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Heart

A Journal of the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada



Heart is published three 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.

The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat in post-revolutionary France and brought to the United States by Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne in 1818.

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The *Heart* magazine team would like to hear from you about what you like in this magazine and suggestions for future issues. To share comments, ask questions or suggest articles, please email: editor@rscj.org.

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Dear friends and family of the Sacred Heart,

We stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us. As I begin my service of leadership, I find inspiration in all of you and your fidelity to our shared mission of discovering and revealing God's love.

What has emerged for me during these months of uncertainty is the urgency of this mission for the people of God today. I have been thinking about the two actions – discovering and revealing.

- How do we discover God's love?
- Where do we find God's love?
- Once experienced, how do we reveal this love God has for humanity?
- What actions do we take to demonstrate the depth of God's love for all creation and the depth of God's engagement in our lives?

Recently, I re-read a talk given by Barbara Bowe, RSCJ, and I believe she offers us an essential insight. Barbara explained, "The discovery of God's love requires of us contemplative listening, silence, centeredness, deep presence and attention to people, to the reality around us, and to the revelation of God in the midst of all of life. The discovery, however, is not enough; we are called to reveal in the world what I would call the prophetic power of this love."

In these words, Barbara captures the dynamism of our mission as a family of the Sacred Heart. The more we choose to create the space in our lives for silence and the more we decide to practice contemplative listening, the better able we are to receive and radiate God's love in all that we are and do.

The key to our shared mission is contemplation and action. The more attentive we are to the Spirit dwelling within the very core of our being, the more inspired we are to act on behalf of God's creation. The more engaged we are with God's creation, the more deeply attracted to silence and prayer we become. Just like breathing in and breathing out, our contemplation and our action enable us to communicate God's love in the heart of reality.

Let us pray for one another that we may remain true to this mission of discovering and revealing God's love so we can continue to contribute to the building of the Beloved Community, Christ's deepest desire.

With love and prayer,



Suzanne Cooke RSCJ

Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ
Provincial
United States – Canada Province

Queridos amigos y familia del Sagrado Corazón,

Estamos sobre los hombros de los que nos han precedido. Al comenzar mi servicio de liderazgo, encuentro inspiración en todos ustedes para su fidelidad a nuestra misión compartida de descubrir y revelar el amor de Dios.

Lo que ha surgido para mí durante estos meses de incertidumbre es la urgencia de esta misión para el pueblo de Dios hoy. He estado pensando en las dos acciones: descubrir y revelar.

- ¿Cómo descubrimos el amor de Dios?
- ¿Dónde encontramos el amor de Dios?
- Una vez experimentados, ¿cómo revelamos este amor que Dios tiene por la humanidad?
- ¿Qué acciones tomamos para demostrar la profundidad del amor de Dios por toda la creación y el compromiso de Dios en nuestras vidas?

Recientemente, re-leí una charla dada por Barbara Bowe, RSCJ, y creo que ella nos ofrece una visión esencial. Barbara explicó, “El descubrimiento del amor de Dios requiere de nosotros la escucha contemplativa, el silencio, el centro, la presencia profunda y atención a las personas, a la realidad que nos rodea, y a la revelación de Dios en medio de toda la vida. El descubrimiento, sin embargo, no es suficiente; nos llaman para revelar en el mundo lo que yo llamaría el poder profético de este amor.”

En estas palabras, Barbara captura el dinamismo de nuestra misión como la familia del Sagrado Corazón. Cuanto más elegimos crear el espacio en nuestras vidas para el silencio, cuanto más decidimos practicar la escucha contemplativa, más capaces somos de recibir e irradiar el amor de Dios en todo lo que somos y hacemos.

La clave de nuestra misión compartida es la contemplación y la acción. Cuanto más atentos estemos al Espíritu que habita dentro del núcleo mismo de nuestro ser, más inspirados estamos para actuar en nombre de la creación de Dios. Cuanto más comprometidos estamos con la creación de Dios, más profundamente atraídos por el silencio y la oración nos volvemos. Al igual que inhalar y exhalar, nuestra contemplación y nuestra acción nos permiten comunicar el amor de Dios en el corazón de la realidad.

Oremos unos por otros para que podamos permanecer fieles a esta misión de descubrir y revelar el amor de Dios para que podamos continuar contribuyendo la construcción de la Comunidad Amada, el deseo más profundo de Cristo.

Con amor y oración,



Suzanne Cooke RSCJ

Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ
Provincial
Provincia de los
Estados Unidos – Canadá



From: Marlene Schneider

I was very happy and proud to see the article regarding the 70th anniversary of the Shrine, recognizing the Academy of the Sacred Heart on the day Mother Philippine Duchesne’s remains were moved to the sarcophagus and later placed in the Shrine built in her honor.

I was there in the seventh grade on that day. The senior class was first in line and the rest of the students followed. Archbishop Ritter was present as were many local pastors and priests.

Reverend Mother McCabe dug the first shovelful of dirt. I remember what a wonderful person she was.

From: Melanie Simoneaux Goude Locke

I really enjoyed the article “Looking Back 70 Years.” As I looked over the photos, I found someone who looked familiar! It was a photo of Mother Anna Mae Marheineke’s and Kathleen Marheineke’s father carrying Saint Philippine’s remains. Mother Anna Mae Marheineke was a remarkable woman whom I had the joy of knowing from 1960 until my graduation from Grand Coteau in 1964. Her influence and teaching enriched and changed the lives of many Grant Coteau girls. She was and still is a legend at our school.

This is the 200th year of Schools of the Sacred Heart in Coteau so we are hoping that by October we’ll be able to enjoy a wonderful celebration!

I am thrilled to now have a granddaughter in kindergarten at “The Rosary” in New Orleans. She loves her school. It’s wonderful to be a grandmother of a child of the Sacred Heart! ❖

United States – Canada Province

Pandemic by the numbers



From March 2020-June 2021

1,805,314 minutes



spent on Zoom calls by RSCJ and province staff

120 unique reflections



posted to rscj.org

100% increase in virtual retreats



3,000 masks



sewn by Linda Kato, RSCJ

13,000 fewer commutes



by 22 province staff and provincial team members

New provincial team announced

By Flávia Bader



Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ



Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ

After consulting Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) representing all age groups, all regions and both countries in the province, the newly named provincial of the United States – Canada Province, Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, announced in April that she had selected her new provincial team: Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ; Marina Hernandez, RSCJ; and Lynne Lieux, RSCJ.

Together each team member will bring expertise rooted in her gifts and experiences along with a shared love for the Society’s mission of revealing God’s love. While Sister Cooke will be relocating to St. Louis, Missouri, where the office of the province is located, the newly appointed team will remain where they currently reside. Like Sister Cooke, they will each serve for a mandate of three years beginning on August 1, 2021.

