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# heart

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 Province 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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# from the Provincial

## Dear Friends and Family of the Sacred Heart,

Each issue of *Heart* allows us to tell stories of members of the Family of the Sacred Heart living our shared mission of revealing God’s love in the world. This message is so important now in the face of so much confusion, violence and suffering. During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, *Heart* is one way we demonstrate, through stories of action, how the stunning act of love, God’s decision to become one of us in the person of Jesus Christ, inspires many to be the love of the Sacred Heart within the world. Our hope is that these narratives awaken in our readers both the courage and confidence to believe in the one absolute in our lives – God’s love.

Our world is constantly changing and demanding a fresh response. The Society of the Sacred Heart’s founder, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, placed such confidence in the potential of young people that she insisted that Religious of the Sacred Heart take a fourth vow, to educate youth. In this way, she ensured that the main purpose of the Society would never change. Advent and Christmas are ideal seasons for all of us to pray for the children and young people in our lives. Their dreams and hopes need support and affirmation. Encouraging them so that they may discover the significance of their lives is so important if we are to participate creatively in the common effort to transform the world into a world reflective of the attitudes of Christ’s Heart.

During this season of joy, we want to thank all of you who have supported us through sharing your talent, time, and treasure. Your acts of generosity have enabled us to extend the Society’s mission further into the world. We thank you all for your commitment to the vision of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, for your kindness and your gracious support.

May this holy time of year allow us the space and time to listen in the silence of our hearts to the Spirit within so that we may know what ways we can communicate God’s love for the sake of the human family and all of creation.

United in One Heart,

Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ



During this season of joy, we want to thank all of you who have supported us through sharing your talent, time, and treasure. Your acts of generosity have enabled us to extend the Society’s mission further into the world.”



# In Memoriam

*Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;  
let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them.*

**Patricia Tighe Reid, RSCJ**

OCTOBER 18, 2022

**Stephany Veluz, RSCJ**

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

**Jan Dunn, RSCJ**

MARCH 27, 2023

**Shelley Lawrence, RSCJ**

MAY 29, 2023



**Helen Rosenthal, RSCJ**

JANUARY 19, 2023

**Lucie Nordmann, RSCJ**

MARCH 12, 2023

**Nancy Ghio, RSCJ**

MARCH 31, 2023

**Martha Curry, RSCJ**

JULY 26, 2023

**Rosemary Bearss, RSCJ**

OCTOBER 31, 2023

**Lillian "Lil" Conaghan, RSCJ**

FEBRUARY 4, 2023

**Carol Campbell, RSCJ**

MARCH 19, 2023

**Merle Pedersen, RSCJ**

APRIL 18, 2023

**Nancy Lassotovitch, RSCJ**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023



*Full obituaries may be viewed at [rscj.org/in-memoriam](http://rscj.org/in-memoriam)*

## Remembering Robert Pearl



Our dear friend Robert Pearl died on April 25, 2023. Robert was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, whose Potawatomi name was Kiwezi, which means “honored person.” He was also a World War II veteran.

He was a gracious and generous man, who along with his daughter, Janet Pearl, joined in the planning of our province’s 2017-18 bicentennial celebrations as well as participated in many of the events that year, sharing with the Sacred

Heart Family the rich history and stories about Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne.

Notably, in 2018, Robert and Janet led the procession of Religious of the Sacred Heart, Associates of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and educators

and students from across the Network of Sacred Heart Schools into the Cathedral in St. Louis for the Bicentennial liturgy held in Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne’s honor. Subsequently, Robert and Janet invited members of the Sacred Heart Family to participate in the Trail of Death Caravan, a journey that occurs every five years to retrace the steps of and remember those Potawatomi — especially the many who died — who were forcibly marched from their home in Twin Lakes, Indiana, to lands given to them in Kansas.

Robert hailed from a tight-knit Catholic family who joined in the petition for Philippine’s canonization. Delighted when she was canonized in 1988, Robert had often said, “Philippine was always a saint to me.”

We extend our deep and heartfelt gratitude for the gift of Robert’s life and all that he shared with the Society and our entire Sacred Heart Family. Our hearts and prayers go out to Janet and the entire Pearl family.

# Sponsorship

## A Sacred Relationship in Trust

### THE PROVINCIAL TEAM'S COMMITMENT TO TRUSTEE FORMATION

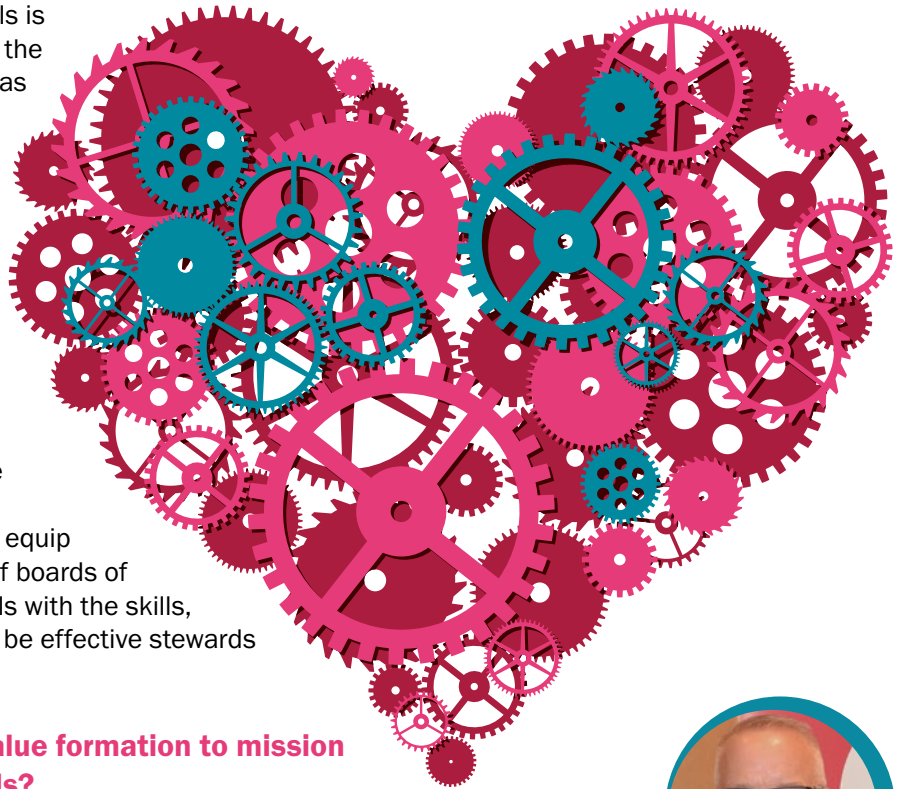
By Suzanne Cooke, RCSJ, and Erin Everson, Communications Project Manager for the Society of the Sacred Heart United States – Canada Province

Leadership within Sacred Heart schools is both an art and a science informed by the Society of the Sacred Heart's mission as articulated in the *Goals and Criteria*. The mission integrity of Sacred Heart schools is rooted in a mutual act of trust. To build trust, knowledge and competence are key.

