

An abstract painting featuring a central Sacred Heart motif. The heart is depicted in vibrant red and pink, surrounded by a halo of yellow and white. It is set against a background of bold, expressive brushstrokes in blue, green, and orange. The overall style is expressive and spiritual.

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heart

**FEAST
OF THE
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HEART,
JUNE 24**

A JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART, UNITED STATES — CANADA

heart

Heart is published two times a year to highlight the mission and ministries of the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States — Canada, for a wide circle of friends.

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The Society of the Sacred Heart, an international community of women religious, was founded by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat in post-revolutionary France and expanded to North America by Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne. Our mission is to discover and reveal God's love in the heart of the world through the service of education.

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Cover: The Sacred Heart of Jesus by Stephen B. Whitley

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from the Provincial

Dear Friends and Family of the Sacred Heart,

In this issue of *Heart*, we explore a variety of ways that our ministries advance our mission to discover and to reveal God's love in the heart of the world through the service of education. These stories capture particular ways we and our partners in mission continue the work of Christ in our world today as we walk into the future together with courage and confidence.

We are called to be the love of the Sacred Heart within the world, quietly and consistently supporting people to grow in dignity as human beings and as children of God. Our starting point is the Gospel, with all that it demands from us of love, forgiveness, and justice, and of solidarity with those who are poor and rejected by the world. We are inspired by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's vision.

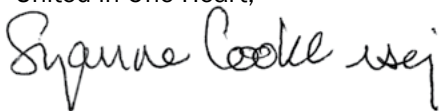
In the *Constitutions of the Society of the Sacred Heart*, we speak of the grace of vocation being a way of conversion and apostolic fruitfulness. For us, all that we do springs from our being united in the Heart of Christ. Our perspective as Religious of the Sacred Heart is from the pierced Heart of Jesus, which opens our being to the depths of God and to the anguish of humankind. In these stories we hope you see the energy of our lives as we respond to the call to be the love of the Sacred Heart in our world here, now, and into the future. Inspired by Saint Madeleine Sophie, we hope to work for transformation as ... we make her desire our own:

- that people become ever more aware of the truth, of love and of freedom
- that they discover the significance of their lives, and devote themselves to others
- that they take part creatively in the common effort to transform the world
- that they be enabled to encounter the love of Jesus
- that they let their lives be shaped by an active faith.

Constitutions of the Society of the Sacred Heart, §11

The generosity of our partners in mission, your commitment to Sophie's vision, your gracious support and your kindness encourage us to pursue Christ's call to us to build the Beloved Community by being the Love of the Sacred Heart. Let us continue to pray for one another as we engage in this holy work of transformation.

United in One Heart,



Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ



“

We are called to be the love of the Sacred Heart within the world, quietly and consistently supporting people to grow in dignity as human beings and as children of God.”



From: Susan Krakora | Lake Forest, Illinois

Thank you so much for the lovely article on Shirley Miller in the last issue of *Heart*. I attended Woodlands Academy in Lake Forest, Illinois, from 1968 to 1972, and Sister Miller taught me there. She was a wonderful teacher and mentor, and I truly treasured my years at Woodlands because of her. Thank you for letting me reconnect with her through your article.



Susan Krakora (left) and Shirley Miller, RSCJ (right), reconnected at the Shrine of Saint Philippine in St. Charles, Missouri in early 2022.



Mary Charlene Rhodes (right) led the pouring of libations during the ceremony honoring and remembering the people who were enslaved by the Society of the Sacred Heart.

REMEMBERING Mary Charlene Rhodes

Our dear friend **Mary Charlene Rhodes** died on February 17, 2022. Mary was a graduate of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, class of 1978. More recently, she was an integral participant on the committee of descendants of persons enslaved by the Society who planned the 2018 reconciliation gathering “We Speak Your Names” held in Grand Coteau. She has been a friend to the Society and to several Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) throughout the last decade — often visiting RSCJ at the Society’s Oakwood retirement community in Atherton, California. Our hearts and many prayers go out to Mary’s entire family.

A memorial will be held at the Academy in Grand Coteau on June 19, 2022.

Last year Mary joined Kimberly King, RSCJ, on the Society’s podcast *For The Sake Of*. Her episode, “For The Sake Of: Relationship,” aired in the winter of 2021. You can listen to her episode at rscj.org/forthesakeof.

IN MEMORIAM NOTICE

In the next issue of *Heart* we will list all names of Religious of the Sacred Heart who have died in 2020-2022. Until then, a full list of Religious of the Sacred Heart obituaries may be viewed at rscj.org/in-memoriam

Growing in the Mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart

Announcement from the United States – Canada Provincial Team

The call to live our mission to discover and reveal God's love coupled with our commitment as educators calls us, one and all – RSCJ, Associates, educators, alumnae, alumni and partners in mission – to take responsibility for our ongoing development in this very mission.

We are called to engage in careful discernment in the continually changing and challenging realities of our world. We sense our founder, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, inviting us to uphold the integrity of the Society's charism and spirituality, which inspire and inform the mission, while being open to new interpretations and expressions of the Society's mission.

To aid all of us in this endeavor, the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province, has created a new committee named the Mission Enrichment Committee. The committee's role is to identify effective resources and processes that cultivate our interior life and inspire our actions on behalf of God's people and creation. This group will also design dynamic programs that will draw upon Society documents, position statements and publications, thus, ensuring that programs focus on ongoing mission development reflective of the spirit of the Society, as well as its justice and peace priorities.

In appointing the Mission Enrichment Committee, the Provincial Team considered the various constituencies that, together with RSCJ, find inspiration in our spirituality and are committed to the Society's mission: Associates, educators, province staff, alumnae/i and partners in mission. The team believes a broad-based committee offers a wide perspective and approach to living out Sophie's vision and the Society's mission in diverse settings.

Members of the committee will serve a three-year term with possible renewal. There will be staggered rotations, particularly at the beginning, to ensure continuity. The Provincial Team looks forward to all that is to come from this committee, and it hopes this collective effort will strengthen connections and a sense of "One Body" within the Sacred Heart family.

Mission Enrichment Committee Members

Sue Rogers, RSCJ

Chair of the Committee

Molly Arthur

Associate, San Francisco, California

Bridget Bearss, RSCJ

Laryn Bakker

*Province Staff, The Stuart Center
for Mission, Washington, D.C.*

Donna Dolan, RSCJ

Colleen Dulle

*Alumna, Academy of the Sacred
Heart, St. Charles, Missouri, 2009*

Reyna Gonzalez, RSCJ

Sharon Karam, RSCJ

Nat Wilburn

*Head of the Conference of Sacred
Heart Education*

spirituality
mission
charism



Photos © by Jerry Naunheim

Woman of the Heart

By Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ

Uchenna “Uche” Oluoha, RSCJ, is a full-time student in the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program at the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science at the University of San Diego. To meet Uche is to encounter a grace-filled, joyful self-giver, who seeks to serve those facing poverty and catastrophic illness. Having practiced nursing for 30 years, Uche recently decided to pause and enter into rigorous academic study *now* so that in the future she can work with others to optimize health, promote healing, and alleviate suffering through a reflective and informed practice.

When asked why she is pursuing this degree, Uche simply said that she seeks to serve people with compassion and intelligence. She believes that at the core of her identity as a Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) and as a healthcare professional is the call to accompany God’s people as they navigate serious health challenges. It is in the moment of accompanying those who are fragile and often frightened that Uche experiences the integration of being a registered nurse and an RSCJ most profoundly. This integration is very important to Uche. “I am an RSCJ. I am a nurse. Soon I will be a family nurse practitioner with a doctorate.



Sister Oluoha with fellow classmates at the University of San Diego.



Sister Oluoha spending time with RSCJ in her community.