In a letter to the RSCJ of the province, Sister Cooke stated that she hopes the “provincial team will respond to needs and dreams balancing the expectations of the individual and those of the whole as we live the Society’s mission.” She believes that the “provincial team goes beyond our apostolic service and includes the communal life of the province as well as our collaboration with lay people including Associates and a vigorous commitment to the future of the congregation in Canada and the United States.”

MEET THE PROVINCIAL TEAM:

Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ

Sister De Stefanis was born and raised in White Plains, New York. She is a lifelong educator and published author who began her career at the middle and high school levels as both teacher and administrator. She later moved to higher education where she held an administrative post-doctoral position at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and taught in the psychology department at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Sister De Stefanis also held several positions at Manhattanville College, Purchase, New York, including academic dean followed by a dual appointment as assistant professor in the psychology department and vice-president of student development.

She is a co-founder, partner and currently the director of Sherpa Educational Consulting at the Stuart Center, which provides organizational management and leadership training services to nonprofit organizations and schools. Her areas of specialty include: strategic planning, facilitation, board development and leadership training.

Sister De Stefanis holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Pace University in New York, New York; a master’s degree in curriculum from University of California, Berkeley; and a doctorate in applied developmental and educational psychology from Boston College. She is also fluent in Spanish.

*A special thank you to the previous provincial team:
former Provincial Sheila Hammond, RSCJ; Donna Collins, RSCJ;
Maureen Glavin, RSCJ; Theresa Moser, RSCJ; and Diane Roche, RSCJ.*



Marina Hernandez, RSCJ



Lynne Lieux, RSCJ

Marina Hernandez, RSCJ

Sister Hernandez is currently the co-chair of the province investment committee. She is a member of the Oakwood Retirement Community advisory board and a member of the province finance committee. She has served on six previous provincial teams from the former Chicago Province, the former United States Province and the now United States–Canada (USC) Province of the Society. She also served as the canonical treasurer for the USC Province and the provincial treasurer for the former Chicago Province of the Society.

Sister Hernandez's ministries over the years have included: business management at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, Illinois; community organizing, housing counseling and AIDS training in San Diego, California; and work with refugees and undocumented persons in Indian-town, Florida. She currently serves on the boards of trustees for Saint Madeleine Sophie's Center in El Cajon, California, and Faith in Action, a national faith-based community organizing network.

Originally from Chicago, Sister Hernandez attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Sheridan Road, in Chicago. She graduated from the former Barat College in Lake Forest with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. She also attended University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana, for graduate certificates in financial management and administration.

Lynne Lieux, RSCJ

Sister Lieux attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, as a boarding school student. After receiving her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Maryville University in St. Louis, Missouri, she spent her first year in the Society at Villa Duchesne Oak Hill School in St. Louis teaching math and physics. She received her master's degree in physics from Washington University in St. Louis and her doctorate in educational administration from the University of New Orleans in Louisiana.

Sister Lieux has spent most of her adult life working in Network of Sacred Heart schools as a teacher, dean of students, upper school head, and head of school. She has served as a trustee at several Network of Sacred Heart schools and at Maryville University. She is currently on the board of trustees of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; on the advisory board of St. Scholastica Academy in Covington, Louisiana; and working with the Jacobs Institute on Innovation in Education at the University of San Diego in San Diego, California.

Sister Lieux is interested in the use of technology to enhance the educational experience. In the past year she has been helping others develop tools and strategies for teaching online and using design thinking with middle and high school students in developing projects addressing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. ✦

Flávia Bader is the director of communications and public relations for the province.

RSCJ set sail for the future

By Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ

I am honored to be one of two delegates from the United States–Canada Province to participate in the international Society of the Sacred Heart Special Chapter, scheduled to take place in November 2021.

General chapters of the Society of the Sacred Heart are held every eight years, with the exception of special chapters, which may be called by the superior general. Each general chapter ensures and promotes both communion and vitality in the Society of the Sacred Heart in view of its mission.

The delegates at the most recent General Chapter of 2016 decided that the Society should discern possible new governmental structures and ways of sharing resources as we move into the future. The superior general has called for a Special Chapter in 2021 to carry out this 2016 decision. The world we live in has changed, and our Society has changed as well. We must ask ourselves: *how do we use the resources we have now to address the real needs of today's world?*

This upcoming chapter was planned for February 2021, before the global pandemic emerged as a major catalyst of change. The pandemic led to a delay until November 2021. In the past year, we have seen the vulnerabilities and inequalities of the world highlighted by the devastation of the coronavirus. We in the United States have witnessed the continued emergence of racism and racial discrimination as a major concern and area for healing and change. Amid all

Each of these experiences opens us up to see the world as it is in the moment, allowing that diversity and vulnerability to touch our hearts and shape our understanding of the world.

of this is a continued polarization among groups of people who disagree, a polarization present not only in the United States but around the world and within the universal church. In the face of all these issues and so many more, we commit to discern how we as religious live and serve now.



Over the past several years, we Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) have become more closely bound to one another around the world. During formation, we experience the realities of at least one other province (I spent time in both Peru and Spain), and we share several months in what is called a probation community, where we get to know our sisters in formation and the realities of their provinces and nations. Each of these experiences opens us up to see the world as it is in the moment, allowing that diversity and vulnerability to touch our hearts and shape our understanding of the world.

International reflection groups meet regularly at different levels throughout the Society: provincials, formation ministers, sisters in formation, those concerned with Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), educators, and more. RSCJ and Associates across the Philippine region, a geographic region comprised of provinces in North, Central and South America, have been invited to a weekly Zoom call since the beginning of the pandemic. These encounters help us grow in sisterhood, and the ties of these relationships allow us to envision a future for the Society as a whole. Questions of governance and shared resources can then emerge from the care and compassion we have for one another and for the needs of those with whom we minister.

As RSCJ from around the world and I prepare for the Special Chapter in November, we pray for greater awareness of the world, greater compassion for the areas of suffering, and greater openness to listen to God's Spirit and follow where She leads us. ✦

Leadership transition

Conference of Sacred Heart Education

By Flávia Bader

Last fall, the United States – Canada Provincial Team

asked Nat Wilburn to assume leadership of the Sacred Heart Commission on Goals (SHCOG), taking over the role from Ann Taylor, RSCJ. Following this announcement and after learning that Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, who was the head of the Conference of Sacred Heart Education at the time, was named provincial for the United States – Canada Province effective August 1, 2021, the provincial team engaged in prayerful reflection about the leadership of the Conference of Sacred Heart Education. They decided to expand Wilburn's leadership responsibility by appointing him head of the Conference as well.

The purpose of the Conference is to ensure the vitality of mission in Network of Sacred Heart schools. The head of Conference facilitates the work of the Conference through three committees: Education to Mission, Sacred Heart Commission on Goals (SHCOG) and the Governance Committee. All committee members and the head of the Conference are appointed by the provincial team. The Conference aims to provide resources, opportunities and avenues for thoughtful dialogue and discernment about the evolving mission of Sacred Heart education among trustees, heads, leadership teams, provincial team and school communities.