Each October, in addition to the Network of Sacred Heart Schools Fall Member Meeting, the United States – Canada Province of the Society, through the Conference of Sacred Heart Education, sponsors the Trustee Education to Mission Conference. This conference offers essential training to equip trustees, heads of school and chairs of boards of trustees from Network member schools with the skills, information and knowledge needed to be effective stewards of the Society's mission.

#### **Why does the Provincial Team value formation to mission of the leaders of Network schools?**

This annual conference is a unique gathering of Network school leaders and Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) for the purpose of probing each of the goals and criteria in order to ensure mission integrity in each Sacred Heart school community. The Society's founder, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, considered the service of education the primary means by which the Society would carry on its mission of communicating the love of God. Today, the Society defines this educational mission in the Catholic Church in the *Goals and Criteria*. This statement of purpose – most recently revised in 2020 – articulates the commitment of RSCJ and educators of the Sacred Heart to work with young people to build a world reflective of the attitudes of Christ's Heart. Thus, quality formation, or education, to mission programs for trustees, heads of school and board chairs are essential if the boards of trustees of Network member schools are to ensure that the Society's mission and Sophie's vision are alive in the *Goals and Criteria*.



**“Not only did we pray, learn, and discuss important issues about sponsorship and Sacred Heart trusteeship, we also, and perhaps most importantly, deepened our relationships with one another.”**

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



**“Effective trusteeship and visionary leadership are part of a shared trust in Sacred Heart schools. The meeting with RSCJ, our heads of school and the Provincial Team gave us the opportunity to explore the responsibilities, accountability and practices that assure the continuation of Saint Madeleine Sophie’s vision now and in the future. It was most exciting!”**

– Sheila Haggas, Executive Director of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools



### **Sponsorship of the Schools**

As canonical leaders, the Provincial Team of the Society – the Provincial and three other RSCJ – entrusts the boards of trustees of each school with the authority and responsibility to govern its school in light of the *Goals and Criteria*; Each head of school receives her or his authority from the appointment to her or his office by the board of the school. The province holds each board responsible to ensure that the Society’s mission to discover and reveal God’s love through the service of education is lived within the school according to the *Goals and Criteria*. In this way, the Society “sponsors” each Network member school. The Provincial Team in the role of sponsor holds all who bear the Society’s name accountable to ensure the vitality and integrity of mission. In turn, Society-sponsored ministries contribute to deepening and advancing the Society’s mission in the world.

### **Special Gathering of RSCJ Trustees**

RSCJ serving as trustees on boards of Network member schools have long wanted to gather in person and probe more deeply their unique role as trustees. This year, ahead of the annual conference and Network meeting, the Provincial Team asked Nat Wilburn, Head of the Conference of Sacred Heart

Education, to design a two-day program for RSCJ trustees and those lay mission partners who serve as provincial designee trustees. Many heads of school also attended this pre-conference program.

Topics such as the essential duties of trustees, implications for trustees of sponsorship, the appreciation of accountability as an act of stewardship and finances at the services of mission enhanced participants’ understanding of governance. This time together proved to be beneficial because RSCJ, trustees, board chairs and heads of school had time and opportunities to probe a shared understanding of mission and sponsorship as well as to explore their unique responsibilities. Learning in common helped everyone appreciate the extraordinary gift that the Society’s mission, to discover and reveal God’s love, offers us at this critical moment in time.

### **Sacred Heart Education – Sacred Covenant on Behalf of Young People**

Each year the Trustee Education to Mission Conference focuses on a theme. This year, attention was given to Generation Z, young people between the ages of 11 and 26. The keynote speaker, Dr. Angela Patterson, head writer and editor

(above) Sister Cooke (left) with Superior General Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, and Sheila Hammond, RSCJ (right)

(left to right) Trustees, Heads of School and RSCJ gather for community and conversation between program sessions.

Photos © Linda K. Behrens



**“As RSCJ trustees, we have a particular duty to be mindful of our charism to know and make known the Love of Christ in a mutual relationship with those with whom we serve on the boards of trustees. We can also help boards ensure that the spirit of the Goals and Criteria informs board decisions and policies.”**

– Mary Bernstein, RSCJ Trustee serving on the board at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart (Lake Forest, Illinois)

at Springtide Research Institute, shared data regarding adolescents and young adults and their experience of and attitude toward religion and spirituality as well as insights about the mental health of young people. This interactive presentation allowed all to examine and discuss the connections between the needs of young people and a Sacred Heart education rooted in the *Goals and Criteria*.

Dr. Michael Horan, professor emeritus of theological studies (Pastoral Theology and Religious Education) at Loyola Marymount University, also spoke, and challenged everyone present to see the *Goals and Criteria* as the ideal lens through which to examine insights gleaned from the first presentation. It became clear that the Society’s mission as articulated in the *Goals and Criteria* continues to have the potential to address the many needs of young people today. These discussions impelled all gathered to consider both the gift offered in the *Goals and Criteria* and the tremendous responsibility of each one to be a thoughtful steward of this vision of education.

### **Mission Centered Boards – Final Insights**

Mission-centered boards operate from the premise that comprehending the total scope of the school’s challenges, possibilities and issues necessitates a depth of listening and reflection rooted in silence and attentiveness to the Society’s mission. Board members have a keen sense of vision and purpose. Effective boards and heads of school ensure the school’s fidelity to mission through three means: sound governance, education to mission, and accountability for mission through the Provincial Team.

In being faithful to our Sacred Heart legacy, school leaders understand that authority is grace-filled. Effective Sacred Heart leaders, be they heads of school, trustees or provincial teams, draw on their personal relationship with Mystery and find the right path to influence and lead Sacred Heart school communities through the inspiration of the Spirit dwelling within their hearts. The first and primary source of “authority” to govern and lead in

the context of Sacred Heart schools comes from one’s relationship with God, with Christ, with the Holy Spirit, with Mystery. One cannot hold in trust the values of the *Goals and Criteria* and lead in the spirit of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat without a sense of inner life and prayer.

### **A Special Word to our Readers and Benefactors**

The Provincial Team is so grateful to our readers and benefactors for recognizing the significant role Network school leaders play in ensuring the vitality of Sacred Heart education. The support of so many made this year’s Trustee Education to Mission Conference an effective and engaging experience. We know now that inviting the RSCJ and those provincial designee trustees is essential as we move forward.

To learn more about or read the *Goals and Criteria* visit [sacredheartusc.education/mission/goals-and-criteria](https://sacredheartusc.education/mission/goals-and-criteria)



# Making Clear the Way

By Brooks Zitzmann, pilgrim, former Anne Montgomery House community member

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.” — Jesus (Matthew 13:31-32)

The Camino de Santiago mustard seed appeared in an unusual place: a hidden-away office in an old basement. Fred, a social work faculty member emeritus whose office was across from mine, would wander in periodically, always with a twinkle in his eyes. One day in the fall of 2018, Fred invited me to sit in his office, and I noticed a shell. He told me this was a symbol of the Camino de Santiago, which he had walked twice. As his stories spilled out, I was struck by the beauty of this pilgrimage — days of traveling simply, encountering fellow pilgrims, marveling in the Spanish countryside, allowing the heart-mind-body-spirit to realign as one walked toward the resting place of Saint James. It all spoke to what I love, and from that day on, I knew the Camino called me.