Through all of these identities I am myself, a woman who has made a public commitment to be a woman of the heart, a woman who embraces humanity through a contemplative life and enters into the lives of God's people through the pierced Heart of Jesus."

From the perspective of the woundedness of Christ's Heart, Uche experiences people's dignity and wonder as human beings. "All people have an inherent right to good health care, and they have the right to understand their options," Uche explained. They have the right to advocate for themselves to support good decision-making as they navigate the healthcare system.

Uche also emphasized the importance of accompaniment, describing it as the consistent presence of kindness and attentiveness with others in their woundedness. In completing her doctorate and working as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), Uche is committed to practice a practical solidarity rooted in a preferential love of poor persons.

Uche's love and enthusiasm for people becomes obvious when she speaks of her practice and her future. Her reverence for others is contagious and inspiring. Through her, one sees that nursing is relational. The health care needs of people are best served within a system that is people centered and innovative and responsive to their needs. Uche believes patients have the right to engage actively in decisions relative to their health and health care.

The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science describes nursing care as the translation of intellectual

effort into humanistic interventions that respect the dignity and worth of each person throughout their lifespan. Implicit in nursing practice is accountability to individuals, families, and communities to promote, maintain, and restore health. This echoes Uche's sentiments: "If I am to be truly of help to another, I need to understand the disease and understand its various possible treatments. For this, I must have deep knowledge of science. This knowledge, however, is insufficient if I am to support and help patients. For this quality of accompaniment, I must listen to the person. I must give the time for the conversation. This dialogue is essential if I am to fully understand the person. This conversation has to be rooted in respect and mutuality if trust is to develop. This trust is the foundation upon which genuine accompaniment is possible."

Uche is candid about the challenges of the program. The program has been difficult, at moments she thought potentially impossible. Yet, throughout her time of study, Uche has experienced the support of community, both the graduate school community and the RSCJ community. She is grateful. Uche believes, as she completes her degree, that this unique blending of academic strength and nurturing support will have prepared her well to serve the people of God. She looks forward to living a life that reflects her commitment to social justice by influencing health policy and by promoting an ethical approach to nursing — ultimately characterized by compassion and respect for the dignity of the individual.

Journey Through Deep Canyons

By Jane McKinlay, RSCJ, and Angela LaGrange Scott, Associate of the Sacred Heart

As a child, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat breathed in the atmosphere of Cornelius Janssens's message of hopelessness because of sin. As a young adult, she sensed that, along with other books of scripture, the "Song of Songs" gives a truer picture of the human condition. The ease with which Sophie drew on the Canticle, as she called it, suggests that she understood it in ways that elude academic study. The lover who cannot find enough images to describe his beloved is the One who is out-of-his-mind with love for us ... and wants only that we be open to receive and respond.

With the Canticle as context, Sophie's Well, a spirituality center of the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province, hosted a nine-month program entitled, "Deep Canyons Counter Whirlwinds." The program was offered to 13 participants from throughout the Sacred Heart family who met once a month via Zoom to delve into deep canyons – quiet places in our souls where we opened ourselves as fully as possible to God's subtle, sometimes synchronistic invitations. What we met there were: attention as a choice, action of the Spirit, effects of fear, impairment caused by attachment, and the flow between prayer and action.



Conscious choice as to where we rest our attention: Referring to the Canticle's little foxes that ruin the vineyards (2:15), Sophie wrote, "You amuse yourself with these little creatures, and your Spouse who is there waits, seeing whether you ever think of Him." Rest our attention on God, yes, and on whatever comes up in each present moment, where God awaits us.

Working Through Deep Canyons

By Angela LaGrange Scott

The Deep Canyons program fostered in me a new awareness of how the Spirit is working in my life, but it also made me very aware of moments when I am spiritually lonely and not open to the Spirit. In these times, I have deliberately paused to allow myself to explore these lonely spaces and my own vulnerabilities. Now, I look for the moments when I am not allowing myself "to be free" because I am focusing my attention on my own thoughts, rather than being open to the Spirit.

In the Gospels, there at the Jordan, the dove hovering over Jesus' head denoted the Spirit of the Living God. Sophie envisions that dove hovering over us too. Ringing in her ears was verse 2:12, "The voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." Sophie begs us, "Listen to the Divine turtledove." Living one's life listening to the Holy Spirit is to move into a realm where one is available to the Spirit's touches, and to find oneself breathing the divine breath ... pulsating with compassion ... flying.

***"Catch us the foxes, the little foxes,
that ruin the vineyards ..."*** *Song of Solomon 2:15*

In the Canticle, the beloved knows her lover is at her bedroom door; she hesitates. Sophie saw in her hesitation the crippling effect of fear. Her delay haunts the beloved for the rest of the song. "Courage and confidence," which seems to have been Sophie's motto, summarizes her antidote to fear.

In deep places we grapple with the fact that we clutch some things *just because we want them*. God is in our orbit, but the tenacity of an attachment causes us to get distracted. A sour mood follows. The mood exposes that foxy foe, attachment. Sophie had a field day with verse 2:15, "Catch us the foxes, the little foxes, that ruin the vineyard."

Verse 2:5 reads "Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apples, because I am faint with love." Strengthen and support: In this verse, Sophie saw two mutually dependent supports of the spiritual life, prayer and

action. What happens in the meeting between God and me in prayer finds expression in the way I spend my day, and what touches my heart during the day is the seed of what springs open during prayer time.

Near the end of her 60s, with whirlwinds besieging Sophie and the Society of the Sacred Heart, Sophie told two friends that the only way she could counter whirlwinds was within a deep canyon. As the 13 of us spent time in our canyons — choosing where to place

our attention, turning our ears to the divine turtledove, aware of where fear takes us, learning to let our holy longings touch our attachments, tasting the flow between prayer and the other moments of our lives — we knew even more deeply that our relationship with the God of infinite Love is the dynamism running our lives.

Quotations from Scripture are from New Revised Standard Version

Sister McKinlay will host another monthly, virtual program in the coming year entitled "Evolution: A Graced Path."

**For more information on this program visit:
rscj.org/graced-path**

The disciplined exercise of actively clearing my thoughts so that there is room for the Spirit has led to a profound shift in my prayer life. I am a "busy" person who likes to accomplish things. What I am beginning to understand is that the "busy-ness" is motivated in some ways by my own fear of being vulnerable. The act of letting go, and recognizing that all of these thoughts that keep me busy actually take me away from a close relationship with God, has been life changing. In the past, I would

equate my "busy-ness" and actions as living with and for God. As I let go, I have a new awareness that the pause is a gift from God to me; it allows me to see where God is working in my life and provides the path to show his love to others in all that I do in my life. I am still a beginner and find myself frustrated at times, but also eager to keep wandering through the Deep Canyon where I know I will gain new insights that counter the whirlwinds.

RSCJ Q&A

Getting to Know Reyna González, RSCJ

By Erin Everson, Communications Project Manager for the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province

Reyna González, RSCJ, currently serves as Director of Young Adult and Vocation Ministry for the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province. In addition, she is the Director of Educational Initiatives and Leadership (EIL) Office at the Stuart Center for Mission and serves as the chair of the Society's International Vocation Commission.

Sister González has more than 20 years of experience as an educator, administrator and consultant. She has guided several youth-oriented projects – including the Summit Leadership Academy, Border Witness Program, and Global Citizen Program – and is the creator of the *Call Me Back* app, a tool for discernment and life exploration for young adults. Sister González previously served as Director of Vocation Ministry when she was a member of the Province of México. She moved to the former United States Province in 2009.

What drew you to enter the Society of the Sacred Heart?

