing as coalitions of hope and courage is my call in this moment. I stand, with an open heart, willing to let new questions silence my righteous answers of the past, while experience in this new frontier requires love that rises from the depths.

Here, I am called to *let love be my life*.

 stuartcenter.org



One of the youth initiatives at the Stuart Center, the Summit Leadership Academy (SLA) is designed to help young adults ages 18-30 rise to their heights as confident, competent leaders in the 21st century.

Calls of our General Chapter 2016

We are aware of living in a historic time of change and uncertainty. The Spirit continues to transform us as a Society in order to respond to the cries and hopes of our world with the same daring trust and confidence with which Sophie and Philippine responded in their time.

Like them, united in our searching and open to the gifts of the Spirit in this new moment, we are called:

- **To reach new frontiers**
- **To live more humanly**
- **To create silence**
- **To be and to act as one Body**



Mater Admirabilis

By Ellen Schlafly Shafer, New York, NY
Alumna of City House, Villa Duchesne and Manhattanville



AS A FIRST PRIMARY STUDENT, I entered the Academy of the Sacred Heart, City House, in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1947. I soon heard the story of the large statue in the corridor called Mater Admirabilis. “Mater” has been an enduring image for me, and I have had a lifelong devotion to her.

All Sacred Heart schools have a reproduction of the Mater fresco, either as a painting or sculpture. The original artist was a postulant, Pauline Perdreau, who painted the image on a wall at the Trinità dei Monti, a monastery at the top of the Spanish Steps in Rome.

Pope Pius IX, upon seeing the fresco at the Trinità convent in June 1846, cried out in admiration, “She is truly Mater Admirabilis.” This fresco of Mater Admirabilis is classified among the miraculous images of Our Blessed Lady.

My connection to Mater continued when an elderly nun from France hand-tinted a reproduction of Mater with a golden crown for my First Communion. Mater’s October 20 feast was celebrated every year at City House and Villa Duchesne. Years later, I visited the original fresco in the corridor of the Trinità dei Monti convent in Rome, a highlight of that trip!

As I reflect on my devotion to Mater, I feel gratitude for my Sacred Heart education for the example Mater has been to me in my life. I am a donor to the Society of the Sacred Heart as a result of my being a child of the Sacred Heart. It is a privilege to support the Religious and the ideals of Sacred Heart education. *Mater Admirabilis, ora pro nobis.*

 [rscj.org/mater](https://www.rscj.org/mater)

Children of Mary

A devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus

By Patricia Rice, St. Louis, MO

Child of Mary, Associate, and Alumna of City House, Newton College and Maryville College

ONCE A MONTH, members of the Congregation of the Children of Mary across North America “go home” to drink deeply of spiritual refreshment. We ponder how to more faithfully live our consecration promise to spread devotion to the love of Christ, his Sacred Heart, by example.



Home, of course, can be a Society of the Sacred Heart chapel or any gathering place with women who share the

loving values of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, Saint Philippine Duchesne and others, including 19th century Rev. Mother General Janet Erskine Stuart.

One of the blessings of my life is that I made my consecration in 1960, when I was a high school senior. I have participated in most first Saturday adult meetings in St. Louis since 1964.

Today, in St. Louis, we have about 200 active members who attend our monthly first Saturday gatherings, meeting at the Villa Duchesne Chapel for Mass. We pray for members, the Religious and the Society’s work. After communion, we renew aloud our beautiful cōnsecratioń approved by Pope Leo XII. Our recessional hymn gives testimony to our faith in the Sacred Heart’s promises to us, *Cœur de Jesus*.

After mingling over goûter, we gather for a spiritual lecture with intellectual vigor. Three Jesuits and a Dominican seminary president will speak this year. English Benedictines and Sacred Heart historians are regulars.

 rscj.org/children-mary

As many are unable to attend, they connect with prayer, spiritual reading and good works, and they attend members’ funerals. To show their solidarity at funerals, many wear their medals with the image of the Immaculate Conception on the face and the Sacred Heart on the obverse.

We inevitably leave our gatherings with insights that help us show the love of Christ in our lives.

More than 180 years ago, the first North American Congregation of the Children of Mary was formed at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, the City House, in St. Louis. In 1836, its convent superior, Mother Duchesne, prepared senior Mary Ann Rourke to make the lifetime consecration as a Child of Mary. Mary Ann was the first woman to make our consecration and receive the congregation medal on American soil.





Discovering love in Rwanda

By Alexis Foldes, Student at Josephinum Academy, Chicago, IL

THIS PAST SUMMER, Josephinum Academy sponsored me to go on a two-week trip to Rwanda to learn about how the country has rebuilt and the people have reconciled with one another after the 1994 genocide. Two flights and almost 20 hours later, I arrived in the predominantly Christian country and immediately was met with a warm embrace from my guide.

I was a foreigner in a country 3,000 miles away from home, and here was a stranger welcoming me with the biggest of smiles. He spoke minimal English, but I was able to find out his name was Peter, and that he would be the bus driver for the entirety of my trip.