Sister Taylor leaves an extraordinary legacy of Sacred Heart education, profound reflective process and enduring relationships. She served as head

of SHCOG for 22 years, and prior to that, as head of Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami, Florida, for 20 years. She also served as an administrator and teacher at Carrollton. Sacred Heart educators have appreciated Sister Taylor's sensitivity and wisdom as they have sought to ensure the integrity of Sacred Heart education. RSCJ value her fidelity to Saint Madeleine Sophie's vision. All are grateful for her wise and sensitive facilitation of the most recent *Goals and Criteria* re-visioning process.

Nat Wilburn is an experienced Sacred Heart educator, having served at both Schools of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco, California and in Chicago, Illinois. His understanding as a Sacred Heart educator, administrator, head of school and trustee, coupled with his years as a member of the Commission are the exact preparation needed to be the next head of the Conference of Sacred Heart Education.

Wilburn is also the former chair of the network executive committee, which serves as the board for the network. He is the current chair of the board of the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). This is a membership organization of more than 235 independent schools from 13 states of the midwest region. He is a strong leader with a deep commitment to the mission of the Society and a love of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools and all whom they serve.

Anticipating his new role, Wilburn shared, "It is an honor for me to accept



this position and continue my service in the mission of Sacred Heart education with the Religious of the Sacred Heart. It has been a privilege to work alongside Sister Taylor and Sister Cooke during

Leadership is an art and a science. Inspired leadership involves grace.

my two tenures on the Sacred Heart Commission on Goals. Ann's passion for and dedication to supporting each school community in living the values of the Goals has and will always inspire me. I am deeply grateful for her having mentored me. I look forward to continue working with Sister Cooke and the provincial team."

Leadership is an art and a science. Inspired leadership involves grace. Both Sister Taylor and Nat Wilburn are inspired leaders who believe that the *Goals and Criteria* provide Sacred Heart schools with a prophetic orientation that leads to hope. ❖



Prayer for the Sacred Heart Family in the time of COVID-19

Unseen Companion of our life,

Give us faith and eager expectancy as we
continue to face uncertainty.

Help us hold our fear of the unknown in the
assurance that

You are with us.

Teach us to wrest treasures from anxiety.

Encourage us to approach life each day with
faith, wisdom and compassion.

We pray for those who suffer and all who care
for them.

Inspire us to honor the human dignity of each
person and may our presence be a source of
healing and encouragement.

We ask all of this confident in your Spirit.

Amen

Learnings from the pandemic

A Sacred Heart perspective on emergence

By Bridget Bearss, RSCJ, and the Heart Response Team of the United States – Canada Province

Wherever we are, as members of the global Sacred Heart family, we are united in our desire to “discover and reveal” the Heart of God in ourselves, in one another and in the world. Without previous experience or precedent, we entered into the pandemic.

Frequently, as members of the Sacred Heart family, we find ourselves in solidarity with one another. We hear news of governmental violence, natural disaster, organized gatherings in support of those with unequal access, or the challenges of the ministries in each of the Society’s provinces around the world, and we are connected.

COVID-19 simultaneously united and isolated us. For many members of the Sacred Heart family, it was their first experience of being restricted to their home. Our local communities depended on the interior resources that may have been muted previously by the constant hum of a distracting world. Within weeks, which quickly turned into months, we

began to count cases of breakouts and create new definitions for contact tracing and personal protective wear.

We universally celebrated the health care and educator heroism of those front-line holders of our deepest values. We started seeing remarkable people we may have overlooked in days gone by as we commended the hourly workers who sustained – and continue to sustain – us. We experienced equally the void and the value of a renewed understanding of “home.” Boundaries between work and home merged as spaces were intermingled, and time became measured in a room called Zoom. Some of us puzzled over the phrase “you have to unmute yourself” and pondered how it was that this isolation seemed to have demanded that we find our voice.

Again, as days became weeks and weeks became months, we crossed the threshold of a year, rotating masks and learning how to be physically distant but socially connected. We started to learn how to not gather, even when loss tore

at our hearts and magnified the importance we place on ritual, presence and the experience of absence.

Gradually, many of us collected seasons of masks and discovered that it is possible to create a community of learning, of worship and of support in the virtual realm, if only each one of us chose to be present, fully present. We learned that it matters how we show up on the screen and the difference it makes when our hearts are open, even if our attire was adjusted to the lens of the camera. We locked in, locked down, cocooned, and kept waiting for the global “all clear” to sound.

We journeyed with one another, and with others around the globe and throughout our countries. We listened deeply to the still, small voice within, and like Elijah (1 Kings: 19), our Encounter was found not in the torrent, but in the whisper. Connected from the inside out, our contemplation led us to find the pause in the fury of wonder. Like the minute pause between the in-breath and the out-breath, many in our Sacred Heart family recognized a call to the silence of being fully present to each day, while also grounding ourselves in the “courage and confidence” of God’s abundant promise.

In the United States–Canada Province, we shaped our connection in the simple phrase “Revealing God’s love in the midst of uncertainty.” Rather than diverting our attention with mind-numbing, streaming echo chambers, we chose to be deliberate, intentional and conscious of the suffering of others and within ourselves. We crossed the frontiers and boundaries of ways we had previously connected and built new bridges of relationship through social media, video hubs and reflections.

We experienced the struggles of the people of India, the anguish of the multiple lockdowns in Europe, the loss of life in Central and South America, the movement of migrating peoples around the world, the health care inadequacies in Africa, and the insurgence of violence rooted in racism intertwined with the harm we cause our climate, globally. Together, we chose not to look away and to stay in the vacuum of waiting “until this is over.” Through our common call to the Heart of Jesus, we are united through the pandemic that has circled our globe.

In some inextricable way, boundaries of separation became less solid. We found more that united us instead of separating us; and we watched as COVID-19 respected no labels, economies or positions. We became attentive to the power of breath as we watched ventilators sustain life, and we came to know the power of interior presence in the midst of physical absence. We claimed our connections, our union in the Heart of God that is broad enough, brave enough and expansive enough to hold each one of us and to hold us together.

We have discovered, and are discovering still, that we, the Sacred Heart family, are a collection of warriors of the heart.

As heart warriors, we know love to be the compelling force that allows us to lead with gratitude instead of languishing in despair. We know that we are not called to remain in the isolation that has shaped us, but to have the courage to be people who hear the call of this moment: “Emerge.” Like the early disciples on the road to Emmaus, we see something new in the breaking of the bread. There is a new energy, a tender, tentative, bold and brave energy of rising forth. We experience the power of the stone being rolled from the tomb, not knowing what will be our collective future, but knowing that it has been reshaped into something we must discover together.