Sometimes the question of why I entered the Society is not always the most helpful one. Like so many of us, I entered at a time when the world and Church felt and looked quite different, and the starting point of a journey is only a piece of the story. It might be a nice walk down memory lane, but the critical question is how each one of us as Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) understands our call to live the mission of the Society here and now and into the future, with the gifts and challenges the world presents to us NOW. It is important to remember our beginnings, but like the Society of the Sacred Heart, we stay connected to our beginnings to ground us in the ever-unfolding journey of life and mission, today and tomorrow.

You've spent much of your ministry working with youth and young adults (18-30). Can you share some of your experiences, like hosting the Global Citizen Program and Summit Leadership Academy, that were most meaningful to you?

I think each experience has been unique. For example, with the Global Citizen Program, the impact of youth from different countries connecting with one another on the justice and environmental topics that are important to them has been powerful. The opportunity to discuss and debate topics from their respective contexts helps lead to a new vision, a collective vision. At the same time, these discussions and personal interactions also help young people to break down the barriers of their own biases and stereotypes in order to create something new together. For me, it is the miracle of the human capacity to get past one's own biases to be open to the reality of another, and possibly be changed by it!

Concretely, one year our theme was migration and immigration, and a small group of young women (participants) shared their experience of crossing the Rio Grande to arrive in the United States. Hearing their personal experience – why they came, why they took the risk, what it required, what life is like for them here – resulted in a change in the group. By the next day, the group, which held a range of views on the topic, shifted how they were having the conversation. The opportunity to interact with the human experience, the human person, behind what can sometimes be a “faceless” topic, is powerful! For me, in the Society when we say that we should let the world set our agenda, one way of doing that is listening and crossing our personal boundaries and being open to conversion of heart and mind. When we cross boundaries, dreams can become a vision for change that is actionable and that can be realized.



(above) Sister González speaks during the Border Witness Program.

(right) Sister González during a visit to Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley Humanitarian Respite Center.

In the Summit Leadership Academy, there is a process within the group that leads each one to see that another world is possible when leadership is exercised from a place of personal faith, commitment, and action. This experience showed me how we might need to modify our view of youth and young adults. I often hear that we, women religious, think young people need us (our spirituality, for example) without recognizing what they *already* have and can *offer* to us in terms of their commitment to social action and already living their faith and spirituality. It might look different, but it is no less valid, and the difference does not signify something lacking in them. They often live their faith from a perspective that integrates their community and world contexts as a starting point, not from a place of spiritual training or formation. They see and feel what the world (or God acting in the world) calls forth from them!

Having served on the International Vocation Commission, what models and ideas from other provinces do you hope to bring to young adult and vocation ministry in the United States – Canada Province?

My observation is that many are working with various groups of young people in different places even within provinces, but we do not have an effective, organized, coordinated network of young people who resonate with our mission and spirituality as Religious of the Sacred Heart.

In some provinces, there is a very clear option for youth as a concrete priority, and religious and lay collaborators participate in a variety of ways. It is a true priority, and so resources are directed consistently toward this priority. For example, most of our communities in these provinces will create and open a space to receive a young person for a period of time. In some provinces, groups of RSCJ offer opportunities in their respective ministry areas specifically for young people, like retreats, service projects, and immersion programs. The difference is that the members themselves are involved in offering these possibilities, and it is not the sole responsibility of a designated office or person.



Another example is that people in some provinces are not timid about participating in public spaces or group events to talk about the Society and religious life. They take full advantage of every place and opportunity to promote the mission and increase the visibility of the Society. The belief is that people with a vocation are sometimes found not only in religious settings, but in secular ones, as well.

With the rate of vocations for the Society declining in North America, in what ways do you hope to reimagine and reinvigorate the youth and vocation ministry in the Province?

First, I think we must listen — really listen — to young people, their dreams, desires, concerns, and hopes, and not assume that we know what they need or want. We sometimes rely too heavily on research data about cohort effects or trends and generalize about all young people, putting them in boxes. This dupes us into believing we know what they want or need. For example, it is often thought that young people do not want to make long-term commitments, yet I have had the experience of meeting those who are engaged or married with a lifetime commitment in mind. I also know young people who are very committed to the environment — taking care of our common home — and see it as a long-term commitment.

On the other hand, listening deeply to young adults should not cast us adrift, no longer anchored in the values and principles of the vowed religious life. There is a balance to be maintained between remaining open to change and changing to the extent that we lose ourselves to “accommodate” others or the world. The latter can lead to a lack of clarity or consistency. In my experience, I find that young people seek clarity and

congruence in what we say, what we do, and how we live with one another and others in the world.

What gifts do you think the Society of the Sacred Heart has to offer young people, specifically young women, 18-30?

Young women today live with an overabundance of information, options, “noise,” messages about what is more and less important to strive for in work and life. Life moves quickly, values can become blurred, and people of good will can feel lost and isolated. I believe that we can offer young women the gift of discernment, guidance about how to make choices in accordance with their values, the personal calls they feel, and the purpose and meaning of their lives: in other words, to experience the sense of God’s unique love and call to each one, personally.

In addition, we are very serious about our commitment to justice through our JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) work, even if we are not always clear about the best ways to move forward. We are not, however, the only ones committed to this important work. The unique gift we do have to offer as RSCJ is what we bring to the table as educators. What we do and how we do it, wherever we are, we do with the spirit of an *educator*. The work of social justice as *educators* from the vantage point of *discovering* the love of God in the world and revealing it to others is the gift we have to offer young people.

Where would you like to see the Province’s young adult and vocation ministry five years from now?

First, I think we need to rethink the language we use when we speak about vocations. Words both reflect and shape reality, and I believe that some of our current language or terms neither reflect nor shape the reality of religious life today or into the future. When I share with young women about the vows that we, RSCJ, take, for example obedience, they ask me *do you do what they ask you to do?* I then explain that “we enter into a process of discernment.” I share that discernment is a way of living that helps us to live our values with integrity and respond to the call of God and the world. Regarding our vow poverty, for those I’ve met, this does not always make sense, however they resonate with the sharing of our goods and talents in solidarity with others. So how can we rename or re-articulate our vows to reflect what we believe, live, and do?

Second, I would like to have a network of young people who have hope and imagination to be part of creating a new, better world, impelled by the life and example of Jesus, that finds expression through the mission and the charism of the Society. Third, I would like to see our priority for youth and young adults reflect a deeper,

more coordinated, consistent, concrete approach that motivates a sense of shared contribution and responsibility. For example, all who work with youth and young adults in the name of the Sacred Heart would collaborate more closely.

Finally, I hope that we are more deliberate, perhaps even bold enough, to venture into secular spaces and proclaim the good news of a call to religious life in the Society as a possible path for some young women.

What characteristic of founder Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat most inspires you?

We often turn to Sophie with this question, and it’s a good and important question to help keep us grounded. I like to ask myself who are the “Sophies” in my life in the Society who have inspired me (challenged me) to grow as a person and as a Religious of the Sacred Heart. For me, Sophie is more than a historical figure; she is alive in each one of us today. Along the way, there are people who challenge, help, inspire and teach us. Those are the Sophies of our lives.

When I reflect on my life, I can recall with affection one who believed in me, who saw the best in me, one who pushed me to broaden my horizons and open my mind, one who always showed me the love of God by her attitude of compassion and forgiveness. Another walked with me to see the Heart of Jesus in the people who are excluded and marginalized. There is the one who took the risk of crossing frontiers as Sophie and Philippine did. Another has the sense of humor and hope that brings joy to life, and another has shown through her life that a sense of belonging comes from the fact that the Society is in her, not only that she is in the Society. Finally, there is one whose passion for education permeates all she is and does. I have many sisters — friends — who at end of the day represent for me the love, vision and life of Sophie alive NOW. Who are YOUR Sophies?