Peter radiated sunshine, and he made an effort to get to know who I was as a person. He exemplified love that has no bounds. There was an enormous language barrier between Peter and me. He was trying to learn basic words and phrases in English, and I, the same, in Kinyarwanda. Despite the fact that we were both bound to each of our native languages, I learned about his home life, met his family, played

basketball and made memories filled with copious amounts of laughter.

I stayed with a family for a couple of days of my trip. The dad, Doctor Samuel, treated me as one of his daughters immediately. Amen, my host sister, and her aunt took me in as one of their own. We laughed, cooked, shopped and shared many stories. With all of my family an entire ocean away, I thought I would get homesick. I never did. I had found a family of my own, and I knew that we truly loved each other when I was bawling my eyes out while boarding my plane back in the states.

I even found a school similar to Josephinum. Up in the rural mountains is a boarding school called Gashora Girls Academy. We were learning the same things, as IB (International Baccalaureate program) is popular in Rwanda. We talked about going to college, and I wouldn't be surprised if we end up at the same universities.

Many of the people I met spoke very little English. However, I came home with lifelong friendships and plans to host friends at my own home in Chicago. I learned that love transcends all boundaries: age, culture and, even, language. Never in my life had I met

people who exemplify what it means to be a Christian so well. I learned that nothing can stop people from loving one another. With enough effort and clever workarounds, like showing pictures of family and using hand motions to explain things, love can flourish in every corner of the world.

I also learned how people in Rwanda have let love back into their lives after suffering great loss from the genocide in 1992 and 1994. Families were destroyed, along with trust amongst neighbors. I learned that in order for survivors to forgive the perpetrators, they wanted them to confess to their actions, apologize, disclose where the bodies were and, then, take action to help rebuild the community. For most, the most important steps were the third and fourth because the third step allows for individuals to forgive one another and be at peace. The fourth step promotes the growth of infrastructure and trust.

I met a woman named Maria, whose family was murdered by her neighbor, Filbert, during the genocide. She refused to look, speak or shake his hand for 15 years. As Filbert contributed to the community by building Maria's

Above: Alexis Foldes with her host family making Mandazis (a Rwandan donut).



Serving in Uganda and Kenya

By Jo Wright, RSCJ, Missionary sister, Kampala, Uganda

house, he was able to regain Maria's trust and forgiveness. The amount of love that Maria had to have had in her heart to forgive a perpetrator of genocide is astounding. She even invited Filbert to her daughter's wedding inside of their home. They have since become close friends.

This form of love was completely foreign to me, but after looking at Maria, I could already tell that she has since healed and is trying to radiate love to counter all of the hate that she had to face. I think this is true love in the community because it is prospering despite past tragedies.

When Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat said, *let love be your life for all of eternity*, I believe that she was expressing how we should all live our lives with complete compassion for one another. We should lead our lives with our hearts open so that we can spread love to everyone we meet, everywhere we go. I hope that one day I will have the strength that Maria and Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat have to express love to everyone in their lives, regardless of the circumstances or boundaries that try to interfere.

FROM THE TIME of childhood, I had dreamt of going to the foreign missions, especially Africa. As an RSCJ, I shared this desire and longing with my provincials in Canada. I had to wait many years before getting permission.

When I did receive permission, Concepción (Concha) Camacho, RSCJ, was superior general, and I was directed to write to her. Although I was open to go wherever – South America or Africa – Concha said the Society's call at that time was to Africa, so I was directed to the Uganda/Kenya Province.

Since arriving in the Uganda/Kenya Province at the end of 1981, I have been involved in a number of ministries. These include: nursing in a rural clinic in Chekalini, Kenya; serving as school nurse and bursar at Kalungu Senior Secondary School, Uganda; teaching in our novitiate in Uganda; and, for the past 12 years, serving as provincial secretary at Ggaba. Alongside this latter work, I have had the privilege of directing religious of various orders, including RSCJ, in eight-day and 30-day retreats, and of accompanying some in spiritual direction.

Saint Madeleine Sophie's call, *let love be your life*, sums up my own desire to live each day in love, with love and for love. It is in the retreats I've directed this past year that I've been most aware of realizing this call. More than anything else, I desire for my retreatants to know deeply God's love for them. At times, their openness to this love of God is overwhelmingly moving and encouraging to me, and I feel profoundly grateful to God for such a great gift.



Kyamusansala, a Sacred Heart Primary School in Masaka, Uganda.

The gift of being present

By Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ, Professor at Aquinas Institute, currently living in Rome

I HOPE TO BE TAKING MY FINAL VOWS as a Religious of the Sacred Heart in January 2020. During the year before final vows, we are in a stage of formation called Probation and have the opportunity to serve internationally.

I asked to spend my international experience in Spain when I heard about the province's commitment to migrant populations. Coming from the United States, where immigration is a constant topic of conversation and part of the political climate, I wanted to get a sense of the life of immigrants and what it looks like in contexts other than my own.