Revealing God’s Love in the midst of uncertainty

And, what does Emergence require from us? It requires that we be the new wineskins (Mark 2:22) into which God can pour the new: new ways of gathering together, new ways of listening deeply, new ways of refusing to repeat untruth, new ways of responding to the calls of the Beatitudes, new ways of living our calls as members of the family of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

Emergence requires our willingness not to have the answers, but to trust that the answers are present in the whole community. Emergence requires us to believe that each one matters, and that we can find ways to cross barriers of division if the heart is our starting place. Emergence requires our ability to recall that Grace is present when we depend on the fidelity of faith, rather than the familiarity of fear. Emergence means being ready to respond to the power of resurrection and our willingness to believe that we have learned something immeasurable in the journey of these months; and it requires that we can live into the lessons instead of forgetting them.

For to us is given the “Courage and Confidence” to emerge, to be women and men of the heart, to reveal what we have discovered and to be known by the way we love one another. ✦

The Heart Response Team was a province committee formed in March 2020, comprised of alumnae, Associates, educators, staff and Religious of the Sacred Heart. The committee was tasked to connect with the wider Sacred Heart community, and to prepare and disseminate prayers, reflections and other helpful resources during the pandemic.

Documenting our present for the future

The Society's experience with infectious disease

By Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ and Michael Pera

The story of the United States–Canada Province archives begins in 1973, when there were five provinces in the United States and one in Canada. There was concern for the records of several communities and schools that had recently been closed. Mary C. Wheeler, RSCJ, began to collect these records and gather them into a central place, first at Maryville College in St. Louis, Missouri, where, within the next year, an inventory and card catalog were compiled.

In 1979, the decision was made to merge the five provinces in the United States, and subsequently, each province's records were brought together into the collection under the direction of Marie

RSCJ, served as provincial archivist until 2010, when Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, took over the role, in which she serves today. From 2000 until her recent retirement in 2020, to the Oakwood elder care community, Mary Louise Gavan, RSCJ, was assistant archivist. Today, the archives is staffed by Sister Osiek, assistant archivist Michael Pera, who has been there since 2007, and part-time volunteer Sister Gimber.

While we hold in trust our historical treasures, such as items written by Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, the breadth of the archives' collections can provide insight into many current events. The archivists continue to collect significant materials from recent events. The current pandemic has sent us back to

closed, stores shuttered, cases spreading among families and friends, tragic deaths.

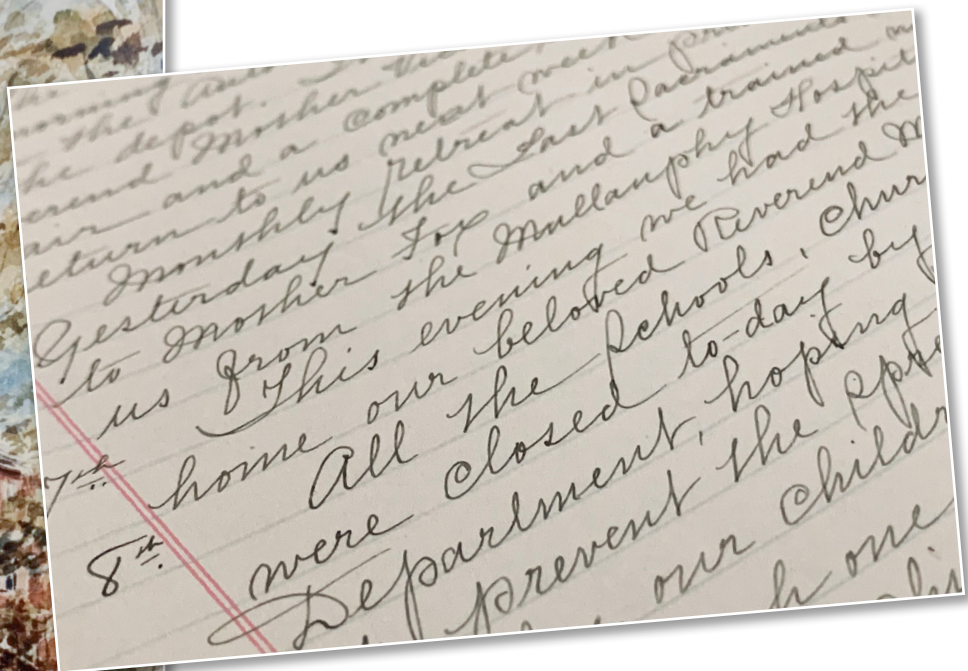
The house journals are often the first places we go to when learning about a certain historical moment. These journals recorded the daily life and significant events of the religious communities and schools, including things like visitors and celebrations, deaths and departures, and school life. This window into the day-to-day life is often invaluable. In the case of the 1918 pandemic, we focused on the writings in the house journals from the City House in St. Louis and Eden Hall in Philadelphia, knowing these two cities had quite different experiences. We learned about the death from influenza of a young religious, Elizabeth Kennard, RSCJ, at the age of 33 at Eden Hall, which sent our research into two other significant resources: Series XII, Personnel Files, and the *Annual Letters*.

Every RSCJ who has spent any substantial time in the United States or Canada has an individual file in the archives that includes biographical information, often sacramental and legal records, significant correspondence, and more. In Elizabeth Kennard's case, a letter from her roommate about her death provided valuable insight. The *Annual Letters* are an equally invaluable resource: published tri-annually by the motherhouse from 1840 to 1965, they include a letter from each house of the Society detailing the

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we looked back at the Society's experience with infectious disease in North America. We examined yellow fever outbreaks, frequent cholera outbreaks, and in particular the 1918 influenza pandemic.

Louise Martinez, RSCJ. In 1980, the United States archives were moved to a larger space at Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School (also in St. Louis) and, in 2003, to the present facility on West Pine Boulevard, near the present provincial office. The space was designed by the archivist of the time, Margaret Phelan, RSCJ, who went on to become general archivist for the Society of the Sacred Heart in Rome. Frances Gimber,

see what we can learn from records of previous ones. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we looked back at the Society's experience with infectious disease in North America. We examined yellow fever outbreaks, frequent cholera outbreaks, and in particular the 1918 influenza pandemic. Some of the house journals and school journals of those times give us descriptions that sound familiar: schools and churches



Left: Watercolor depiction of the Academy of the Sacred Heart City House by Anita Villere, RSCJ. City House was located on Taylor Street in St. Louis, Missouri. Right: Detail of the City House house journal, dated October 8, 1918. The house journal recorded the daily life of the school and community and is an invaluable record.

events of the period and a biography of any RSCJ who has died there during that time.

While the *Annual Letters* are unfortunately no longer published, the *Catalogue of the Society* is. The *Catalogue* lists every community and RSCJ across the globe each year, with a brief description of her ministry. Using the *Catalogue*, we are able to track movement over time and get a sense of a person's role in her community.