What is one quote or piece of writing that you hold close to your heart?

I would like to share a poem by Pedro Casaldáliga, one that inspired my letter asking for final profession.

*At the end of my life journey God will ask me:
Have you lived? Have you loved? And I, without
saying a word, will open my heart full of names.*

If we as RSCJ, Associates, partners in mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart open our hearts full of names, I think it is a sign that we are living the charism and mission of the Society. This is the journey of hope and joy in service, community and life that I would like us to invite youth and young adults to contemplate.

GOALS & CRITERIA

A Map of Our Sacred Heart Journey

By Nat Wilburn, Head of the Conference of Sacred Heart Education

When I was growing up, summer vacation for my family was often a road trip. Once we determined a destination, the trip began — not embarking in the car, but rather ordering the maps and AAA “Triptik.” I eagerly awaited the large envelope that contained the sprawling state maps and bound, page-by-page, highway Triptik that would help lead us to our destination.

Resources in hand, I distinctly remember sitting with my father unfolding endless panels of huge maps. While he focused on the route, I focused on all the different adventures noted off either side of the road. Once we were on the road, I watched the highway signs pass indicating all the possibilities I had noted planning the vacation fantasies. Listening to the radio, Dad noted possible detours and likely traffic jams, adjusting the trip as necessary.

Today we have a GPS that determines the fastest, shortest route, offering time saving alternatives around traffic delays. We so repetitively determine a destination; program the GPS, and on our way. Our trips are easily focused on efficiently arriving at our destination.

In the end, our ultimate destination as students and educators of the Sacred Heart is eternal life with God. However, much is missed when the focus is solely on that ultimate destination. In fact, the journey of our life itself is an essential aspect of God’s gift. For Sacred Heart educators, that journey is rooted in our day-to-day commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education — the mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart — to discover and reveal the love of God in the heart of the world.

The *Goals and Criteria* of Sacred Heart education provides Sacred Heart educators with significant guidance in our work with children and adolescents as they develop their own navigational tools for their life’s journey. This statement of mission serves as the beacon or North Star in our work. The Criteria are, if you will, our highways and byways and help us navigate the landscape of today. Drawing upon Scripture, the *Constitutions of the Society of the Sacred Heart*, Catholic intellectual tradition, and Catholic Social Teaching, the *Goals and Criteria* calls us to accompany students in their journey to become people of faith and compassion.



Director of Facilities Darren Malone discusses architecture and design with students at Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart (Princeton, New Jersey).

As 25 communities of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools in Canada and the United States, we are inspired by this most recent edition of the *Goals and Criteria*. Every five years, each school community enters into a communal reflection process to discern what ways the community is living the principles of the *Goals and Criteria*. This process of self-study is directed by the Sacred Heart Commission on Goals (SHCOG). Unlike accrediting processes, which assess “compliance of standards,” this process of self-evaluation calls all to reflect on the quality of our work together as learning communities committed to the values of Sacred Heart education. This time of reflection allows us to see where we are on the journey and how we might correct our course.

As I work with our school communities, especially the five communities who have begun the SHCOG process this year, I prefer to think of the *Goals and Criteria* more like the roadmaps of my youth rather than the GPS of today. I can see that our taking the time to reflect on how we are living these principles allows us to develop a broad perspective rooted in the Gospel call to justice and love. Our journey towards God has delays, detours, bumps and collisions, but it is always surrounded by beauty, grace, and, paramount, God’s love to reveal to others. And this promise is affirmed and articulated in the *Goals and Criteria*.

Introducing the Network Student Advisory Committee (NSAC)

By Amanda Codina, Student Program Coordinator for the Network of Sacred Heart Schools

The mission of Sacred Heart education is rooted in Saint Madeleine Sophie's vision of the purpose of education: to make known God's love. Her vision, expressed in the *Goals and Criteria*, continues to guide all members of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools and fosters an inherent sense of community that is unique to Sacred Heart schools. The relational aspect of Sacred Heart education creates a culture in schools that allows all community members — students, alumnae/i, and educators — to grow and learn together. As both a graduate of a Sacred Heart school and an educator, I believe the relationships I have formed over the last 28 years through my different Sacred

Heart experiences have been fundamental to my personal growth and an integral part of my professional development.

In particular, as an educator, I have found my most valued learning experiences have been a result of collaborating with students. So, when I started working for the Network of Sacred Heart Schools as Student Program Coordinator, I knew that finding a way to gather students and hear their voices would be vital to the success of different programs. To that end, in August 2021, the Network office announced the first-ever Network Student Advisory Committee (NSAC) and invited all high school-aged students from Network



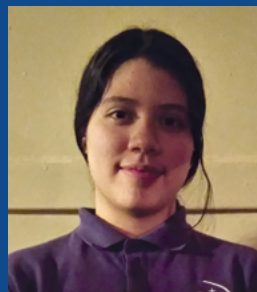
Alexandra | 11th Grade
Carrollton School of
the Sacred Heart
Miami, Florida



Hazel | 9th Grade
Sacred Heart Greenwich
Greenwich, Connecticut



Jennifer | 11th Grade
Sacred Heart Greenwich
Greenwich, Connecticut



Xitlali | 11th Grade
Josephinum Academy of the
Sacred Heart
Chicago, Illinois



Peighton | 11th Grade
Stuart Country Day School of
the Sacred Heart
Princeton, New Jersey



Grace | 12th Grade
Convent of the Sacred Heart
New York, New York



Carolina | 11th Grade
Convent of the Sacred Heart
New York, New York



Lillian | 10th Grade
Academy of the Sacred Heart
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan



Lauren | 10th Grade
Carrollton School of
the Sacred Heart
Miami, Florida



Lavanya | 10th Grade
Stuart Country Day School of
the Sacred Heart
Princeton, New Jersey

schools to consider applying. We were delighted to receive over 70 student applications from 13 member schools. With only 20 spots available, the Network office carefully reviewed all applications and released final nominations last fall.

The committee's primary purpose is to establish connections between students and the Network office, and among students and Sacred Heart communities on a larger scale. More specifically, NSAC is comprised of six subcommittees: a Middle School Peer Branch, Media and Communications, Network Student Connections, RSCJ Connections, School Spirit, Student Programs, and Traditions and Values. Each member serves on two of these subcommittees. The ultimate goal is to create a larger, more cohesive sense of community that allows school communities to draw upon their similarities, while celebrating their differences. At its core, the Network of Sacred Heart

Schools is united in a shared mission and two centuries of common traditions; however, each school brings its own distinct history and culture.

NSAC hopes to discover new ways to grow in our shared mission and highlight each school's individual character. Amongst its first initiatives, NSAC held a video competition, "Day in the Life," open to all Network schools. The videos captured the essence of life at school from a student's perspective, and each Network school was invited to submit one video.

After spending a short time working with this group, I am certain they will pave the way for more Network students to connect, while setting the tone for NSAC to forge new and exciting paths in the future! The Network office is exceedingly grateful for their leadership and commitment to Sacred Heart education, values and traditions, and we look forward to continued collaboration with students.