I was in Almería, in southern Spain, working with our sisters at Bantabá, a socio-educational center. Bantabá provides resources for migrants, including Spanish language and citizenship classes, social inclusion events in the local area, and workshops covering skills, such as first aid and basic computer skills. This region of Spain has a population that is about half Spanish and half immigrant, with both migrants who have lived here for decades and those who have arrived recently.

Almería is a center of agriculture that provides fruit and vegetables for all of Europe. The migrants who arrive here from Africa find many opportunities to work picking and packaging vegetables.

During my time in Almería, I taught Spanish and computing classes, spent time with Moroccan children doing their homework after school, and volunteered at a day center that helps migrants with paperwork so that they can be seen by the local health center.

I witnessed both the abundant welcome of the Spanish people as well as the prejudices that are part of any encounter between cultures. I learned how important it is to *be* with people, especially those who are most vulnerable, even if it seems like we have nothing in common and no way to communicate.

Being present to others is something most people struggle with, in a society that values actions and outcomes, yet being present is a way of saying to someone else, "I see you" and "I value you." I become a witness to their humanity, and they to mine.



Hafida, an immigrant, and Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ, met through their connection at Bantabá, a socio-educational center in Spain.

Below: Some of the current RSCJ Probanists at the top of the Spanish Steps in Rome.



Hope for future generations

By Nat Wilburn, Head of School, Sacred Heart Schools, Chicago, IL, *Cor Unum Legacy Society* Member

IN MAY OF 1993, I was invited to attend the celebration of First Holy Communion at Stuart Hall for Boys in San Francisco, California. As I watched those 40 boys receive one of the Sacraments of Initiation, I remembered my own full initiation and First Communion, just about 15 years prior, as a sophomore at the University of Tennessee.

My choice to enter the Catholic community through the RCIA happened in the context of the parish community at the University. The second graders of Stuart Hall made that commitment in the context of a kindergarten to 8th grade Sacred Heart school. In true Catholic tradition, our faith was nourished as our intellect was formed by faithful Catholic educators.

That morning 26 years ago, I met the RSCJ for the first time. Sisters Be Mardel, Evelyn Ellen Hoffman, Ann Conroy and Susan Maxwell first welcomed me into the mission of Sacred Heart education. A year later, Dr. Mary Smith hired me to become a campus minister and religion teacher for the students on the Broadway campus and, eventually, the dean of the middle school at Stuart Hall.

As my vocation continued with Sacred Heart education, I moved to Chicago in 2004 as principal of Sacred Heart Schools, Chicago. Then in 2009, as Sister Susan Maxwell left her work as director of schools, I was invited to serve Sacred Heart Chicago as the first head of school not to be an RSCJ. I am humbled I was entrusted with this very important transition of leadership.



This year as Sacred Heart Schools celebrate 143 years of the mission of Sacred Heart education in Chicago, I am more grateful than ever for that first invitation to Stuart Hall. I am grateful for entering my 25th year of service alongside the Religious of the Sacred Heart who, since their beginning, understand that education offers the perfect context for experiencing that one is known and loved by God. And, that to make the love of God visible in the world, means we must strive to live in relationship with one another “as one body,” celebrating the diversity of the human family God creates.

I was recently asked, “Why are you choosing to leave a bequest to the

Society in your estate?” The answer for me is simple. I am the beneficiary of the Religious of the Sacred Heart who continue to help form my faith and my vocation. And, today I work alongside other Sacred Heart educators who I had the opportunity to teach in elementary school.

My gift is an expression of my hope that future generations will continue to be formed in faith and intellect in the mission of Sacred Heart education. I sincerely believe we offer the best promise of passing along an informed faith to the next generation. In that, like Sophie, we make the love of God visible.

Cor Unum Legacy Society

The *Cor Unum Legacy Society* was introduced in the spring of 2009. The following are those who have remembered the Society of the Sacred Heart in their estate planning; the listing includes all realized bequests received by Kenwood, Oakwood and the province since 2002, and all those who have expressed in writing their intentions to remember the Society in the future. If you would like to join the *Cor Unum Legacy Society*, please contact Anne Wiehagen, awiehagen@rscj.org or 314-652-1500.



Marcia M. Abbo *RIP*
Lucy Henry Abernathy
Mary Louise Adams *RIP*
Maureen Aggeler
Victoria Taylor Allen
Monica Brady Armstrong and
Donald J. Kapa
Gertrude Mary Attridge *RIP*
Theresa E. Avansino *RIP*
Patricia Ann Avery
Marguerite Bailey
Margaret Smith Barnell *RIP*
Harriet C. Barrett *RIP*
Emile Barsch *RIP*
Elizabeth Ross Berg
Meryl Louis (*RIP*) and David Berlew
Anonymous
Marion Mouton Blanchard *RIP*
Mary Gent Blosser *RIP*
Jean W. Bone *RIP*
Linda Emmick Bradford