From here, we looked to flesh out more of Sister Kennard's story. Are there any photographs of her? (Possibly, but not very likely given that individual photos of religious were uncommon during that era). Another source we might mine is our library collection, 8,000 volumes including histories of individual schools, biographies, and related material.

This kind of research supplements more of the day-to-day work of the archives, which today includes: processing new material, assisting the old and new provincial governments in their organizational transitions, assisting researchers looking for their family history, and much more.

As we begin to emerge cautiously from the latest pandemic, we realize that much significant history has been lived but not yet documented in the last year and more, as we have attempted to deal with new challenges. Currently, the archives staff is thinking of how to capture these experiences, not in the same ways as in 1918, to be sure, but in new ways that will help the next generations to learn from this time. Meanwhile, we look forward to the time when we can again welcome

visitors to share our space and the resources.

This sort of research is an important facet of our mission as archives. We collect, preserve, and provide access. Whether it is the Society's experience of pandemic, revolution, or disasters like the Halifax Explosion of 1917, or simply the inspiring lives and work of the RSCJ and the Sacred Heart family, sharing the rich history represented in the archives is essential to our participation in the Society's mission to make known the love of the Heart of Jesus in today's world. ❖

Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, is the director of the United States – Canada Archives and the United States canonical treasurer for the province.

Michael Pera is the assistant archivist for the province.

Encountering the stranger on the road: RSCJ ministry with refugees in Canada

By Erin Everson

In the spirit of the Good Samaritan and Pope Francis's

most recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, the Sacred Heart community throughout Canada has worked and continues to strive to meet the call of our time – and of Jesus's time – to welcome persons on the move and to encounter the stranger.

“In the gospel parable of the Good Samaritan, the Samaritan stopped, helped a Jew on the road, took him to an inn with the admonition, ‘take care of him.’ This story is basis of the programs that have been set up in Canada, which allow for groups or individuals to welcome the strangers who find themselves on the road, often fleeing situations in their own countries where their lives and those of their family are in danger. Jesus said, ‘Go and do likewise,’” said Anne-Marie Conn, RSCJ, who is based in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

RSCJ history of welcoming people on the move

In the 1970s a surge of refugees came to Canada, and at that time Rita Egan, RSCJ, in Halifax, became involved with a group who wanted to respond to the needs of those on the move. She made a request to the Province of Canada at the time, to financially support persons coming to Canada with only what they could carry, often living in refugee camps. Province leaders granted her request.

Since that time, and since the number of refugees has grown globally,

Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) in Ottawa, Ontario; Montreal, Quebec; Halifax; and Prince George, British Columbia, have been involved in welcoming refugees from Sudan, Ethiopia, Belarus, Syria, Iran and countries in Southeast Asia.

The RSCJ have lived out this ministry through collaboration with existing organizations, such as local parishes, Catholic Immigration Services in Ottawa and Immigration Services of Nova Scotia (ISANS). They have also supported individuals and families through the relationships they cultivated with families they sponsored in the past.

What does this ministry look like in action? Throughout the decades RSCJ have been involved in teaching English as a second language, assisting in finding suitable housing, providing living funds for a year, helping families integrate into communities and assisting in job search. Sister Conn emphasized, “Welcoming the other is a gospel imperative to live openly.” She and her sisters in Canada have taken this imperative to heart.

About the sponsorship process in Canada

Sister Conn explained in detail the process for groups or organizations to sponsor families resettling in Canada. The Canadian government accepts refugees after they pass medical, security and admissibility checks, as well as meet the requirements: having relatives or a

sponsor in Canada; the ability to speak English or French (or the ability to learn English or French); and the potential of employment or resourcefulness.

Refugees can be sponsored in several ways, one of which is by community sponsors, which encompass associations, organizations or corporations in Canada. The Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Provinces is considered a community sponsor, and as Sister Conn notes, most often works in collaboration with other organizations and parishes to sponsor families entering the country.

Building relationship in the every day

In Prince George, RSCJ have been involved with a refugee resettlement group of parishes and churches called “Share Hope,” which has sponsored two Syrian families since 2015. Most recently in 2017, working with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees office, the group went through a process to secure funds to support a family for one year, identify opportunities for the family to learn English, identify appropriate housing, and identify opportunities for education, employment, and healthcare services. The group's application to sponsor a family of five was accepted in early 2017, and upon that news, Mary-Ann Bates, RSCJ, and Sally McLean, RSCJ, looked to secure housing for this family, who later arrived in Prince George in August of 2017.

People with signs welcoming Syrian refugees during a solidarity rally to welcome Syrian refugees to Canada on November 22, 2015 in Toronto, Canada.

“A small group of our committee was at the airport to welcome the family, along with our translator and a couple of recently arrived Syrian families,” recalled Sister McLean, “as I watched the family leave the airplane, I had a sense of relief that they had arrived and had had a safe flight... but the most heart-breaking moment came when I realized they carried no large baggage. They had two very small carry-on bags.” Sister McLean paused after reflecting on this moment.

Sister McLean and Sister Bates then accompanied the parents of the family to the grocery store each and every Saturday morning from the time they arrived until the following March, when the father of the family had obtained his driver’s license.

“They became experts quickly and our role became one of standing by should they need our help,” said Sister Bates. She recalled they would help unload groceries and then would often stay for tea and visit. “This weekly event was a blessing for all of us. We were introducing them into Canadian life while they welcomed us into their family life and into their culture and values as Syrian people,” she said. “They shared their values of openness, presence, welcome, hospitality and gratitude. Truly a mutual welcoming of the stranger.”

Sister Bates went on to explain that many in the Prince George community pitched in in many ways, whether by helping the adult children in the family find part time jobs, setting up dental

Arindambanerjee, Shutterstock.com



and health care visits for the family, or donating bikes for the younger children. One neighboring community went as far as to fundraise \$5,000 to assist the family with living expenses.

Encountering the stranger during a pandemic

More recently, in Halifax, a group, comprised of RSCJ, Sacred Heart alumnae/i, Associates of the Sacred Heart and friends of the Society, secured sponsorship for a family of three. This group had met and planned over a seven-month period throughout 2019-2020 to complete all necessary steps to support this family once they arrived; and the sponsorship group opened a bank account, ensured that the family completed all necessary forms and submitted the required paperwork to the Canadian government. The government accepted this group’s sponsorship in March of 2020. At that time, however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sponsorship was placed on hold and everything came to a screeching halt, said Sister Conn.

With this hold in place, for the past year, the family of three, having been granted refugee status in Peru, has been staying with RSCJ in Peru. They are currently awaiting an interview with the Canadian visa office to begin their process of acceptance. Still, during this time the sponsorship group in Halifax is prepared and ready to receive the family whenever they are able to travel again.