"Our service of education is carried out in a genuine relationship of mutual interaction, where each person both receives and gives so that all may grow together." *Constitutions of the Society of the Sacred Heart, §14*



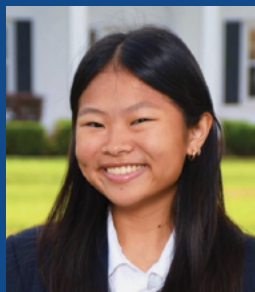
Maria | 10th Grade
Academy of the Sacred Heart
New Orleans, Louisiana



Janine | 10th Grade
Duchesne Academy of the
Sacred Heart
Omaha, Nebraska



Grace | 10th Grade
Villa Duchesne and
Oak Hill School
St. Louis, Missouri



Julia | 10th Grade
Duchesne Academy of
the Sacred Heart
Houston, Texas



Emily | 11th Grade
Sacred Heart Academy
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania



Gisele | 11th Grade
Stone Ridge School of
the Sacred Heart
Bethesda, Maryland



Ella | 12th Grade
Academy of the
Sacred Heart
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan



Annabelle | 9th Grade
Academy of the
Sacred Heart
Grand Coteau, Louisiana



Aly | 10th Grade
Josephinum Academy
of the Sacred Heart
Chicago, Illinois



Fiona | 10th Grade
Stone Ridge School of
the Sacred Heart
Bethesda, Maryland

A Journey Towards Justice

By Kathryn Heetderks, Director of Formation to Mission at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart and
Michelle Black, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Over the course of the 2021-2022 school year, we held several presentations designed to communicate how our work in diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging intersects with our mission as a Sacred Heart school and our Catholic faith. These presentations were made to employees, parents, and trustees and were a combined effort of Catherine Karrels, Head of School, Michelle Black, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Kathryn Heetderks, Director of Formation to Mission. In a year centered around Goal IV, this collaboration signified that this work is the responsibility of the entire community and is grounded in our mission to bring Christ's heart into the world especially through the building of community as a Christian value. The following article is based on these presentations.

This article was reprinted with permission from Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.

We see our mission and identity as a Sacred Heart school as a gift that defines our diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging philosophy. It is a North Star that guides us in our work when the next steps in our journey towards justice are not always clear. We know that any journey begins with prayer and requires ongoing discernment, preparation, training, and a deep and sustained commitment from all members of the community. We are so grateful for the continued collaboration among all members of the Stone Ridge community: students, alumnae, parents, faculty, staff, administration, and our trustees in this work of journeying together towards justice — even when the road is difficult and the world around us is filled with division and cynicism.

Justice is, and always has been, at the heart of our mission. We continually navigate the dynamic tension between a sense of urgency to right wrongs, and our responsibility to approach this work thoughtfully, and compassionately, with consideration of what all of our students need to be able to grow and flourish. As a Sacred Heart institution, we are committed to engaging in deep discernment and consultative processes. We carefully evaluate curriculum, programming, and any changes to school policies, traditions, and overall culture through the lens of our mission. We value diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as integral elements of who we are as an institution. With the belief that each person is created in the image of God, we are committed to fostering an awareness that impels us to act in the interests of equity and justice for all. We are confident that the Holy Spirit is guiding us as one body in the direction of justice and sustaining us as we grow personally and collectively on this journey together.

Our DEI work has expanded over the last 13 years to include a Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion serving on our management and academic leadership teams and DEI co-leaders serving in each division. Additionally, the board of trustees and alumnae board formed DEI committees to help advance this work. And, we instituted more robust hiring practices to attract candidates dedicated to DEI work in the classroom. Stone Ridge students continue to attend and lead various presentations and DEI activities on campus and beyond. Programming and curriculum are reviewed continually to ensure that we recognize all aspects of diversity throughout the school.

DEI has been a commitment of Stone Ridge for decades. Our most recent experiences have enabled us to explore deeply how the Holy Spirit is calling us related to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging through the lens of our mission. Through our conversations with the community, it is clear that we must create spaces where all community members can grow and learn and stretch with both courage and confidence. The spirit of Goal IV is to encourage diversity of thought, respectful dialogue, and honest and constructive communication. We are committed to making our classrooms and programs ones in which no student feels “called out” or “canceled” because of her opinions or beliefs, but instead “called in” and valued as an

essential member of the community. The Conference of Sacred Heart Education has created Respectful Dialogue resources, and we use these and other resources to develop and institute initiatives to improve listening, dialogue, and relationship building throughout our K-12 experience.

The Foundations of Our DEI Program and Initiatives

We dedicate ourselves to ensuring that DEI programming and initiatives are grounded in our Sacred Heart mission, Catholic Social Teaching, the virtues of our Catholic faith, the Catholic intellectual tradition, and our view of parents as the primary educators of their children on faith and morality. We embark on this journey with trust and hope in God's grace and mercy.

FOUNDATION 1: Our Sacred Heart Mission

The mission of our DEI work reflects the overall mission of Stone Ridge and our identity as a Catholic, independent, Sacred Heart school. The mission statement of the Office of DEI reads, "Rooted in our Catholic faith and the *Goals and Criteria* of Sacred Heart education, Stone Ridge values diversity, equity, and inclusion as an integral element of the community and education. We believe that each person is created in the image of God, and we commit ourselves to fostering an awareness that impels us to act in the interests of equity and justice for all." We draw on the criteria of the *Goals and Criteria* of Sacred Heart education to reflect on and design and implement our DEI work.

FOUNDATION 2: Catholic Social Teaching

Our DEI programs and initiatives are grounded in Catholic Social Teaching and our Sacred Heart tradition, which provide a unifying lens for our conversations about peace and justice issues. Catholic Social Teaching is rooted in the Bible and is responsive to the complex and changing world in which we live. Distinguishing it from other aspects of Catholic moral

teaching, Catholic Social Teaching is specifically related to how we, as a society, engage in the work of caring for one another and our world. This work includes naming the realities at a given point in time, highlighting the dangers to full human flourishing, and critiquing these dangers from the point of view of the Catholic faith. An integral part of Catholic Social Teaching is the process of "see-judge-act," inspired by the words of Saint Pope Paul VI. In our Sacred Heart schools, we describe this as a process of "Pause. Reflect. Discern. Decide. Act." We start with awareness by looking at the world around us and analyze what we see using various sources. We spend time in discernment and prayer and then act. After we act, we return to a period of reflection to evaluate these actions and discern our next steps.

FOUNDATION 3: Catholic Intellectual Tradition

The third foundation of our DEI work is the Catholic intellectual tradition, which combines both faith and reason. In this spirit and the spirit of Goal II, we teach our students to use the gift of their intellect, informed by their faith and conscience, to evaluate information and resources in order to form their own understandings and help them to make informed decisions. Our courses and programs introduce and examine resources and theories in developmentally appropriate ways. Teachers are supported and guided in the process of evaluating approaches to complex conversations by department chairs, division heads, our counseling team, the Director of DEI, and the director of formation to mission in order to ensure that these discussions are done in the light of our Catholic, Sacred Heart identity.



Key leaders of this work are our DEI team consisting of **Michelle Black** and embedded DEI co-leaders in each division: **Katie Mathews Inch '05** (Lower School), **Sally Ingram** and **Bridget Riley** (Middle School), **Barbara Beachler** and **Casey Robertson** (Upper School) and **Susan Coffman-King** (Staff). This team worked over the summer of 2021 to ground themselves in Catholic Social Teaching and Sacred Heart materials related to DEI work, particularly teachings related to our collective responsibility to eradicate social sin. The most essential reading was the book *See, Judge, Act*.