But life as a first-year faculty member that year was wildly busy, and before I knew it, the COVID-19 pandemic had set in. I moved home to New Orleans to work remotely, and all journeys were put on hold. And in that time, some feelings crept into me. Perhaps you felt them, too? Something like a hesitancy to explore, a reluctance to move about as we once had, perhaps even self-doubt about your abilities.

Even when vaccinations allowed movement to resume, I was not back to my usual adventurous self. Something quite subtle had shifted within me. Despite this, the idea of the Camino kept whispering to me. And so, one day in 2022, while I was talking to Diane Roche, RSCJ, I mentioned this Camino dream. And that was the unpredictable moment when the seed coat broke open.

Diane and I had explored together before. In July of 2022, we had joined Maureen Glavin, RSCJ, and Diane’s nephew, Nick, to hike Mount Marcy in the Adirondacks in honor of Maureen’s late father. Diane and I had done bike tours at the arboretum in Washington, D.C. and across the city of New Orleans. When I described the Camino, she immediately had a spark of excitement about the idea and moved into action. She would soon discuss the possibility



with Reyna González, RSCJ, about partnering with SacredHeartDNA, the Society’s newest young adult ministry initiative. She would then reach out to the local D.C. listserv of young adults connected to the Anne Montgomery House and the Stuart Center, a Society sponsored ministry also in D.C. Within 48 hours, ten young adults had expressed interest in the pilgrimage!

This simple conversation, in the fertile soil of a friendship with an RSCJ — one spanning more than a decade — helped the mustard seed begin to germinate.

Over the next few weeks, Diane and I dreamed together. We wanted to pursue a Camino path (there are several) that would be time contained so folks would not have to take off more than a week of work. We aimed for a final group of about five to ten participants to embark on this journey in mid-May following graduations.

I watched Diane do what she does so well — prepare for a wonderful celebration! She identified “the English Way” as the path that made the most sense for our group’s needs. She lovingly read and researched the



towns along the way and considered where to stop. She typed out an itinerary. She contacted Muffie, the travel agent who works with the RSCJ, to coordinate group flights. We coordinated a group meeting with my colleague Fred to talk through logistics. We also conducted a group practice hike one afternoon following Mass at the Carmelite monastery in Baltimore. The mustard seed's sapling was taking root and growing shoots.

Then, quite unexpectedly, I had several life events arise that conflicted with our plans to hike the Camino. This conflict that meant that I would not be able to walk with the group had me feeling quite disappointed. I called Diane to explain the circumstances, and she was gracious as always. The group would carry on as planned, and they kindly allowed me to stay on the group's WhatsApp thread, so I had a peek into their journey.

Still determined to go (and with airline credits that had to be used within the year), I worked with Muffie to reschedule. I was able to complete the Camino on a solo trip in late July 2023. I walked the path our group had walked just two months earlier, "the English Way," also known as "the Celtic Way." As I walked, I knew I was following in the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims. I also knew there was one pilgrim in particular who had cleared this path and offered me the courage to set my feet in motion.

This is the kingdom of God. The friendship, networks, loving presence, and courage of the RSCJ led to this generative experience. The seed of an idea and hope in my heart had a place to be shared. Then, beyond my imagining, it grew, touching into the hearts of others. That seed, lovingly shared and received, blossomed into an experience for a whole group of young people. And for me, going alone actually offered opportunities to come back to myself, to heal and grow out of the shadow that had seeped in. But it was the love and inspiration of the RSCJ pilgrims before me that provided precisely what I needed to enact the Camino dream planted in my heart years before. How grateful am I now, a bird come to perch in the branches of this lovely tree in full-bloom.



Read more about this experience from a participant who hiked El Camino de Santiago in May 2023 at [rscj.org/camino-reflection](https://rscj.org/camino-reflection)



Sister Roche (lower right) and young pilgrims gather around a marker on "the English Way."



# exploring his

## THE HUMAN AND

### The Shrine of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne

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

The foundation of Sacred Heart education is relational, and Christ is at the center of all relationships. Through these relationships, young people are formed in faith, compassion and hope. It is within this context that the renovation of the historic 1835/1840 convent and school building in St. Charles, Missouri, was conceived.

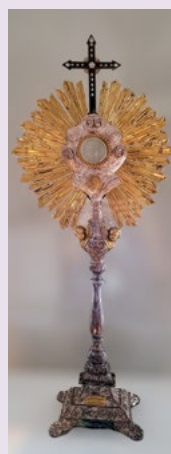
This newly renovated area now provides for a multi-dimensional experience. Each room has a specific focus and honors Sacred Heart education and the early lives of the Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ), especially Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne. The students and RSCJ who are part of the Academy of the Sacred Heart's long history come alive through photographs and memorabilia. New and updated displays bring Sacred Heart history beyond words on a page. Items as simple as a book from the first days of the school spark questions. *What was life like in 1835? What did students learn and what challenges did they face?*

A glimpse into Philippine's cell (bedroom), where she lived in her final years and died, invites conversations beyond her life achievements. It is her humanness that is powerful and relatable. I witness this when children spontaneously place their hands on the floor of Philippine's living quarters. I see them experience something profound, and her presence can be felt. I am reminded to ask: *What can we learn from Philippine and how are we being called and challenged to live in today's world?*

The historic area gives us an opportunity to remember and explore the Society's past, while also embracing its future and finding our place in building that future. The 205-year history of the Academy in St. Charles is a testament to the ongoing appreciation of the Society's tradition and Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's educational vision. We now hope this renovated space, which complements the Shrine of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, is able to touch the hearts of youth in new ways and inspire us all.

*These renovations were made possible thanks to the generous financial support of many. Thank you!*

Explore the Shrine and newly renovated historic area now at [rscj.org/shrine/virtualtour](https://rscj.org/shrine/virtualtour)



# For HOLY



Sacred Heart students from around the world visit the RSCJ Cemetery.



A student creates a rubbing of an RSCJ headstone.

## Le Petit Musée & the Shrine of Saint John Berchmans

By Caroline Richard, Director of Le Petit Musée and Shrine of Saint John Berchmans

Founded in 1821, the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, boasts the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating Sacred Heart school in the world. While this fact on its own is notable, the real value lies in the ability for students to learn and grow within this historical context. Walking through 200-year-old doorframes, praying in worn cypress pews, studying under giant oak trees — these provide so much more than a trip down memory lane or nostalgia for a storied past. They allow us to look for the themes that connect us, to walk in the footsteps and explore the humanness of those who came before us.

Throughout the year, students at the Academy as well as those visiting from Sacred Heart Network schools tour *Le Petit Musée*, a museum located in what was once the Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) community's cloistered quarters. Each week, they worship inside a chapel in which two enslaved men skilled in masonry laid the stone foundation. Locations such as these allow students the opportunity to do more than just learn the facts of our history.