A heart that holds nothing back for self

The efforts of the RSCJ and Sacred Heart community in Canada are a reminder that even a small group of motivated people has the power to act and help create opportunities for individuals and families on the move. Their actions are also a reminder of the words Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne once wrote, “God does not require great achievements, but a heart that holds back nothing for self.” ✦

Erin Everson is the communications project manager for the province.

Lament with Alleluia

When all our certainties
Long crumbled in the dust of
Nine Eleven
Are shaken yet again
By gunfire in
The second grade, the theatre,
The summer concert crowd, the cafeteria,
The synagogue, the Mother Church,
The grocery on Monday afternoon,
The haven of release from pain—
When our sister Breonna of the bright smile
Is murdered in her bed,
When I dream I cannot breathe
And feel the noose around my neck;
When plague stalks hope and a virus worse
Than COVID bleeds all colors from our flag,
When the best among us is undone
Not by unending labor, but by casual denial
Of that truth self-evident—that
We, created equal, are members of one
Body, and if you die, I am diminished—
What remains?

This morning
Birds sing in soaking rains.
Pruned roses thrive; survive a killing frost.
Perfumed nard poured
From a shattered jar still
Fills the house. Some give substance,
Spend breath and labor kneading grain
Of days to birth our bread. They walk on
Without a thought of cost.
Oh, friend,
I must believe that love,
Though motley fool she seem,
And double crossed,
Lives on.
Is
Love,
So freely
Lavished
Ever
Lost?

Rose Marie Quilter, RSCJ
March 25, 2021 ❖



Moving forward with courage and confidence

By Korin Visocchi

Since she opened her first school in 1801, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's vision for education has inspired and informed Sacred Heart educators around the world. In 2021, there are over 150 Sacred Heart schools in 41 countries, all rooted in Sophie's confidence that education is a means to transform the heart and world.

The past 17 months have pushed the boundaries of what we thought was possible, as educators re-imagined teaching, classrooms, celebrations, liturgies and building relationships in virtual, hybrid and on-campus settings. Inspired by Sophie's charism and informed by the *Goals and Criteria*, Sacred Heart educators continue to respond to the needs of the world with daring trust and confidence for the sake of our learners. In many ways, Sacred Heart educators, much like Sophie, created new places and spaces for learning.

Sacred Heart historian, Phil Kilroy, RSCJ, revealed how Sophie created new places and spaces for education that had an impact on society far beyond her own expectations and lifetime:

For Madeleine Sophie education was never the end. Rather it served as the means for educators and students to come to know and experience God's love. Sophie hoped that education within her schools would be profound enough to inspire people to rebuild, renew and transform society, wherever they lived. As her intuition matured, developed, and expanded, she came to see education as the means and the way to renew society. (Kilroy, P. (2000). Madeleine Sophie Barat: A Life)

Sophie puts forward a lofty goal, one that calls us as parents, educators and friends of the Sacred Heart to rebuild, renew and transform society through education. We cannot miss however, that to transform the world, we must first come to know and experience God's love. Just as Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat responded to the needs of the world around her, so too, have our 25 Network of Sacred Heart schools responded to the challenges of uncertainty of COVID-19 with faith, imagination and continued prayer.

Over time and amid successes and failures as a founder and as an educator, Saint Madeleine Sophie came to see that ultimate truth is encountered through relationships and in prayer. To sustain and support us through moments of joy and moments of great challenge, it was Sophie's belief that we must build, maintain and cultivate relationships.

As we emerge from summer, my hope is that all members of our Sacred Heart school communities will have found time to rest, pray and seek joy. And, as we move into the 2021-2022 school year, the Network of Sacred Heart Schools is gearing up to provide programs and opportunities that remain in line with our founder's vision, that allow educators and students to cultivate relationships that deepen our understanding and commitment to mission. ✦

Korin Visocchi is the executive director of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools.



©Photos by Jerry Naunheim



Students from Sacred Heart School of Halifax in Nova Scotia.



Getting to know you

RSCJ Q&A

By Flávia Bader

KATHLEEN (KATHY) MCGRATH, RSCJ, entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1999 in New York City. She had been trained as a spiritual director before entering, hoping to do the work of retreats and direction at that time. Her first ministry assignment was with the Life Experience and Faith Sharing Association, helping to build communities of faith within the New York City shelter system. She remained in service to men and women who were experiencing homelessness until 2013. She continued work in homeless services in Chicago, Illinois, and Boston, Massachusetts, and then in St. Louis, Missouri, while periodically giving spiritual direction and directing retreats. In 2013, Sister McGrath took on direction and retreat work full-time and, in 2015, helped found *Sophie's Well: A Center for Sacred Heart Spirituality*, one of the United States – Canada Province's three spirituality centers.

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

A. Like Madeleine Sophie Barat, I was initially attracted to the contemplative life, picturing myself in more of a monastic setting. But, when I met the Society in my 30s, I understood that my call would be more fully realized within the Society's charism of living a life that is "wholly contemplative and wholly apostolic."

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

A. That she saw the possibility of living a life that is completely contemplative and completely apostolic – as one movement, if you will. My own way of understanding this is to live life radically open to what is, to what's in front of us, as a way of being. That is, by grace, to engage with reality, with everything and everyone, to encounter it all, as it is seen and known by God.

Q. What have you learned from your experience working with people who experience homelessness? What steps do you see as necessary to eliminating homelessness?

A. That relationship in that setting matters. Mother Teresa often spoke of the kind of poverty, especially in the West, that results from a lack of community. The way she put it was that her work was much more about calling those she met into community, loving them, rather than trying to "solve problems." Because of early trauma and later addictions,

many I encountered found themselves lacking that kind of support: being heard, being seen for who they really are. Many survived by relying on themselves. But one does not flourish on one's own. On a systemic level, we are finally beginning to speak of trauma-informed care and the importance of healthy relationships in long term healing. Actually, my training as a spiritual director before entering the human services field was something I drew on often. Listening deeply, helping others to name their desire, being exceedingly patient, knowing that for all of us change/transformation comes very slowly, creating sacred/safe spaces are examples of practices that are important in both of the ministries in which I've been involved.

Q. Can you describe your role and ministry in Sophie's Well?

A. I, along with Jane O'Shaughnessy, RSCJ, and Mary Pat White, RSCJ, currently form the Core Team of *Sophie's Well*. In addition to what I mentioned above, another way in which we talk about the charism of the Society is "discovering and revealing God's love." So much of the work of spiritual direction and retreats is walking with others as they discover God's profound and personal love for them and the way in which this same love is the one given to and received from others. It's a relational spirituality that one continually "lives into." I have found particular joy these past six years in *Sophie's Well* walking with our colleagues in mission as they seek to grow in this aspect of the Society's charism.