Maudie Williams Bremer
Edna M. Brennan *RIP*
Anne Baer (Melanie) Brent
Paul S. and Eileen O'Reilly Brescia *RIP*
Mary Ann Manion Bridge *RIP*
Barbara Brine *RIP*
Virginia Alders Briner *RIP*
Patricia A. and Richard C. Browne
Madeline Anne Bruhn *RIP*
Jeanne K. Burchell *RIP*
Marianna McIntyre Burke
Alice G. Burlinson
Alice J. Burns *RIP*
Dorcy Towers Burns
Mary T. Burns *RIP*
Josephine F. Burtschi *RIP*
Grace Butler *RIP*
Annchen Kliegl Byrne *RIP*
Brenda Byrne
Leontine Keane Cadieux *RIP*
Anita Callero *RIP*

Jane Shields Campbell
Robert W. Campbell *RIP*
Mary Louise Canfield *RIP*
Ligeia Gallagher Cannon *RIP*
Raymond Andrew Carroll *RIP*
Elizabeth A. Casey *RIP*
Ann Cortis Chapman *RIP*
Richard L. Chenault
Anonymous
Patricia Clapp
Betty J. Clemen
Alice Lida Cochran *RIP*
Mary Miller Cochran *RIP*
Domini Clare Collins
Shirley G. Connolly *RIP*
Virginia Yates Connolly *RIP*
Irene J. Lawrence Conrady *RIP*
Wilma Cooksey *RIP*
Mary Kay Cooley
Elizabeth Ann Cooney *RIP*
Mark Cooper
Danna M. Crowley
Mildred Crowley *RIP*
Jean Fox Csaposs
Mary Constance Cumiskey
Harry J. Curry *RIP*
Louise M. Dagit
Jane Vollbrecht Dall
Margaret M. Davies *RIP*
Dorothy Salisbury Davis *RIP*
Maude S. Davis
Helen Dawson *RIP*
Jessica Stocking Demay *RIP*
Sarah Hayes Dembinski
Sandra Derby
Bonnie Dewes *RIP*
Rita Desaulniers Dinneen *RIP*
Anita Hennessy Disomma *RIP*
Catherine Dolan *RIP*
Barbara Finlay Donahue *RIP*
Emily Charles Donahue
Mary Virginia Donnelly *RIP*
Mary J. Dowd *RIP*
Anne M. Doyle
Diane M. Duacsek
Margaret Mary Duff *RIP*
Judith Fay Duffy
Catherine B. Eardley-Murphy
Sarita and Brent Eastman
Rozanne Hume Edmondson *RIP*
Edouard and Mary Quigley Eller *RIP*

Patricia Coyle Ellingwood
Karen E. Emge
Charlotte Ward McDonnell Euwer *RIP*
Juliana L. Ewald *RIP*
Nancy Faust Fahey
Robert Fanning *RIP*
Mary Kay Tracy Farley *RIP*
Kathleen and H. Mortimer (*RIP*) Favrot
Florence C. Fee
Catherine S. Felleman
Mary V. Fisher *RIP*
Dorothy Heidloff Fletcher *RIP*
Jeannine and Patrick Flynn
Elisabeth Flynn-Chapman
Kathryn A. Foley
Mary Louise Keane Forcade *RIP*
A. Sylvia Francis
Dorothea Wanner Frech *RIP*
Ana M. Freyre de Azqueta
Grace M. Frontin
Elvera L. Fusco *RIP*
Mary Patricia Gallagher *RIP*
Renata D. Gallagher *RIP*
Ofelia Garcia
Christine McElligott Garner
Madeleine S. Gary *RIP*
Gail Gavello
Mirta Noemi Geddo
Mary Lee Kaiser Geesbreght
Linda L. Gehring
Kate Laux Geiger
Carol Wettlaufer Gelderman
Jane R. Gerritzen
Angela M. Gillespie
Katherine E. Golden *RIP*
Frank and Julia Gomes
Margaret S. Hagerty
Marian Haggarty *RIP*
Mariclare Haggarty *RIP*
Louise Tesson Hall
Virginia M. Hamel
Agnes Rutledge Hanford *RIP*
Margaret M. Hannon *RIP*
Beth Hanson *RIP*
Aileen Harline *RIP*
Marie J. Hartigan *RIP*
Margaret J. Hayes *RIP*
Frances Madigan Healey
Sally A. Healy
Nancy A. Heffernan *RIP*
Anne N. Heidt *RIP*