Inside the museum, early artifacts such as oil lamps, fluting irons and book presses prompt discussions in how labor-intensive life once was. Reading the headstones in the RSCJ cemetery, students learn about the fragility of life on the frontier and the dedication of these women to their mission. Old school books, prize ribbons and photographs of girls playing games at an early congé help students make connections to Sacred Heart traditions.

Reading bills of sale and excerpts from Society of the Sacred Heart records on display, students learn who



Students from the Academy in New Orleans visit the Shrine in Grand Coteau.

the enslaved men, women and children were and what it meant to be an enslaved person in Louisiana. They discuss the painful reality for Frank Hawkins, the first enslaved person purchased by the convent, to have been separated from his family and brought to Louisiana against his will. They discuss what reconciliation means in relation to the Society of the Sacred Heart's attempts to acknowledge this history and bring it to light.

In addition to the museum, students visit the Shrine of Saint John Berchmans, a small chapel built on the site of the 1866 miracle in which an RSCJ postulant (new sister) was cured of a deadly illness. Spending time in this quiet place and hearing the story of the miracle allow students to reflect not only on the power of faith and prayer, but to open themselves to the possibility of miracles in their everyday lives.

The great value in exposing our young people to these stories is not to glorify the past, but instead to recognize many of the same themes in their own lives. Themes such as faith, perseverance and reconciliation, prevalent since the founding of the school, help us see those who came before us in different lights. It is in this way that our history and our predecessors become more tangible, more human.

To learn more about the Miracle at Grand Coteau visit [rscj.org/gcmiracle](https://rscj.org/gcmiracle)



# WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023: an adventure of the

By Itzel González, Yannina González Samilpa, Bella McCartney, and Karla Reyes, SacredHeartDNA core team members

*Belong & Act as One: Discovering our SacredHeartDNA* is the story of a great adventure; a journey of courage, of will, and above all, of love. Directed by SacredHeartDNA — a province sponsored young adult ministry initiative — the “Belong and Act as One” program unfolded into a transformative journey across the picturesque cities of Rome and Lisbon, where young participants explored their shared heritage, beliefs and dreams as members of the Sacred Heart Family.

The program started in Rome, where we gathered at the historic Villa Lante. This sacred space was once graced by the sojourns of our mother and founder, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat. Against this backdrop, 28 young adults and Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) from Chile, Mexico, Poland and the United States embarked on an exploration of the history and core values of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

As we each shared our own stories, listened to Society and SacredHeartDNA leaders, and delved into the wisdom of the past, we started to walk a journey of

belonging and community together, living and learning each day and discovering our own Sacred Heart DNA in the process.

We continued exploring history as we were treated to an intimate encounter with Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat through artifacts and her hand-written letters, thanks to the archivists at the General Archives located in the Villa Lante. We also experienced a deep spiritual journey. We attended Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica, where a statue of Madeleine Sophie stands as a testament to her enduring legacy.

We all had the opportunity to visit and admire the original fresco of *Mater Admirabilis* at the Trinità dei Monti, an experience that definitely left an indelible mark on each one of us, allowing us to witness the beauty of our Sacred Heart heritage.

During our time in Rome, we met members of the Society of the Sacred Heart’s General Council: Marie-Jeanne Elonga, RSCJ; Mónica (Bodo) Esquivel, RSCJ; Anne Corry, RSCJ and Superior General Barbara



(left to right) Yannina, Sebastián and Katerina at World Youth Day festivities.

## FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

### Sebastián Garciarce Mexico

Before embarking on this journey to the World Youth Day in Lisbon with the SacredHeartDNA group, my perception of SacredHeartDNA was relatively limited. I knew it was an organization associated with the Catholic Church, and I knew the members were focused on promoting the love of God in the world. However, it was an abstract concept for me, something I hadn't deeply connected with on a personal level.

Now, after this transformative journey, SacredHeartDNA holds a profoundly different meaning for me. It's no longer just an organization; it's a vibrant community of individuals dedicated to living out the mission of revealing God's love. Through the shared experiences in Rome and Lisbon, I've come to understand that SacredHeartDNA is about fostering connections, building relationships, and spreading love and compassion throughout the world. It's about embodying the values of empathy, kindness, and unity.

The most significant aspect of this experience, both in Rome and Lisbon, was the sense of belonging and shared purpose within the group. Being surrounded by like-minded individuals from Mexico, Chile, the United States, and Poland created a sense of global unity and solidarity that I hadn't experienced before. We laughed together, prayed together, and explored the rich cultural diversity of these historic cities as a family.

Through this journey, my understanding of the Society of the Sacred Heart's mission has evolved. It's not just about words; it's about action. It's about living a life that exemplifies love, compassion, and service to others. It's about reaching out to those in need and making a positive impact on the world.

Yes, this experience has had a profound effect on me. I now feel a stronger connection to my faith, a heightened awareness of the global community, and a renewed determination to promote love and kindness in all my pursuits.

# the heart

Dawson, RSCJ. Each sister's presence and participation added depth to our exploration our SacredHeartDNA by examining the roots and essence of this cherished community.

This first part of the "Belong and Act as One" program in Rome was not only crucial for enrichment of our knowledge about our personal roots and DNA and the history of the Society of the Sacred Heart, but vital for the development of a strong community as young adults alongside several RSCJ. We quickly became a community rooted in our shared faith and love of God. This group of 28 participants from four different countries became ONE BODY, developing a close-knit bond while in Rome.

After four days together, we were ready to take the next step, discovering what it means and feels to belong to something bigger — the Church — alongside some two million pilgrims who would be participating in World Youth Day 2023.

# FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

## Emily Hart United States

I have never doubted that I have Sacred Heart DNA. As a “lifer” at Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr, my identity has been inextricably linked to Sacred Heart for most of my life. The “Belong and Act as One” pilgrimage, however, has shown me that there truly is an invisible, yet powerful, global connection that binds all members of the Sacred Heart community. It doesn’t matter how long someone has been a part of the Sacred Heart Family; we’re all united by a common desire to learn, share and discover ways we can make the world a better place.

For me as a 2023 graduate, this trip was particularly meaningful because it illustrated the ways that individuals can embody the values of Sacred Heart outside of an academic environment. It was wonderful to interact with the Religious of the Sacred Heart from around the world, and with important individuals within the Society who live out the five goals of Sacred Heart education and the mission of the Society, every day. The passion and knowledge of the RSCJ allowed me to feel the history and mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart as I never have before.

A particularly meaningful experience I had in Rome was discovering the statue of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat within the walls of the Vatican, commissioned by Sacred Heart alumnae/i. Her figure stands high in a niche, only visible to those who know where to look. This depiction of Sophie is a physical representation of the power that the Sacred Heart community holds when driven by a shared goal. Despite the fact that our group was composed of people of multiple cultures, generations and languages, we were able to bond together as a family for our journey of spirituality and self-discovery.

Moving forward, I’m confident that my Sacred Heart DNA will allow me to move through life as an independent thinker who has a desire to make meaningful change in the world.



Emily (right) and fellow participants pose with Sister Dawson.