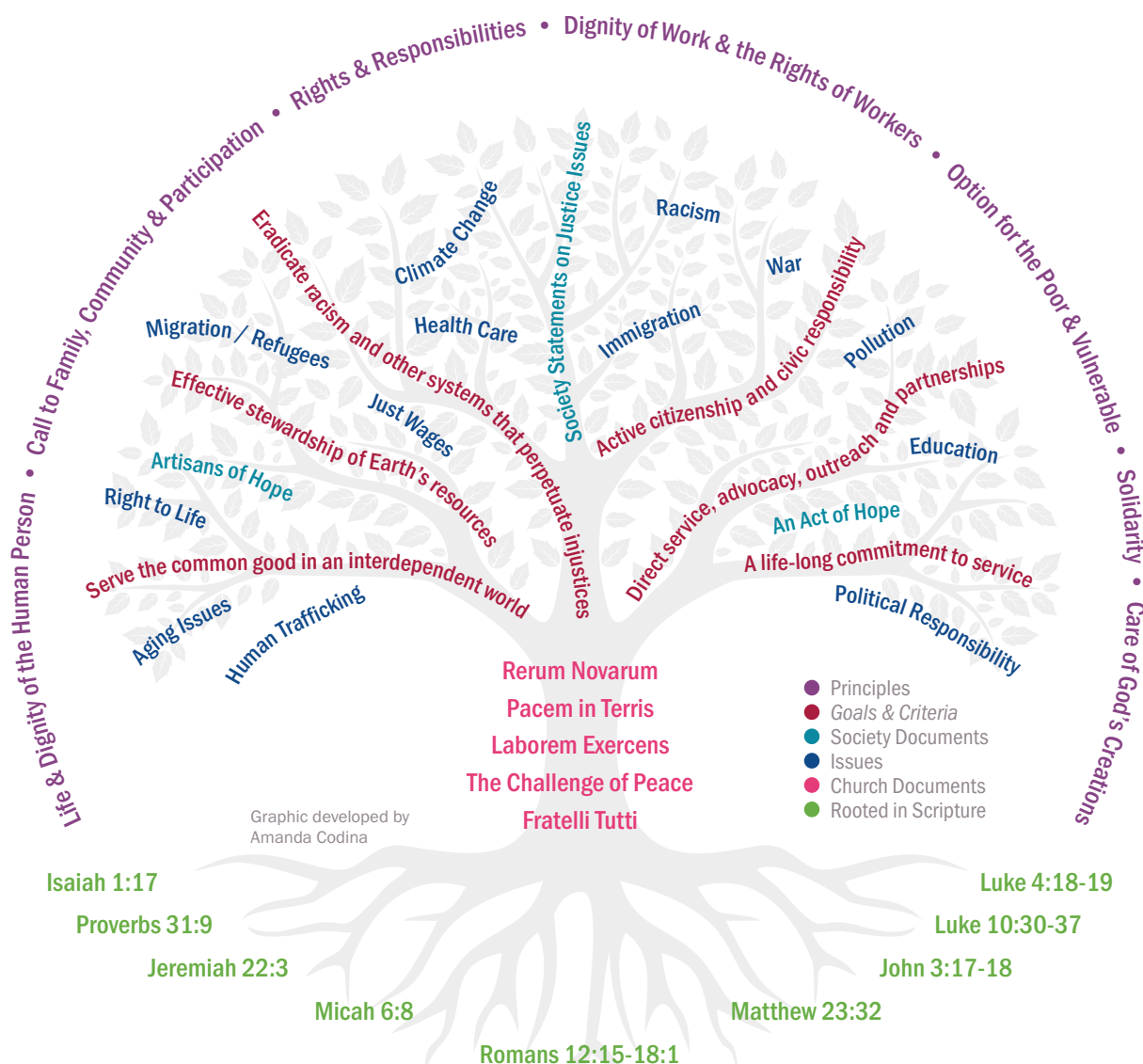
FOUNDATION 4:

Catholic Virtues and Values and the Attitudes of Christ's Heart

Our Catholic virtues and values inspire the fourth pillar in our approach to DEI education. Commonly referred to as “Attitudes of the Heart of Christ” in Sacred Heart schools, all Catholic virtues are present in the heart of Christ and all attitudes of Christ's heart are considered Catholic virtues. All aspects of our school's programming and curriculum are expected to align with Catholic virtues and the attitudes of Christ's heart. Keeping these virtues in mind helps us to ensure that our approach to DEI work, the materials we use, and the programs we develop align with our mission.

We are also called to ensure that we never use virtues to shame or disempower others. We know from history

that aspects of the Christian faith, such as the virtue of patience, have been gravely misused to silence or disempower others. No one should ever be told to tolerate their oppression at the hands of others as a spiritual good. We must evaluate our work within the entirety of the Gospel message to ensure that a virtue is never intentionally or unintentionally misused to advance human desires instead of God's will for us. Three virtues we must call upon often in this work are courage, fortitude, and humility. As the criteria of Goal V remind us, we have to expect that there will be discomfort for both adults and students as we grow. We will not feel good doing this work all the time. Still, programming and initiatives intended to facilitate growth must be designed in the spirit of Christ's loving and merciful heart, which seeks to bring God's children closer together as one body.



Catholic Social Teaching & Sacred Heart Education

FOUNDATION 5:

Parents as the Primary Educators

Each day, parents share the most precious parts of their hearts with us, and this is both a great honor and great responsibility. As a Catholic school we recognize parents as the primary educators of their children on faith and morals. We assume that in choosing Stone Ridge as their child's school, parents are fully aware and committed to our mission. Therefore, as partners in our mission, we welcome open and direct communication from parents. In the spirit of Christ's heart, it is important that communication is direct, charitable (assuming best intent), and open to reconciliation. The building of a foundation of trust between parents and school is at the heart of our ability to work together to build a community where all members feel a sense of deep belonging. Active, transparent, and charitable communication and dialogue in this partnership are essential in building this culture of trust.

Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to:

- I. a personal and active faith in God
- II. a deep respect for intellectual values
- III. a social awareness which impels to action
- IV. the building of community as a Christian value
- V. personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom.

— Five Goals of Sacred Heart education outlined in the *Goals and Criteria*.

FOUNDATION 6:

Trust and Hope in God's Grace and Mercy

Finally, as a community of fallible human beings, try as we might, we know that we will not get all communications, programming, initiatives, and responses to concerns right all of the time. We work to center ourselves in the Holy Spirit, who guides us and inspires us in this work. We seek to coordinate with God's grace — reflecting on where we are called, committing ourselves to excellence in these intentions, and asking to be held accountable to our commitments. We endeavor to navigate the tension between responding immediately to suffering in our community and the need to be thoughtful and deliberate. This work is successful when it begins with, flows from, and is sustained by prayer.

We are surrounded by a culture of division, anger, violence, and noise, where the desire to win an argument often comes before the desire to respond with compassion. Yet we as the Stone Ridge community continually strive to put relationships at our center, even in moments of disagreement. These difficult times are when prayer, compassion, empathy, critical thinking, and dialogue help us serve one another and our mission. The fact that we have wholeheartedly engaged in this work as faculty, staff, administration, parents, students, and alumnae while living through a pandemic — reinventing the industry of education for our students and parenting children through unprecedented times — is a clear sign that we all care deeply about this work. We look forward to our continued dedication, unity, patience, and persistence in this journey. We must move forward together so that we can truly live the mission of bringing Christ's loving and merciful heart into the world.

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart is one of 25 Sacred Heart schools in the Network of Sacred Heart Schools and is located in Bethesda, Maryland.

“Where will our courage, confidence, joy and generosity stem from? The practical conclusion is to let God work God's way upon us, and to correspond with God's grace. The inner life is all in that. God working, we are corresponding, listening to His word that speaks within, commanding, inviting, praising, reproving, asking. That is our real life, going on uninterrupted, which, if we are too busy with exterior things, we lose sight of. An irreparable loss — there is so much to be done, and no time to lose. The work is done in silence, tranquility and recollection, and without them it is not done at all.” — Janet Erskine Stuart, RSCJ

Social Justice by Design

The Stuart Center for Mission Celebrates Ten Years

By Bridget Bearss, RSCJ, Executive Director of the Stuart Center for Mission



“We hear the gospel and know what it means to have eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear, hearts that do not understand. We see our culture of silence that remains silent when the unspeakable needs to be heard.