Elaine Ibold Heile
 Jeannette Renner Hemmen
 Carolyn S. Henry
 Heather Campbell Henry
 Miriam V. Henry *RIP*
 Jeanne and Michael Hevesy
 Richard G. Hibbs *RIP*
 Jean Frank Hicks
 Lindsay Galloway Hill
 John and Dorothea Hiltenbrand
 Kathleen A. Hirsch
 Elizabeth Hoban *RIP*
 Mary Jo Heile Hogan *RIP*
 Diane B. Holt *RIP*
 John A. Hoormann *RIP*
 Margaret Hopkins
 Anna Carroll Horsey *RIP*
 Bernice E. Houlihan *RIP*
 Ann Lord Howkins *RIP*
 Joy Hudecz
 Lucie Furstenberg Huger *RIP*
 Rosemary D. Hunter *RIP*
 Mary C. Hunyadi *RIP*
 Constance Gallagher Hynes *RIP*
 Janet Gallagher Jacobs *RIP*
 Catherine V. Janes *RIP*
 Brooke Janis
 Dorothy and Eugene Jaroch *RIP*
 Marie Louise Grace Joffrion
 Patricia Jones *RIP*
 Mary Elizabeth Jonsen
 Julie Kammerer
 Jasper H. Kane *RIP*
 Lucy Kastenbein
 George and Lois Mailloux Keeley *RIP*
 Patricia A. Keeley *RIP*
 Glenna La Salle Keene
 Marion Schuyler Kellogg *RIP*
 Jill O'Connor Kelly
 Karen L. Kelly
 Katharine H. Kernan
 Winifred Beam Kessler
 Eileen Hickey King *RIP*
 Louisa D. Kirchner *RIP*
 Ann Bates Kittle
 B. J. Wysz Kittredge
 Lillian E. Kleve *RIP*
 Alice Roy Kolb
 Patricia Lamborn Coward Kolbe *RIP*
 Patricia J. Konert *RIP*
 Margaret M. Kostouros *RIP*
 Jane O'Brien Krigsman *RIP*
 S. E. Labine
 Lynn L. Lacroix
 Ann Lammers-Lasek *RIP*
 Mary W. Lamy
 Albert and Ursula Lawson *RIP*
 Stephanie McKinley Layman *RIP*
 Jeanne Lamorelle Leahy *RIP*
 Mira and Andrzej Lechowicz
 Moira J. Lees
 Dorothy Lindberg *RIP*
 Lillian Hoy Link *RIP*
 Molly Molloy Linneman
 Elizabeth Lin Lo *RIP*
 Josephine K. Long *RIP*
 Rosemary Potts Loyacono *RIP*
 Marilyn Doyle Lynch *RIP*
 Edwin and Elinor Maccamy *RIP*
 Elizabeth A. Madden
 Mary Irene Madden *RIP*
 Jane Correa Maggin *RIP*
 Loretta Maguire, *RIP*
 Sheila Anne Mahony
 Anonymous *RIP*
 Deirdre Grogan Mardon *RIP*
 Mary Jo Martin *RIP*
 Woods and Patsy Martin
 Mrs. William B. Martin, Jr.
 Martinez Family *RIP*
 Margaret N. Maxey
 Jane McAuliffe *RIP*
 Patricia McCann
 Joan and Jack McGraw
 Kathleen M. McKenna
 Kathleen Patricia McKenna *RIP*
 Sharron Vavak McKenzie
 Juliette McLaughlin
 Cyr McMillan *RIP*
 The McMorrow Family
 Anonymous
 Margaret K. McRaith
 Rose Merino
 Beverly Merrill *RIP*
 Jean Messerve
 Ellen Statt Miller
 Jean Hicks Miller *RIP*
 John and Teresa Molbeck
 Mary Elizabeth C. Moloney *RIP*
 Gregoria Monterroso *RIP*
 Alice C. S. Montgomery *RIP*
 Helen Healy Moorhead
 Kathleen Moretti
 Donald E. Morris *RIP*
 Helen J. Morris *RIP*
 Carolyn Funkhousen Moynihan
 Bishop James M. Moynihan *RIP*
 Virginia Murillo
 Mandy Dawson Murphy
 Margaret E. Murphy *RIP*
 Elizabeth J. Myers-Buhite
 Laurette Marcotte Naylor *RIP*
 Lynne and Harold (*RIP*) Neitzschman
 Kate and Paul Nelson
 Catherine and John Neveling *RIP*
 Jane K. Newton *RIP*
 Nancy-Elizabeth Spellshouse Nimmich
 Dorothy O'Carroll
 Jeanne O'Brien O'Connor
 Mary C. O'Gorman *RIP*
 Doranne Terhune O'Hara
 Dennis and Virginia Wurzer O'Neal
 Cornelia P. O'Neil *RIP*
 Ralph O'Neil *RIP*
 Rosemary O'Neil
 Kathie O'Sullivan *RIP*
 Airlie Ogilvie
 Sharon L. Ohlms
 Rosario A. Olivares
 Eva V. Ollis *RIP*
 Mary Virginia Orf *RIP*
 Marie L. Owen *RIP*
 Dorothy Rodriguez Pandaleon
 Joseph H. Pawlish *RIP*
 P. Rosemary Peeler *RIP*
 Diane Peetz
 Martha J. (Marcy) Pelton
 Alice Farley Peppard and
 Philip Farley *RIP*
 Virginia W. Perkins *RIP*
 Anita R. Peterson *RIP*
 Nancy Doran Petry
 Margaret Crowley Phelan *RIP*
 Margaret D. Pizzo
 Bernice S. Pratt *RIP*
 Suzanne Reynolds Price
 Mary Jane Keck Proctor
 Peggy Lou Prudell *RIP*
 Mary Hall Quinlan *RIP*
 Muriel M. Rada
 Emily Kernan Rafferty
 Louis R. Ranney *RIP*
 Robert and Mildred Reardon *RIP*
 Virginia and John Rebeck *RIP*
 Gloria Redmond *RIP*
 Amy C. Richardson
 Dana Sue Roberson
 Marie M. Rogers
 Mary E. Romson
 Mamie J. Rose *RIP*
 Patricia McCafferty Rouchier
 Irma A. Rozyński
 Elsie Gelpi Rubin *RIP*
 Cathleen A. Ryan
 Mary Catherine Hoffmann Ryan
 Michael E. and Fran Ryan
 Hortensia Hacker Sampedro
 Carol J. Sampson
 Barbara Corron Sanders
 George W. and Faye B. Saul *RIP*
 Carroll Saussy
 Joanne B. Schelske
 Ruth V. Schmedtje *RIP*
 Bernadette Kaulakis Settelmeyer
 Ellen Schlafly Shafer
 Mary Lou Sheibley *RIP*
 Constance Hanley Smith *RIP*
 Pamela Moore Snyder
 Elizabeth Largay St. John
 Reverend Thomas R. Statt
 Rina Stefani
 Elaine S. Stenger
 Judith Kay Stoeve *RIP*
 Merna Stoffet *RIP*
 Bonnie Walsh Stoloski
 Andree Strybos *RIP*
 Elizabeth Corby Sturges *RIP*
 Constance Heide Sullivan
 Rose Breslin Sullivan *RIP*
 Dolores A. Supper
 Jean Brady Sweeney *RIP*
 Harriet K. Switzer and David L. Cronin
 Virginia Tarjan
 Joan McSweeney Terry
 Sandra J. Theunick
 Bernadette J. Thibodeau
 Mary Frawley Thompson *RIP*
 Mary Jane Tiernan
 Anonymous *RIP*
 Martha Peters Toon
 Lelia Timmins Totten *RIP*
 Margaret Cambron Tracy *RIP*
 Ruth Hogan Tredway *RIP*
 Diane Remien Tymick
 Dacia Van Antwerp
 Mary T. Verkamp *RIP*
 Virginia Vessa-McLaughlin *RIP*
 Louise Gerrity Vollertsen
 Madeleine Von Bargaen *RIP*
 Olga Gannon Warfield *RIP*
 M. Virginia Waterman-Casey
 Edward Watson *RIP*
 Patricia Bernstein Wells
 William and Mimi Welsh
 Susan Whalen
 John E. Whitfield, Sr. *RIP*
 Nathan T. Wilburn
 Suzanne Dale Wilcox
 Patricia C. Willis
 Francine Templeman Wimsatt
 Patricia Tarantino Woodley *RIP*
 Evelyn and Albert Worner *RIP*
 Loretta M. Young *RIP*