Our journey continued in Portugal with a visit to the revered shrine of Our Lady of Fátima, a place of pilgrimage and reflection. We pondered the messages of the gospel and the importance of embracing simplicity and love, learning valuable lessons from the perspective of children. This day trip exposed us to touching moments, such as appreciation of a fragment of the Berlin Wall. Alicia Luevano, a participant from México, shared that, for her, this symbolized the breaking down of barriers and the victory of unity over division.

The pinnacle of the program was World Youth Day with Pope Francis in Lisbon, where, over the course of several days, we joined young adult pilgrims from all corners of the globe to listen to Pope Francis's message of love and inclusion. The Way of the Cross and moments of Eucharistic Adoration were profound experiences, in which members of our group found solace and unity in the presence of the Sacred Heart.

The SacredHeartDNA group also participated with a booth in the Vocations Fair "City of Joy," which took place over two days at World Youth Day. This event allowed us to directly spread the Society's mission to other pilgrims and invite them to learn about the SacredHeartDNA initiative. Through conversations, sharing personal journeys and bonding moments with others throughout the Sacred Heart family and beyond, the goals and values of the Society and the program appealed to young pilgrims.

At the conclusion of the program, all participants received pins and certificates, becoming "SacredHeartDNA Ambassadors" and taking with them important guiding determinations—always and everywhere we go:

- to have the will to appreciate in others that special DNA that far transcends our reason and our expectations;
- to be willing to allow ourselves to change;
- to allow ourselves to grow and evolve and wonder;
- to search, to plant our roots across borders;
- to conquer hearts and overcome difficulties;
- to turn obstacles into motors and not into chains;
- to know our differences and use them to unite and not to separate ourselves;
- to make us stronger;
- to be willing to work to create a better world; and
- to create a space where all have a place to live and grow in the confidence of love.

We commit to all of this because, after all, it is in our Sacred Heart DNA!

To get a closer look at the "Belong and Act as One" experience, watch our video series at [rscj.org/shdna-media](https://rscj.org/shdna-media)



## DONOR PROFILE

# Greater Together

By Jane Steinfelds, Associate of the Society of the Sacred Heart, Director of Formation to Mission and Campus Ministry at Sacred Heart Schools (Sheridan Road) in Chicago, and Provincial Designee Trustee at Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart in Chicago

*Jane has been a monthly donor to the Society of the Sacred Heart since 2016.*



I have known that Sacred Heart is a place unlike any other since I first walked through the front doors and became a student at Sheridan Road. While my great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother — each alumna of Sacred Heart schools — laid a foundation for my connection to our Sacred Heart Family, my experience as a student at Sheridan Road truly formed me to become the person that I am today. I am grateful to my teachers and the Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ), especially our former principal and director, Marie Buonato, RSCJ, (who also taught my mother in second grade at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart). Each of them helped me to discover my gifts and talents — and how to share them with others. Returning to Sheridan Road in 2000 as campus minister, I was excited to share what I had received during my formative years with current students.

As Sacred Heart educators, we seek to form the whole child, giving our students possibilities for growth, an understanding of the importance of relationships, a call to serve others in our community, experiences to grow in faith, and opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. As a Sacred Heart alumna, educator, and past parent, I know that these aspects of education are most influential in the development of the children in our care — and often form the memories and attitudes they will carry with them after they graduate.

I have also been grateful for the opportunity to be a part of a larger Sacred Heart community, and to collaborate with many others who share the same values and spirit in our ministry of education. I have witnessed the transformative education of our students in Network of Sacred Heart Schools summer service projects and the growth of faculty and staff as Sacred Heart leaders through the Network's Aspiring Leaders Program.

I value my relationships with Religious of the Sacred Heart, Associates, and educators from across the Sacred Heart Family, and I welcome opportunities to work together. Through my vocation as an educator, an Associate, and a provincial designee trustee, and through my experience on the team of EncounterPoint, an RSCJ ministry in Chicago, among other ministries,



(top) Jane speaking at a justice event as a high school student at Sheridan Road, 1991.

(bottom) Jane (middle top row) gathered with fellow Associates and RSCJ for a meeting in 2011.

I know well many of the ways the Sacred Heart Family strives to live Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's vision today. Just as educators are more successful when we collaborate, we, as a Sacred Heart Family, can accomplish more, together, through shared efforts. This is why I have chosen, alongside many others who share in our mission, to be a monthly donor to the Society of the Sacred Heart. I know, personally, the potential Sacred Heart education has to transform community members as well as those the community touches through our commitment to the Society's mission to discover and make known the love of the heart of Christ.



# Courage & Collaboration:

## Discerning the Future of Our New Province

By Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ

**The mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart is to discover and reveal God's love in the heart of the world through the service of education.** By virtue of our vocation, 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. In our *Constitutions*, 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.

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 our founder Madeleine Sophie Barat and Rose Philippine Duchesne responded in their time. The desire to act as one with our mission partners as we respond to the urgent needs of people has prompted Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) across the globe to engage in a discernment process of re-visioning how we organize ourselves. The intention of this reconfiguration is to sustain the life and mission of the Society at the local level and to reinforce our being and acting as *One Body* across the international Society.

As we look to the future, we in United States – Canada Province have been called to create a new province with our sisters and mission partners in the Provinces of The Antilles and Mexico. An important moment in this journey of discernment occurred this past September when the three Provincial Teams of these regions and countries met in Mexico City.

Together, we shared our hopes and dreams for how a new province community of five countries (Canada, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico and the United States) might foster our mission in new and creative ways. Given the many years that these leadership teams have met as a group known as ANAM (Antilles, North America and Mexico), this gathering was a natural way to respond to the invitation to imagine how closer collaboration as RSCJ and lay mission partners across borders will strengthen our ability to respond to the anguish we see across the globe.

Our time together was charged with energy. Shared essential values such as co-responsibility, collaboration, integration, transformation and subsidiarity came alive as we shared our stories of ministries and community life. We spoke about how our sisters and mission partners feel and think about the possibility of this future province. We began to plan ways for us to learn about the lives and the contexts within which we live and serve. As we listened to one another, we recognized that forging a future province together entails both possibility and challenge, and simultaneously creates such a synergy that we are confident our coming together will enhance our capacity to work for the transformation of our world, reflecting Christ's vision for humanity and creation.

As we look forward, we are committed to building this new Province through fostering communication and exchange as well as collaborative planning. Hope, courage and confidence characterize all that we are doing because we know that this transformation is ultimately the work of the Spirit of God.



(top) Pilar Guallart, RSCJ (right), Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ (middle), and a colleague visit Cuanala, near Puebla, Mexico.

(bottom) RSCJ working hard on plans for the future.



# Installations & Celebrations ACROSS

## **1** CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART (91ST STREET) NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

During the school's annual Mass of the Holy Spirit, the 91st Street community welcomed and installed Kate D. Adams (left) as the new Head of School. Board Chair Jackie Mitchell (right) and Fran de La Chapelle, RSCJ (middle), presided at the installation ceremony.

*Photo courtesy of Convent of the Sacred Heart*

## **2** DUCHESNE ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART HOUSTON, TEXAS

Religious of the Sacred Heart Donna Collins, Sharon Karam, Ann Caire, Provincial Suzanne Cooke, and Juliet Mousseau joined the Duchesne community to welcome and install Hillary Feerick-Hillenbrand (middle) as new Head of School this past fall.