It is likely that we will change only ourselves, which is perhaps the most important thing. The greatest privilege and blessing of all is the reality that we work with and offer hospitality to so many people, who by the vitality of their faith and compassionate energy, penetrate squarely in the midst of despair and injustice. To be in partnership with such people is a precious gift for which we are ever grateful.”

— Catherine “Kit” Collins, RSCJ

Sister Collins (pictured above) was the founder of the Center for Educational Design and Communication (CEDC).

The Stuart Center for Mission in Washington, D.C., is a place of imagination, interconnection and integration; a space for the intersection of our vision of the past and our confident hope for the future. Here we find an expression for this crossroad in the joy of uncovering and discovering a new sprout of life from the seeds planted in the fertile soil of trust.

When Mary Magdalene encountered the risen Christ, her immediate challenge was to communicate her experience in a way that invited others to comprehend the mystery and to join her in the creation of a community of transformative love and response. Such is the story of the Stuart Center.

The Stuart Center with its life-giving energy of collaboration and partnership connects the mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart across provinces and continents as well as with colleagues from both the nonprofit community and other religious congregations.

Today, the Stuart Center shares a “home address” and a space for both work and programming with the Conference of Sacred Heart Education, the Network of Sacred Heart Schools, and the Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) of the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province. This common footprint allows unique opportunities for connection, collaboration, reflection and to discover pathways for living the Society’s mission with celebration and imagination.

The Stuart Center’s history spans nearly five decades, representing the evolution of ways the Society’s mission invites us all toward a nimble and responsive interaction with new global challenges and the Gospel call.

Nearly 50 years ago, nonprofit organizations and religious congregations needed space for dialogue to create structures responsive to the needs of the time and a way to communicate the messages of this transformative invitation. The Center for Educational Design and Communication (CEDC), a ministry of the Society of the Sacred Heart and now an office of the Stuart Center, became that space and the creative center for new ways of both listening and communicating.

As the Gospel message of the early church was carried across cultures and continents, responsive adaptations were necessary. Similarly, in response to international and congregational shifts, the CEDC, through “social justice by design,” created diverse ways to share messages of truth in ways accessible to the ever-widening tent of the international Society of the Sacred Heart. From analog cameras, cassette recordings and elaborate print layouts to contemporary digital formats and web design, the modalities have changed; but the commitment to the mission of the Society and the link between communication and education for justice have never wavered.

The new millennium, with its shifting boundaries of both geography and technological connection, brought new ways of responding from the Society of the Sacred Heart. In 2012, the Stuart Center opened its doors, and today,

continues to discover new platforms for communication, education, and justice, and to explore pathways to support young adults as leaders of conscience.

The staff at the Stuart Center is excited to launch a year of anniversary celebration!

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Stuart Center for Mission provides a forum for a retrospective reflection on the journey and an eager hope to join in the unfolding future. The fruits of this process will be available in an upcoming fall publication (Fall 2022). This sharing of story and history will provide first-hand accounts of our accompaniment and participation in the life of the Church through partnerships with organizations dedicated to Catholic Social Teaching (ex. Pax Christi USA, Network Lobby, Franciscan Apostolic Network, Catholic Mobilizing Network) and our continuing role in communicating the mission of the Society.

The Stuart Center is not only a testimony to the history on which it stands. Rather, it is a living organism, responsive to the needs of the people of God, while we, as an organization, continue to write new resurrection accounts in our present reality. It is a harbor of hope for the “front-line” workers of the Kingdom, providing a means to discern the ways that we are called to respond to the Gospel in the present moment.

The Stuart Center, through the work of CEDC, continues to provide both the Society of the Sacred Heart and our nonprofit partners with creative innovation for digital and print communication grounded in truth, justice and hope. The Stuart Center Conference Center provides the space for groups related to the Society of the Sacred Heart and our nonprofit partners to gather for reflection, program design, collaboration and celebration.

This 10th anniversary year provides the space for a new dialogue about the needs in this chapter of our global history. Whether our future inspires or requires virtual or in-person gatherings, the Stuart Center provides the hub for a new way of being the heart of God in and for the world.

We imagine ourselves to be that Upper Room where, when the Spirit descended upon the leaders of the early church, they felt themselves eager for the unknown and ready to be the catalysts of a mission far beyond them. Ready to listen deeply to the urgency of the world and the new call of the Spirit, and desiring to awaken the courage needed to speak “when the unspeakable needs to be heard,” we remain faithful to the words that guide our past, present and future from the prophet Micah (6:8).

The Stuart Center is a place where we believe it is possible, both individually and collectively “to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly” with our God.



Recent website projects by CEDC:

Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)
Williams Syndrome
Catholic Mobilizing Network
Memphis Lynching Project
RSCJ International, JPIC Learning Hub
United States – Canada Province, RSCJ.org

Recent graphic design projects by CEDC:

Catholic Climate Covenant: annual report,
Earth Day Program
Catholic Mobilizing Network: Restorative Justice
Engagement Guide
United States – Canada Province: *RSCJ Update*,
Heart, Province Assembly logo, Province Directory
Friendship Public Charter School: event materials

New at the Conference Center:

Hand-sanitizer units throughout building
Building-wide compost and recycling program
Enhanced air filtration system throughout building
Water stations (for water bottle refill)
Three Zoom rooms for enhanced hybrid meetings
New room layouts and tables for easy social
distancing

Recent programs from the Stuart Center:

Our Sacred Heart Story with the Potawatomi People
in Kansas, 1841-79, webinar series
Learning Institute: Course on Popular Education
The *Laudato Si* Action Platform for Religious Orders



A woman washes the feet of Anne-Marie Conn, RSCJ, during a Lenten retreat offered by the Centre.

Barat Spirituality Centre

A Place of Welcome, Spirit & Community

By Kimberly M. King, RSCJ, Director of Barat Spirituality Centre

Barat Spirituality Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, began to offer programming in 2016. From the beginning, it has offered programs related to justice, peace, and integrity of creation (JPIC), a variety of contemporary theological topics, and developing one's personal relationship with God. It provides space for groups and individuals to come for days of silent retreat, spiritual direction, or meetings related to these purposes and topics. The work of the Centre is both an on-going outreach born of the Society of the Sacred Heart's mission and charism to discover and reveal the love of the heart of God in today's world and a way that the Society in Halifax helps to meet the spiritual needs of people in the Sacred Heart family and beyond.

Each time a new group or individual comes to stay or meet at the Centre, I explain that there have been Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) on this property since 1849. The good that has been done here for the last almost 175 years is here for them, and the good that the group or individual brings, discovers, or

reveals, becomes a part of what is offered to those who come in the future.

One of the questions on the evaluation form distributed at the end of programs at Barat Spirituality Centre is, *Overall, how would you describe your experience with Barat Spirituality Centre?*

It's a question that has led to both suggestions for and confirmations of how things are done. During the recent years of "Pandemic Programming" when the offerings of the Centre moved online, this feedback was helpful in knowing how the different Zoom set-ups appeared to participants while we were broadcasting speakers and events from different Centre spaces. Lighting, microphone placement, and camera work all changed in order to enhance the experience of people attending retreats, talks, and workshops from afar.

...a safe and peaceful place for reflection and sharing our life journeys...

The geographic spread of those attending Centre programs has increased significantly as more programming has been offered online and in a hybrid in-person/online model. There have been participants from across Canada from Newfoundland to British Columbia; from Maine to California; Korea, Italy, England, and Northern Ireland. Word of mouth, social media, networks originating with the program leaders, and the publicity created in-house and shared through local channels in and around the province of Nova Scotia and beyond, all help to spread the news about what happens here at Barat Spirituality Centre and invite engagement and participation.

...a resource in my life. I associate it with Truth and Understanding and comfort...