Taking projects ‘heart on’

By Antonia M. Ponder, Chief Operating Officer, Provincial Office, St. Louis, MO

MY INTRODUCTION TO the Sacred Heart charism began in April 2018, as I accepted a newly created lay position in the USC Province as chief operating officer, based at the Provincial Office in St. Louis, Missouri. I am a cradle Catholic, attended Catholic schools and worked for many years at Catholic institutions. In this new role, learning about the Society’s founders, the Chapter Calls and the ways of the RSCJ, and understanding the mission of Sacred Heart have been quite different from all of my previous experiences. I am privileged to have been invited to this role. I confess I am still learning and growing!

This position has allowed me to explore my personal journey with relationships and my leadership in ways that other organizations have not. In fact, it has been encouraged. For example, I was at a lunch meeting with an RSCJ, a meeting I would characterize as a business meeting addressing province matters,

and she asked me, “How do you pray?” and “How much silence do you allow in your day?” These were not meant as rhetorical questions, either.

These types of interactions are not unique. This is not “work” for the RSCJ or a different “sphere” of their lives. This is a commitment they make when they profess their vows. This is what they want for all of us and the world – to bring love to all that we do.

In this role, I have been asked to lean in to love and relationships and let it lead all that I do. Talk about a new frontier for me. When given a project, I used to think, “I will take this head on.” Now, I remind myself that I also need to take it “heart on,” too. I am amazed at the grace and ease our committed staff and RSCJ do this on a regular basis. I am happy and honored to be a part of this community where love is at the center of who we are.

Province staff in the St. Louis Area: Front row (L-R): Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ; Mary Lou Gavan, RSCJ; Antonia Ponder, Mary Glenn, Sandy Ahlheim, Eliza Lynn. Middle row: Debbie Vespa-Schutz, Kim Pecoraro, Adifa Qorri, Lisa Terneus, Linda Behrens, Erin Everson, Anne Wiehagen. Back row: Michael Pera, Janet Anderson, Laurie Hoffman, Mary Halsey, Jeff Daggett.



International Leadership

Central Team of the international Society of the Sacred Heart: front row: Sisters Marie-Jeanne Elonga (Democratic Republic of Congo), Barbara Dawson (United States-Canada), Superior General; Daphne Sequeira, (India); back row: Sisters Monica Esquivel (Mexico) and Isabelle Lagneau (Belguim, France and Netherlands). The motherhouse of the Society is in Rome.