*Photo © Lynn Pennington Photography*

## **3** THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL OF MONTREAL MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The Sacred Heart School of Montreal welcomed and honoured Patricia Briand (middle) as new Head of School during the

celebration of Mass of the Holy Spirit. Nat Wilburn (right), Head of the Conference of Sacred Heart Education, attended the installation as a representative of the Society of the Sacred Heart United States – Canada Province.

*Photo courtesy of The Sacred Heart School of Montreal*

## **4** CARROLLTON SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART MIAMI, FLORIDA

This past October, Sister Cooke and Ann Taylor, RSCJ joined the Carrollton community for the dedication of the school's new Mater Admirabilis Chapel and Spirituality Center. The chapel was first used, fittingly, for the celebration of the Feast of Mater on October 20 (pictured), and was later dedicated during Mass with the Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski.

*Photo courtesy of Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart*

## **5** DUCHESNE ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART OMAHA, NEBRASKA

This fall the Duchesne community celebrated Mass with Archbishop George Lucas in their newly restored chapel. In addition to the blessing of a new marble altar, Duchesne



# THE NETWORK OF SACRED HEART SCHOOLS

honored two Religious of the Sacred Heart who have made an indelible mark on the school. They dedicated the sacristy in honor of Lucy Hayes, RSCJ (left), and the chapel in honor of Shirley Miller, RSCJ.

## 6 THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL OF HALIFAX HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

This year marks 175 years of Sacred Heart education and the presence of the Religious of the Sacred Heart in Halifax. The school kicked off this anniversary year celebrating Mass with Archbishop Brian Bishop Dunn and welcoming several Religious of the Sacred Heart.

*Photo courtesy of The Sacred Heart School of Halifax*

## 7 SACRED HEART GREENWICH GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT

This year also marks 175 years of Sacred Heart education in Greenwich — 175 years of educating and empowering young women to be the leaders of tomorrow. The school kicked off this anniversary year this fall with the “Celebration of the Heart” event.

*Photo courtesy of Sacred Heart Greenwich*

## 8 SAINT PHILOMENA SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART PORTSMOUTH, RHODE ISLAND

The newest member school in the Network of Sacred Heart Schools, Saint Philomena, is in the midst of celebrating its 70th school anniversary. The school kicked off its anniversary year with a welcome Mass, and students enjoyed goûter from a favorite local business (pictured).

*Photo courtesy of Saint Philomena School of the Sacred Heart*

## 9 STUART COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

In celebration of school's 60th anniversary, the Stuart community welcomed the Most Reverend David Michael O'Connell, C.M., to preside at the Mass of the Holy Spirit. He also led a blessing of the school's newly restored Mater Admirabilis window. (left to right): Reverend Gregory E. S. Malovetz, Head of School Julia Wall, Bishop O'Connell, and Nancy Kehoe, RSCJ.

*Photo courtesy of Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart*

# Associates Q&A

## Getting to Know Sarah Cassidy and Angela LaGrange Scott

By Erin Everson

Sarah Cassidy and Angela LaGrange Scott were named co-chairs of the United States – Canada (USC) Province Associates Leadership Team this past summer.

### SARAH CASSIDY

Sarah hails from a Scottish Catholic family, noting that she grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in a home where her parents spoke Scottish Gaelic. Steeped in the Catholic faith, she had two uncles who were priests and over the course of her education, was taught by women religious from two congregations, one being the Society of the Sacred Heart.



Sarah is an alumna of the Sacred Heart School of Halifax. She is active in alumnae leadership, serving as president of the Canadian Association of Sacred Heart Alumnae and Alumni (CASHA) and as CASHA Ambassador for the Associated Alumnae/i of the Sacred Heart (AASH), CASHA's United States counterpart. She made her commitment as an Associate of the Society of the Sacred Heart with the Associates group in Halifax in 2018. She and Pauline Scott have served as co-coordinators of that group since September 2022.

### ANGELA LAGRANGE SCOTT

Born and raised in a small town near Grand Coteau, Louisiana, Angela feels strong ties to the area as her Acadian (Cajun) ancestors settled there in the 1700s, after being forcibly removed from Nova Scotia. Like Sarah, Angela came to know the Religious of the Sacred Heart at a young age. She is an alumna of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, and she has been an Associate with the Associates group in Houston, Texas, since 2008.



She currently serves on the board of trustees at the Academy in Grand Coteau and also works at the Regis School of the Sacred Heart in Houston. She previously served as a co-coordinator for the Houston Associates group and served one term as a member of the Associates Leadership Team from 2018-2021. Additionally, Angela and the late Jan Dunn, RSCJ, collaborated in forming the first virtual Associates group in 2019.

### How did you meet the Society of the Sacred Heart?

**Sarah:** I attended the then Convent of the Sacred Heart in Halifax, Nova Scotia, now the Sacred Heart School of Halifax (SHSH), which is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year! There I received my education and introduction to the Society from the Religious of the Sacred Heart – the intelligent, inspiring and globally aware educators who changed my life.

**Angela:** I went to the Academy in Grand Coteau from grades 5-12 (at the time I was a student, the school started in 5th grade). Before that, I went to the parish school in Grand Coteau called St. Ignatius School. My principal at St. Ignatius was Sister Adele Caire, and she was the first RSCJ I met. Also, my 2nd grade teacher was Sister Theresa Downey, an RSCJ, so I feel as if I have known the Society in some way since I was a little girl.

### What person or experience had a meaningful impact on your faith and formation journey?

**Sarah:** During some of the hardest times in my life, especially with aging and unwell parents, I have been encouraged by the wisdom of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat and by past Society superiors general. These women were and are my guides, who have led me to a deeper understanding of God's love and how I can share that in the world.

**Angela:** If I had to choose one, it would be my religion class teacher my junior year in high school. Sister Carmen Smith, RSCJ, was my teacher and the entire class was extraordinary, but the part that stays with me is our Friday meditations. Each week, Sister Smith would open with a prayer, and then for the rest of the class period, she played meditative music and invited us to find a comfortable position anywhere in the room. We could bring in pillows, lie on the floor or put our heads on our desk. Everything about the experience was fairly radical compared to the rest of my school day. Now, we would call the experience espacio, but at the time I really thought this was the much-needed break after lunch on a Friday afternoon. What I did not expect was that I was actually learning a skill – how to be still, how to be quiet, how to be calm, how to be open to the spirit. Today I find myself going back in my mind to those Friday afternoons as a teenager whenever I find it difficult to be quiet, still, calm or be open to the spirit. This was an extraordinary gift. I am forever grateful because Sister Smith taught me that there are many ways to pray, and that being open to a new experience can be life changing.

### What drew you to the Associates of the Society of the Sacred Heart?

**Sarah:** Sister Margaret Connolly was the moderator on our SHSH alumnae executive board; she gave me a brochure on the Associates and said to me, "I think this is something you would be interested in." I was in my 50s, and I was searching for a deeper spiritual community. I was then invited to a "come and see" gathering by Sister Donna Dolan and at that meeting I observed a community of love and prayer that I had a desire to be part of.