Listening deeply, helping others to name their desire, being exceedingly patient ... are exa

Q. How has the pandemic impacted Sophie's Well and your programming?

A. The short answer is that everything has gone virtual: the spiritual direction, the retreats, all of the programming. This has certainly opened up possibilities for the future that we had not imagined. Still, Sophie Barat herself spent a great deal of her time "on the road," visiting her sisters, being physically present to them as much as possible, and this has a long tradition in the Society. I imagine some mix of the two ways of being present will be part of the work of *Sophie's Well* going forward.

Q. What has been your most valuable learning from living through a pandemic this past year and a half?

A. A quote from the German mystic, Meister Eckhart, which I received recently in an email, sums it up perfectly: *The most important hour is always the present. The most significant person is precisely the one sitting across from you right now. The most necessary work is always love.* The pandemic has forced us all to realize we've always had only the present moment and what's right in front of us. But now we know it.

Q. What kind of practices, if any, have you incorporated into your life because of this unique time?

A. Before the pandemic I was often traveling, sometimes up to three weeks out of the month with the work of *Sophie's Well*. I have certainly had more time to "be still" in one place. I find my Centering Prayer practice deepening in this greater stillness. It seems as though so many things we were doing prior to the pandemic, perhaps, prevented us from slowing down, being able to see, really listen and be quiet before what is sacred. Maybe we are beginning to recover our capacity to look, to behold, to understand life and reality with God's Heart.

Q. As our world and our communities look to return to old ways of being, what new attitudes and practices do you hope emerge from this time?

A. Since we are always evolving, I don't believe there's a "going back." That's a good thing. We can only go from where we've been. And what we have lived this past year or so on many different levels will profoundly change how we look at things

going forward. It gives me great hope to see how creative people have been within the limitations that were imposed – opening up whole new possibilities hardly imagined before.

Q. What are your hopes and expectations for the future as it relates to your own life and ministry?

A. I am excited about possibilities for systemic change that simply did not exist when I ceased full-time ministry in homeless services in 2013. That was a different time because someone could come for help with every good intention for a different life, but the crises that we have been mired in, really for the last 30 to 40 years, often stymied them in their way forward. Among these: a broken justice system, the lack of adequate mental health care, the housing crisis, inequality in education. I see hope here for those who are struggling with these issues in a way that I did not see before.

Q. How do you think the Society can make a greater impact in today's society?

A. By continuing to work with those seeking personal transformation as well as working for systemic change that can support that transformation and growth toward wholeness.

Q. If you could recommend a book, show or movie to our readers, what would it be and why?

A. One of my favorite movies is *El Norte* because it puts a very human face on the issue of migration. My work with the organization I began with in New York City taught me that it's always important to be working on both the personal level and the systemic level to effect change. When I think of my many years in homeless services, I remember the names and faces of the women and men I met. Without that focus on the person, the larger justice issues we face can seem overwhelming or elusive. At one point, I was co-director of a shelter in Chicago, Illinois, in which we worked with about a thousand volunteers. It was almost a 1:1 ratio of volunteer to guest coming into the shelter. That allowed relationships to form that profoundly changed how the guests saw themselves and how the volunteers began to understand the issue of homelessness. Real change can come only from that type of partnership. ❖

amples of practices that are important in both of the ministries in which I've been involved.

RECOGNIZING, HONORING AND CELEBRATING 200 YEARS IN GRAND COTEAU

By Caroline Richard

In 1821, 200 years ago, Rose Philippine Duchesne sent two young Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) to make the journey from St. Charles, Missouri, to Louisiana and begin the Society's second foundation in North America.

After traversing the Mississippi River and making their way through swamps and across prairies, Eugénie Audé, RSCJ, and Mary Layton, Novice of the Sacred Heart (NSCJ), arrived in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, in the summer. Their destination was a two-story cypress house atop several acres of woods and farmland. The land had been donated to Bishop DuBourg by Mary Smith, a local widow carrying out her late husband Charles's desire to bring Catholic education to the area.

Mainly because of the significant contributions and forced labor of enslaved persons, Mother Audé was able to open the doors of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, operated by the Convent

of the Sacred Heart, in October 1821. Five pupils were enrolled during the first week the school was open and that number steadily increased.

Truth and Reconciliation

The history of the Society's foundation in Grand Coteau is complex, one of perceived richness for white religious and students, and in the same breath, one of horror, as the institution's survival and growth would not have been possible without the contribution of the forced labor of Black persons enslaved by the Society.

Enslaved persons at the convent tended livestock, planted fruit trees and vegetable gardens, made bricks and built fences. Following emancipation, some remained at the convent to live and work; some of their descendants were educated by the RSCJ at Sacred Heart Colored School – later St. Peter Claver School – and some attended the Academy.

In the fall of 2016, the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province, delved deeply into its history with enslavement and conducted genealogical research to identify descendants of these enslaved persons. The Society continues to work to acknowledge this history of enslavement and to foster reconciliation with the descendants of the enslaved persons.

Building a Legacy

As the Society's presence grew in Grand Coteau, the community faced the hardships of yellow fever and cholera epidemics, hurricanes, and Civil War battles. In the 1870s-1890s, Grand Coteau was the home of a trilingual novitiate. Spanish-speaking novices from Cuba, Puerto Rico and Mexico joined the English- and French-speaking novices. In 1917, the school established a normal school that eventually became a four-year college for women; it operated until 1956.

Today, the Academy of the Sacred Heart remains a day school for girls from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 and a boarding school for girls grades 7 through 12. It has the distinction of being the house of longest continual operation in the worldwide Society of the Sacred Heart. In 2006, Berchmans Academy, a school for boys, was



In 1874, Spanish-speaking novices from Cuba, and later Puerto Rico and Mexico, joined English and French speaking novices. The novitiate continued in Grand Coteau until 1896.



The first brick residence constructed for the Grand Coteau enslaved persons in 1834 is still in existence on the grounds. Today a plaque commemorates those who lived there.

established. The two schools now operate jointly under the name: Schools of the Sacred Heart.

Bicentennial celebrations

This fall, Schools of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau celebrates 200 years of education, committed to fulfilling the mission of the Society by educating to the *Goals and Criteria* of Sacred Heart education.

On October 5, 2021, the school will kick off its bicentennial year with a day of celebration with a Bicentennial Mass at Saint Landry Catholic Church in Opelousas, Louisiana. The Mass will honor the RSCJ, descendants of persons enslaved by the Society, alumnae/i and students, in recognition of their contributions to the foundation and history of the school. The remainder of the day will be filled with student-led historical tours and demonstrations such as brick-making and, of course, *gôûter*, or treats.