United States - Canada Province Leadership

The United States – Canada Provincial Team
L-R: Sisters Diane Roche, Teresa Moser, Sheila Hammond (Provincial), Donna Collins and Maureen Glavin.



Society of the Sacred Heart™
United States – Canada

Revealing God's love in the heart of the world

The Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is an international community of women in the Catholic Church, founded in 1800 by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat. Sharing her vision and mission, we are convinced of the centrality of prayer and contemplation in our lives. We, the Religious of the Sacred Heart, are committed to discovering and making God's love visible in the heart of the world through the service of education.

Conscious that what we do, we do together, and remembering a tradition marked by a love for young people and missionary spirit, the Religious of the Sacred Heart carry out this service of education:

- ♥ *especially in the work of teaching and formation*
- ♥ *in other activities for human development and the promotion of justice*
- ♥ *in pastoral work and guidance in the faith*

— *Constitutions of the Society of the Sacred Heart, 1982*



Society of the Sacred Heart™
United States – Canada

4120 Forest Park Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 5806



Brother Frank Authello Andrus, Jr. and Provincial Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, during the opening ceremony of the “We Speak Your Names” gathering in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, honoring the known enslaved persons owned by the Society of the Sacred Heart.

Thank You!

rscj.org • 314-652-1500

Go paperless: rscj.org/connect



facebook.com/SocietyoftheSacredHeart
facebook.com/WeAreSacredHeart (Vocations)



[@RSCJUSC](https://twitter.com/RSCJUSC)
[@WeAreSacredHeart](https://twitter.com/WeAreSacredHeart) (Vocations)



[instagram.com/ societyofthesacredheart](https://instagram.com/societyofthesacredheart)



Society of the Sacred Heart™
United States – Canada

Mission Advancement

Report on Gifts

September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019

1,803

Donors



\$2,868,058

Total Contributions



\$994,186

Unrestricted Gifts



\$636,641

General Elder Care



\$104,386

Mission
and Ministries



\$350,479

Oakwood
Contributions



\$38,839

Albany Sisters



\$45,486

Online Gifts



November 1, 2019

Dear Sacred Heart Family,

“CHANGE IS INEVITABLE,” AS THE SAYING GOES.

Several changes occurred in mission advancement during the fiscal year ending August 31, 2019. Sister Shirley Miller, who established the Society’s mission advancement office, transitioned to semi-retirement in St. Louis, Missouri, where she is writing a book. I moved to the role of director; you may recall the December 2018 letter we mailed announcing these changes.

From there, we have more changes: receipt of gifts to the Shrine of Saint Philippine Duchesne to record and process; update of our fundraising software; a refresh of our printed materials, like this insert to the annual report.

Do you feel like I do, though, there is comfort in knowing that some things do not change? Saint Madeleine Sophie’s mission, still honored in current times, *to discover and reveal God’s love in the heart of the world*, is an example. We sometimes use this quote from Sophie’s many letters to say it a little differently: *Let love be your life for all eternity*. Encountering these words, however expressed, has inspired loving acts for generations of the Sacred Heart family.

Something else that never changes is our sincere gratitude for you – our donor – who makes possible the many ways God’s love was discovered and revealed in the past year. Thank you.

Angie Bayo, RSCJ, of Albany, New York, sent this note to share with you: “A message of love and gratitude, not only for your monetary gifts, but especially for the way God’s love shines through your lives, whether you know it or not. That’s good news for a world in need of transformative love!”

You make possible the incredible stories in this annual report. We hope you enjoy the articles and photos gathered from across the province. You are a valued and appreciated partner in how you continue to share the Society’s mission in new and vital ways. Perhaps you will consider your own story of how you *let love be your life* and share it with someone.

Most sincerely,

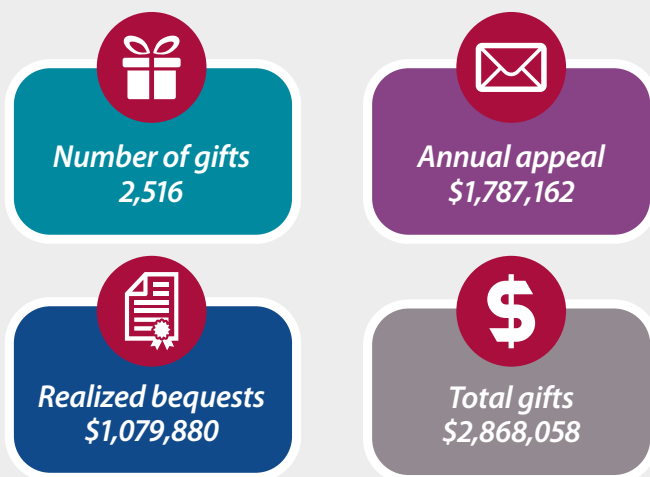


Anne L. Wiehagen

Anne L. Wiehagen, CFRE
Director of Mission Advancement
awiehagen@rscj.org • 314-652-1500

P.S. If you would like a copy of the complete donor list, please email me.