**Angela:** After college, my husband and I moved a lot for his job. We were in and out of Houston with stints in several countries abroad. When we moved back to Houston in 2008, I was looking for deeper spiritual connections. I always felt a yearning for the experiences I had in Grand Coteau as a student and never quite found that in parish life in all the places we lived. I found the Associates on the internet! I went to a "come and see" meeting and have been a faithful participant in the Houston group, as well as the virtual group since it started. I was seeking a way to deepen my own prayer life, to make connections with others, and to find ways to be engaged in my community. The Associates have provided opportunities for all of these and more.

### What are some of the community and formation opportunities offered to Associates that you value?

**Sarah:** As an Associate, I value the relationship I have with the RSCJ and other Associates. To share in the spirituality of the Society through prayer, reading, reflecting and engaging together brings me hope and a real sense of community. I value the collaboration, as we celebrate feasts, liturgies, and share in the joys and sorrows of life. This relationship helps me to live the mission to reveal God's love more fully in my personal and professional life.



Halifax Associates gathered for a service day collect food and personal care items to be donated.



Sarah on her graduation day, June, 1976.



Angela receives her high school diploma from Sally Rude, RSCJ, May, 1989.

**What are you looking forward to and/or what do you hope to bring to your role as a co-chair of the Associates Leadership Team?**

**Angela:** I am most looking forward to making connections with other Associates and helping Associates make connections with one another. So much of what I understand the Society’s charm to be about is relational. We know that relationships are where we experience love, and where we can share our love for others. I have hope that Sarah and I will find ways to help Associates connect more with one another through formation experiences and program offerings. As Sarah and I begin our terms as co-chairs, formation is also an area we hope to grow and to develop more resources and opportunities for local groups to utilize and participate in. Formation experiences will also provide us with the wonderful opportunity to expand our relationship with the RSCJ.

**As Associates how do you support young people?**

**Sarah:** Associates are very fortunate to belong to the global Sacred Heart family, which includes the Sacred Heart schools around the world. We often participate in school service projects, and some Associates share in the Sacred Heart mission serving as educators. We begin here, with this valuable relationship. As young people, especially Sacred Heart alumnae and alumni, venture into the world, we strive to help them know that the Associates are here for them.

**What brings you hope in today’s world?**

**Sarah:** Young people give me hope. After seeing the SacredHeartDNA (SHDNA) youth and RSCJ participate in World Youth Day this summer, I am filled with hope for the love and enthusiasm the young people bring to our Sacred Heart community. I see that they are engaged and focused on solutions to make our world better.

**Angela:** For me, hope emerges from love. I see so many examples of love each and every day – in a child’s smile, in the car in front of me giving a donation to a person experiencing homelessness, in the family at church who faithfully attends each week, in the people who work at the grocery store and share a kind word with me – everywhere. I know that each one of us has the power to influence another; and by our sheer presence and the love that we share, we can make a difference in another person’s life. Each day, I see more examples of love, and that gives me hope.



The Houston Associates group gathered for an in-person meeting.

### If you could recommend a book, TV show or movie to our readership, what would it be and why?

**Sarah:** I would recommend *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. It is a book that I read decades ago, but its themes still speak to me. Some of the themes concern Western colonialism and post-colonialism, the idea of pantheism, which involves worshipping all of nature as part of God. It raises questions about how individuals and nations should respond to their burdens of guilt.

**Angela:** I would recommend the book, *How to Be: A Monk and a Journalist Reflect on Living & Dying, Purpose & Prayer, Forgiveness & Friendship* by Judith Valente and Paul Quenon. This book is about being in relationship. It is authentic, moving, sad, joyful, revealing; and it made me think. Each chapter is composed of a few letters exchanged between two friends. I love to write notes and mail them to my friends, and this book made me feel as if I was their friend. With each chapter I found myself thinking, "What would I write back if I received this letter?"



Learn more about the Associates of the Society of the Sacred Heart at [rscj.org/associates](https://rscj.org/associates)

## About the Associates

Associates are lay women and men who are drawn to the spirituality of the Society of the Sacred Heart and feel called to live out the Society's charism and mission in their prayer life and in their actions. In the USC Province, there are 15 unique Associates groups, two of which are virtual and meet exclusively by Zoom. The other groups are geographically based and meet either in person or in a hybrid of online and in person. Each group has its own community culture and protocols in terms of how often it meets, where it meets and the content of the meetings.

## About the Associates Leadership Team

The Associates Leadership Team (ALT) works as one body to provide support for Associates groups across the province, which further the mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart through association, or collaboration, with the Religious of the Sacred Heart. The ALT as well seeks to welcome and guide those lay women and men called to live the charism of the Society as Associates.

## MISSION ADVANCEMENT

# Report on Gifts

RECEIVED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 TO AUGUST 31, 2023.

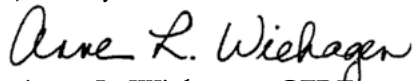
Dear Donors and Friends,

Many of you share your Sacred Heart stories with me when we talk or email. I love hearing about the Religious of the Sacred Heart who touched your lives. When you tell me how the RSCJ helped form the person you are today, how their high expectations for you pushed you to do your best, or how a sister treated you with kindness in a difficult moment, I find similarities in my experience working with the RSCJ. It is a privilege to share in these feelings of gratitude for the influence and impact the religious have in our lives!

This is the time of year when we take stock of our fundraising results for the fiscal year that ended August 31, 2023. To our donors we want to say that you make such a difference in what is accomplished each fiscal year. Sister Cooke and the Provincial Team are tasked to address many province needs; because you care so much, many of those needs are met. Please accept our sincere, heartfelt thanks.

You and those you love are remembered in prayer each day by our sisters, especially those older sisters who have a ministry of prayer for all of us. Their gift of prayer changes lives.

With hearts full of gratitude, we invite you to continue your journey with us!



Anne L. Wiehagen, CFRE  
Director of Mission Advancement  
[awiehagen@rscj.org](mailto:awiehagen@rscj.org) | 314.880.0551



To make a donation in support of the Society of the Sacred Heart, you can fill out and return the envelope attached to this magazine or donate online at [rscj.org/donate](https://rscj.org/donate).