A history, *The Academy of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau: 200 Years and Counting...*, by retired Academy English teacher, Darlene Smith, will be released followed by a book signing. The book chronicles the 200 years of the history, culture, and mission of the Academy in Grand Coteau. With the help of archival photographs, the author presents the school's founding in 1821, its history

with enslavement, navigating hardships such as the Civil War, and triumphs such as the miracle of Saint John Berchmans. She also includes sketches of RSCJ memorable to Grand Coteau, popular hymns, prayers, recipes, and quotes from former students and from religious who spent time there.

Annual events such as Christmas at Coteau and family *Congé* as well as student activities and lesson plans will tie into the Bicentennial celebration. In April 2022, the school will host a fundraising concert and cocktail party. It will be a catered event in the front gardens followed by a classical music concert in the chapel. To conclude the bicentennial year, the student body will celebrate with a closing Mass in October 2022.

The Grand Coteau Sacred Heart community looks forward to a year of remembering, honoring and celebrating all those who willingly and unwillingly came before us and laid a solid foundation for generations of students of the Sacred Heart. ❖

Caroline Richard is the director of Le Petit Musée and of Shrine of Saint John Berchmans, located on the grounds of the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau.

RECLAIMING THE HISTORY

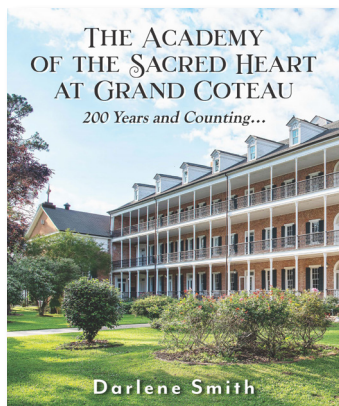
In the attempt to acknowledge the contributions of the enslaved persons in Grand Coteau and continue to build relationships with the descendants, the Society of the Sacred Heart is undertaking an oral history project. The goal of the project is to record the voices and memories of the descendants of the enslaved persons of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau. Through a partnership with Louisiana State University's T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, the Society plans to interview the descendant community and other relevant members of the Grand Coteau community in order to augment the fragments of written history gleaned from the documents, house journals, ledgers and letters that are still in existence. This material will be used to paint a more accurate record of the lives and contributions of the enslaved persons at the Academy in Grand Coteau and the continued contributions of their descendants through the years.

For additional information or to participate in the project, please contact Caroline Richard, crichard@rscj.org.

For additional information on the Society's history with enslavement visit: rscj.org/enslavement.

For additional information on the miracle of Saint John Berchmans visit: rscj.org/miracle-grand-coteau.

Suggested reading

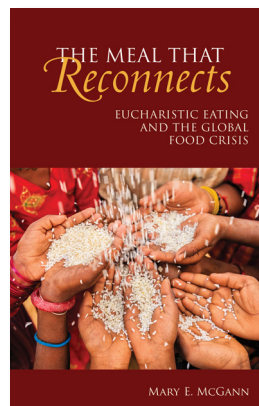


The Academy of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau, 200 Years and Counting...

By Darlene Smith

This book proudly documents 200 years of high-quality Catholic education at the Academy of the Sacred Heart (ASH) in Grand Coteau, Louisiana.

Beginning with its founding in 1821, it walks through the early struggles the religious faced when establishing the school, the antebellum years, the Civil War, the Great Flood of 1927 and World War II. Among many topics, it recalls the traditions that make ASH unique.

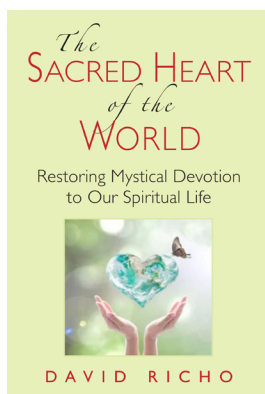


The Meal That Reconnects: Eucharistic Eating And The Global Food Crisis

By Mary E. McGann, RSCJ

In this book Sister McGann invites readers to a more profound appreciation of the sacredness of eating, the planetary interdependence that food and the sharing of food entail, and the destructiveness of the industrial food

system that is supplying food to tables globally. She presents the food crisis as a spiritual crisis – a call to rediscover the theological, ecological, and spiritual significance of eating and to probe its challenge to Christian Eucharistic practice.

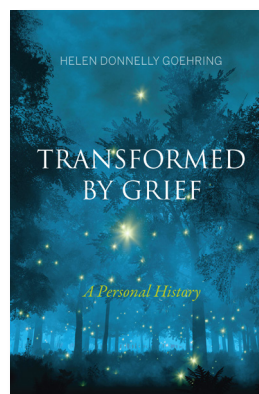


The Sacred Heart of the World: Restoring Mystical Dimension to Our Spiritual Life

By David Richo

Based on a combination of extensive research, Richo's interest in mysticism, and his own personal devotion to the Sacred Heart, this book unlocks a new future of vibrant and conscious faith. Richo, an Associate of the Sacred Heart,

shared that his purpose is to inspire devotion to the Sacred Heart, rekindle spiritual devotion, and center the Sacred Heart in a spirituality that will appeal both to Catholics and to people from a variety of religious traditions.



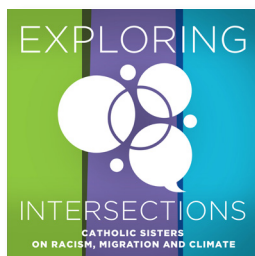
Transformed by Grief: A Personal History

By Helen Donnelly Goehring

This book by Goehring, an Associate of the Sacred Heart, is a series of essays about the transformative personal growth possibilities in the grieving process. Although these are individual essays that stand alone, the narrative is the same throughout;

they demonstrate how the process of transforming grief can vary. And yet, despite the variations, the common thread and common purpose of transformation is always evident.

Recommended listening



Exploring Intersections: Catholic Sisters on Racism, Migration and Climate

Exploring Intersections is a discussion series by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Region 10. The conversations explore specific social issues and their intersection with racism, migration and climate. Catholic sisters, friends and experts in their field, offer unique perspectives and invaluable insights on a particular topic through the lens of their spirituality. The podcast is a recording of a live webinar series that takes place every second Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. central time, through March 2022. Learn more at exploringintersections.org.

Called to be Artisans of Hope in our blessed and broken world



Learn more about the Religious of the Sacred Heart on our website:
rscj.org/vocations

VOCATIONS RSCJ

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART, UNITED STATES – CANADA

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Shirley Miller, RSCJ, receives her second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in St. Louis, Missouri. The vast majority of the RSCJ in the United States – Canada province are now fully vaccinated.



Beginning October 2021, the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, will commemorate its 200th year of Catholic education for girls. Students look forward to a year of reflection and celebration.



Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, and Michael Pera browse through house journals – the community records the Religious of the Sacred Heart keep – from the early 20th century. Read about the origins of the United States – Canada Province archives and the lessons and importance of documenting the province's experience with infectious disease.

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