Recent programs that people are responding to include book discussions on works by Richard Rohr and Cynthia Bourgeault, interactive lectures on different theological topics, thematic days of retreat, such as finding hope within the time of the pandemic, and others. These offerings are possible thanks to networks, connections, lay colleagues, and the contribution of the many gifts of those present in the community. Anne-Marie Conn, RSCJ, Donna Dolan, RSCJ, and Mary Finlayson, RSCJ, all work in spiritual direction and accompaniment as well as offer other types of programming, often working with Anne Wachter, RSCJ, and the staff of Sacred Heart School of Halifax conveniently located next door to the Centre.

...I never leave but with increased grace, spiritual energy...

Independent of programming that originates at the Centre, many individual groups use the Centre space for online and in-person gatherings, meetings, times of retreat, or spiritual direction with one of several directors, lay and religious. Groups or individuals seeking the peace of this space include: the Anglican bishop of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia; women Anglican priests; ordinands with the United Church of Canada; a local university chaplain; a conference of military chaplains as well as other members of the military making individual retreats; groups from the Catholic archdiocese; various congregations of women religious; and student/faculty groups from the Sacred Heart School of Halifax. Associates of the Sacred Heart and Associates of other religious congregations in the Atlantic Region of Canada also gather here. There is also a regular community that comes together for Sunday Mass in the chapel, now that COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

...filled with inner peace...

It is a gift to be able to offer this space to others and to know that the cumulative good, the cumulative prayer, the cumulative search for and encounter with the Heart of God in ourselves and in our world, is enriched, extended, and carried forth by each visitor.

Thank you...for creating and sharing this space of welcome, spirit, silence, and community.

I will be back!



(top) A woman quietly journals in the chapel.

(bottom) Junior Primary students from the Sacred Heart School of Halifax plant seeds with Sister Conn (not pictured). The plants would later be given as Mother's Day gifts.

Making Mission Possible:

Staff Serving at The Stuart Center for Mission and Province Spirituality Centers

By The United States – Canada Provincial Team

The Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province, sponsors ministries throughout Canada and the United States that engage in the Society's mission through professional services, education, and spiritual programming and offerings. We wish to recognize in this issue of *Heart* the individuals who work on behalf of The Stuart Center for Mission in Washington, D.C.; Barat Spirituality Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia; the Spiritual Ministry Center in San Diego, California; and Sophie's Well, a virtual spirituality center that ministers to individuals, schools and groups through in-person and online programs. In a future publication, we will feature staff at Province infirmaries and retirement centers.

We are grateful to all members of the Province Staff whose dedication and generosity characterize their engagement in our mission of discovering and revealing God's love in the heart of the world.



THE STUART CENTER FOR MISSION

(top left to right)

Bridget Bearss, RSCJ, Executive Director;
Interim JPIC Coordinator

Vicky Rajca, RSCJ, Director of Finance and Operations
Clara Dorsch Callahan, Director, Conference Center
Reyna González, Director, Educational Initiatives
and Leadership (EIL)

(bottom left to right)

Laryn Kragt Bakker, Director, CEDC
Beth Ponticello, Art Director, CEDC



BARAT SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

(top left – left to right)
Kimberly King, RSCJ, Director
Anne-Marie Conn, RSCJ, Staff

(bottom left – left to right)
Donna Dolan, RSCJ, Staff
Mary Finlayson, RSCJ, Staff



Multiple photos pp. 24-25 © by Jerry Naunheim



SOPHIE'S WELL

(above left to right)
Ann Jablonski, RSCJ, Staff
Jane O'Shaughnessy,
RSCJ, Staff

(left)
Mary Pat White, RSCJ,
Staff



THE SPIRITUAL MINISTRY CENTER

(above left to right)
Regina Shin, RSCJ, Staff
Lisa Buscher, RSCJ, Staff
Marie-Louise Flick, RSCJ, Staff

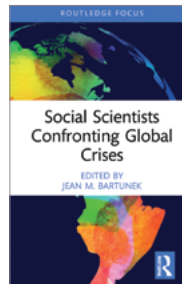


suggested reading

Social Scientists Confronting Global Crises

Edited by Jean M. Bartunek, RSCJ

With contributions from a global array of respected social scientists, this short form book contributes to deep understandings of social phenomena associated with global crises. In illuminating interventions via those dealing with challenges and crises first-hand, the book also shows the ongoing personal development required to address global crises in productive ways.

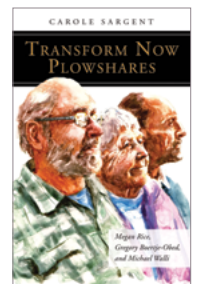


not being able to afford some or all of the care being offered. In such situations, this book provides patients, families, and neighbors with suggested options as they gather to explore possible healthcare decisions.

Transform Plowshares Now: Megan Rice, Gregory Boertje-Obed, and Michael Walli (People of God)

By Carole Sargent, Associate of the Sacred Heart

In July 2012, Sister Megan Rice of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and two Catholic Workers committed the largest breach in United States nuclear security history. As Transform Now Plowshares, they entered Y-12, a nuclear bomb facility in Tennessee, with candles, bread, Bibles, and roses to pray for peace. They followed in the footsteps of Anne Montgomery, RSCJ, who participated in the first Plowshares action in 1980, and others — even swimming to hammer on a Trident nuclear submarine. This book contains a chapter on Sister Montgomery's peace legacy.



The Golden Thread: Making Healthcare Decisions in Neighborhoods

By M. Margaret McDonnell, RSCJ

This book is a tool for those having to make difficult healthcare decisions at home with no available guidance. It is useful if one's financial situation is such that a family is concerned about



BOOK REVIEW

***Cokie: A Life Well Lived* by Steven V. Roberts**

Reviewed by Maureen Glavin, RSCJ

Steven Roberts weaves a wonderful tale of his wife of 53 years, Cokie Roberts, in his easy-to-read book, *Cokie: A Life Well Lived*. Steve does more than merely write about Cokie's interesting and politically connected family or her groundbreaking and remarkable career as journalist, author and public speaker. By augmenting his voice with those of others, Steve adds heart-warming depth and color to his portrayal of Cokie. As the readers make their way through the pages, they come to know Cokie through her relationships as wife, mother, friend, colleague and neighbor. What emerges is the portrait of a faith-filled, God-centered, intelligent, generous, courageous woman whose life choices inspire us to want to emulate her. As a Religious of the Sacred Heart reading the book, I am proud that Cokie was a child of the Sacred Heart and feel both grateful and blessed that she remained a lifelong friend of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Hers was indeed a life well lived!



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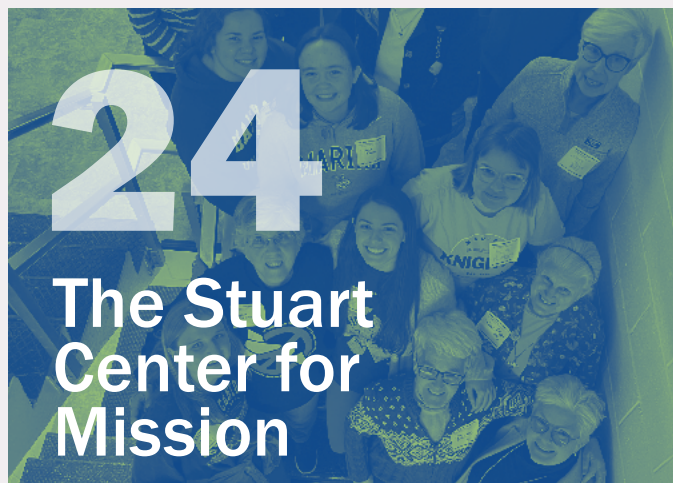
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