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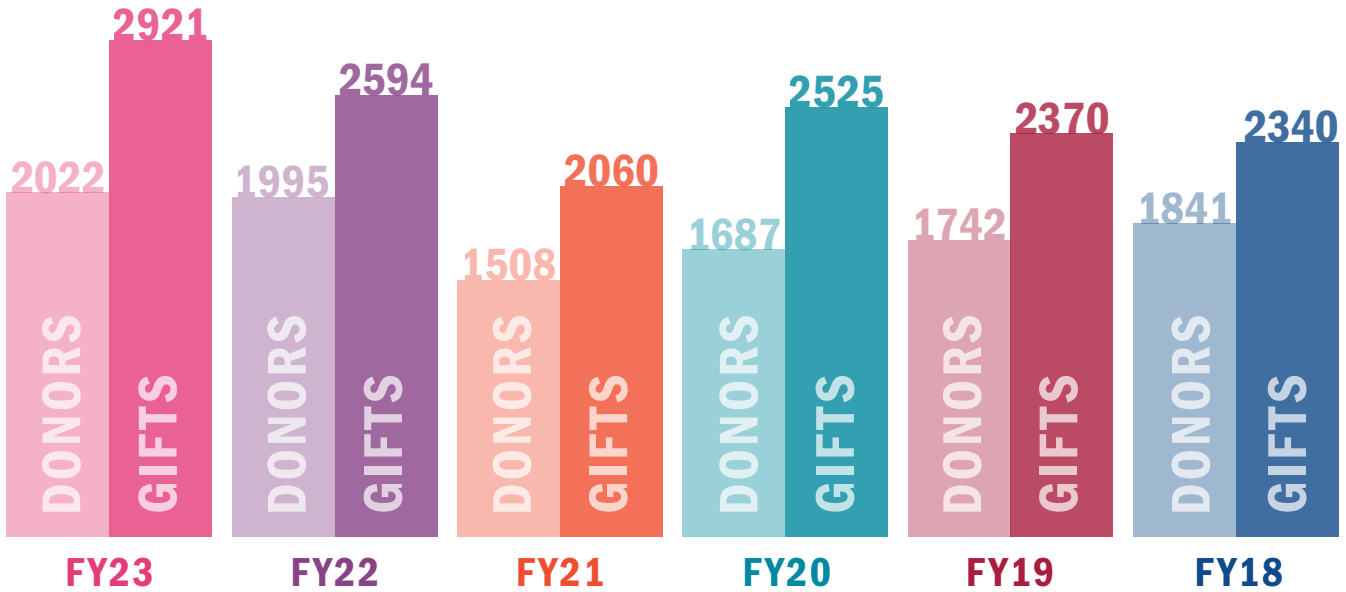
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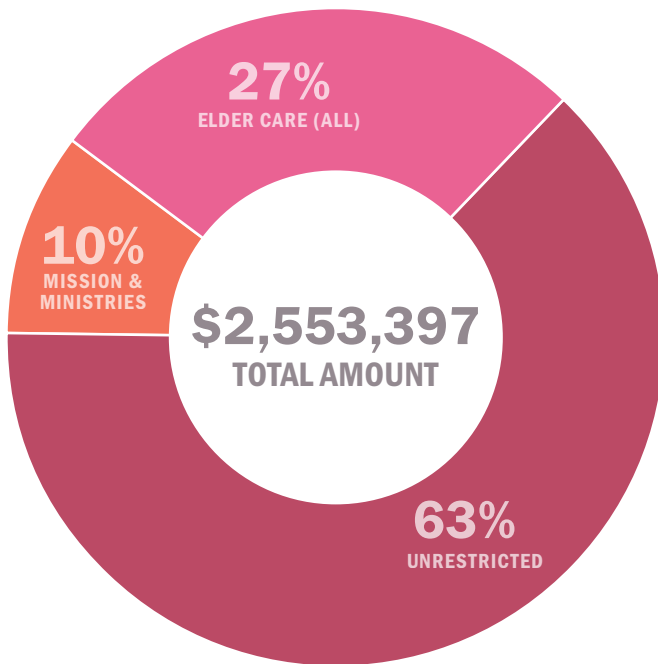
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## ANNUAL APPEAL SIX YEAR SNAPSHOT



## FY23 ANNUAL APPEAL



Read our full 2023 Annual Report and thank you to donors at [rscj.org/AR23](https://rscj.org/AR23)



### FY23 REALIZED BEQUESTS

- Marcia M. Abbo RIP
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- Eleanor Kimball Kehoe RIP
- Margaret Rose Manella RIP
- Caroline A. Moynihan RIP
- Muriel M. Rada RIP
- Marie M. Rogers RIP
- Patricia McCafferty Rouchier RIP
- Reverend Thomas R. Statt RIP
- Julie Fisher Taylor RIP
- Patricia K. Thompson RIP

**\$1,811,348**

# Suggested Reading

## ***Transformed: One Congregation's Response to the Second Vatican Council and the Calls of the World***

Edited by Bonnie Kearney, RSCJ, and Diane Roche, RSCJ

Commissioned by Superior General Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, when she was provincial of the USC Province, this book describes the experiences of those Religious of the Sacred Heart who took advantage of the abolition of cloister in 1964 to begin new apostolates with diverse populations. Written by several different RSCJ, each chapter tells the story of an apostolic venture undertaken by members of the Society, which put them in touch with a wider sector of society than before.



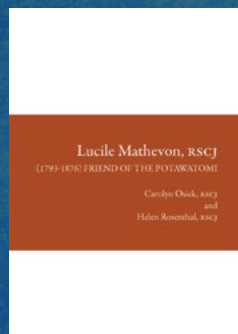
## ***Lucile Mathevon, RSCJ (1793-1876): Friend of the Potawatomi***

By Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, and Helen Rosenthal, RSCJ

Biographer and historian of the American frontier, Louise Callan, RSCJ, wrote in 1935:

“And through the whole of this, like a golden thread binding it into unity, runs the character of our greatest Indian missionary nun, Mother Lucile Mathevon – a novice of Mother Duchesne, foundress of the house of St. Charles (1828), and for about 35 years the very heart and soul of the Indian Mission.”

This book details the life and ministry of Sister Mathevon, focusing most prominently on her relationship with the Potawatomi.



# Share Your Hearts

In 2003, the former United States Province published its very first issue of *Heart* magazine, of which a photo of a heart shape in nature graced the cover. This tradition continued for 19 years. In an effort to pay homage to over a decade of heart covers and to keep the tradition alive within these pages, we invite you, our reader, to submit your own photos of hearts in nature and, in this way, have a chance to share your findings with our wide community of *Heart* magazine readers.

Submissions can be sent to [editor@rscj.org](mailto:editor@rscj.org).



**Top photo:** taken of the Bay of St. Paul on the island of Rhodes, Greece by Emily Kaplan, Dean of Student Life and Social Studies teacher at Villa Duchesne School of the Sacred Heart, St. Louis, Missouri

**Bottom photo:** taken at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center in Kirkwood, Missouri by Dawn Stringfield, Associate of the Society of the Sacred Heart



# our spirituality centers

Our Province Spirituality Centers host and direct a variety of programs and offerings including: day/overnight retreats, spiritual direction, grief counseling, book discussion groups, speakers on variety of justice and spiritual topics, and group discussions, in-person and online.

## **Barat Spirituality Centre**

1455 Summer Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 4L6 CANADA

**CONTACT:**

Kimberly M. King, RSCJ  
902.456.6112  
baratspirituality@gmail.com  
baratspirituality.org

## **The Spiritual Ministry Center**

4822 Del Mar Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92107

**CONTACT:**

619.224.9444  
spiritmin@rscj.org  
spiritmin.org

## **Sophie's Well: A Center for Sacred Heart Spirituality**

A virtual spirituality center offering retreats and spiritual direction.

**CONTACT:**

Jane O'Shaughnessy, RSCJ  
joshoughnessy@rscj.org



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