Fundraising income for September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019 (unaudited figures)

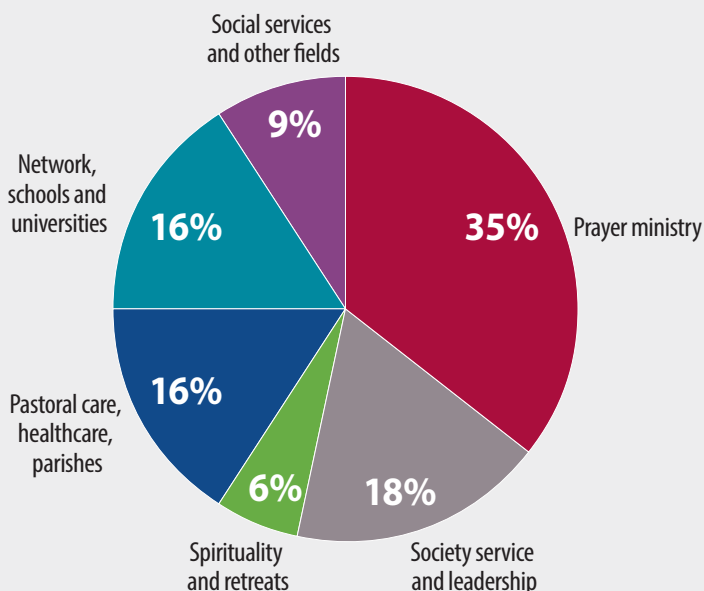


Financial facts 2018-2019

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Annual USC Province budget | \$20,212,229 |
| Annual budget allocation for retirement centers..... | \$5,029,876 |
| Average per-person cost for RSCJ in retirement homes..... | \$81,127 |
| Income from RSCJ salaries..... | \$3,483,362 |
| Average per-person retirement income from Social Security..... | \$8,200 |
| Average per-person retirement income from TIAA/CREF | \$7,520 |

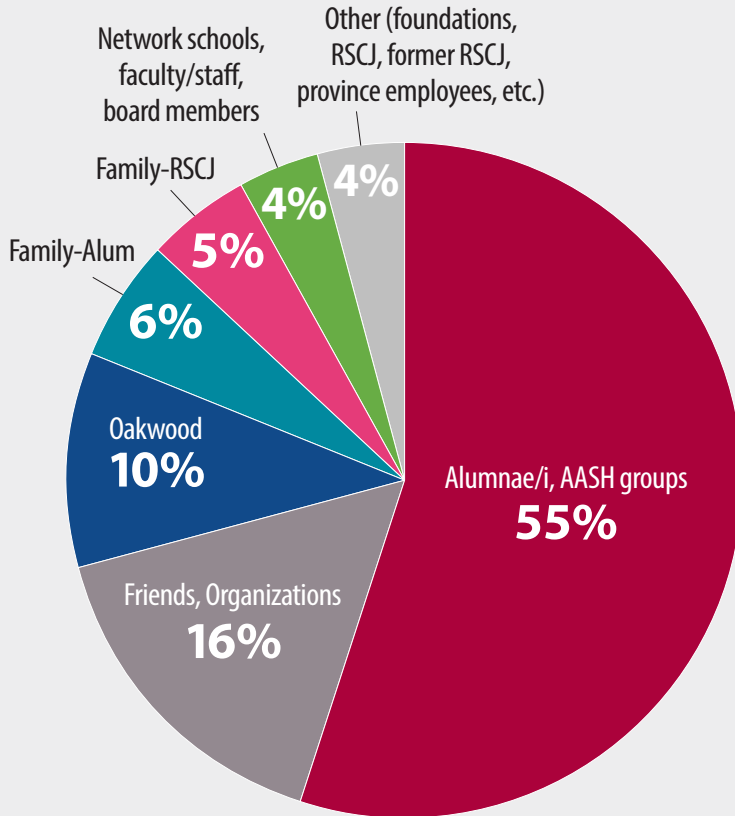
RSCJ ministries in the United States – Canada Province

Percentages of RSCJ who are involved in each area of service



Donor constituency groups

By numbers of donors: 9/1/2014 – 8/31/2019



REALIZED BEQUESTS:

Theresa E. Avansino *RIP*
Madeline Anne Bruhn *RIP*
Raymond Andrew Carroll *RIP*
Shirley G. Connolly *RIP*
Irene J. Lawrence Conrady *RIP*
Helen Dawson *RIP*
Edouard and Mary Quigley Eller *RIP*
Mary Frawley Thompson *RIP*
Elvera L. Fusco *RIP*
Renata D. Gallagher *RIP*
Anne N. Heidt *RIP*
Edwin and Elinor Maccamy *RIP*
Virginia and John Rebeck *RIP*
Virginia Vessa-McLaughlin *RIP*

**United States – Canada
Provincial Office**
4120 Forest Park Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-652-1500
rscj.org

International Society of the Sacred Heart

26 Provinces

41 Countries

1,800+ RSCJ Worldwide



12,000+

students enrolled in

Network of Sacred Heart Schools