



Heart

Winter 2011

A Journal of the Society of the Sacred Heart, U.S. Province



...to Heart

Dear Friends,

Something rather major is happening in human development, it seems to me, due to young people around the world having an awareness of being part of a global community. I have to work at that kind of sensitivity, but those in their teens, twenties and thirties have grown up with it in the world that has formed them. CNN, the internet, email and texting have always been part of their lives. Those in urban settings have always had peers and friends from diverse cultures and religious traditions. They know much that we did not know at their age, and they are connected to their world in ways that didn't exist a short time ago.

On Thanksgiving Day, there was some "good news" in the paper. Editorial writer Nicholas J. Kristof shared a portrayal of humanity today written by Steven Pinker in his book, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, which Kristof calls "an astonishingly good book." The central theme, that human beings have been behaving increasingly more decently over the last several centuries, certainly is good news. Reading this during the Thanksgiving "breather" allowed me to reflect on the possibility that our educational mission has contributed to this in some small way.

The Church has always looked to the Society of the Sacred Heart for the service of education, and education is one of the reasons Kristof cites to explain humanity's progress. Another is the decline of "chauvinism" – very interesting to me because of the Society's commitment to the needs of women and children and because of the 211-year history of single-gender Sacred Heart schools, and still the present status of many, including the most recently founded schools in the Network. A third factor is "a growing willingness to put ourselves in the shoes (increasingly, even hooves) of others." Wow! Justice, peace and the integrity of creation, and compassion – the fundamental quality necessary for us to do well in the final judgment as described in the Gospel.

It is wonderful to feel we are contributing to this very positive trend, all of us! Taking a lesson from the young, this may be a call to live today, each of our days, with compassion and greater awareness – awareness of the world we are part of with its joys and its anguish, awareness of the neighbor who shares this world with me, and awareness of the desires of Jesus' own Heart, that in very real ways we will help the "kingdom come." In the stories that follow, I hope you enjoy the glimpses of people who are part of our mission around the world and are the "good news"-makers of today!



With joy and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Toner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Toner, RSCJ
Provincial

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Corrections!

We regret the following errors in the annual report:

John and Mary McClure were omitted from our list of major donors on page 9.

The caption on page 13 incorrectly identified Josephinum Board Chair, **Juliette Lane**, as Jenny Nodot.

The following donors were omitted from the donor list for the Sophie Barat House:

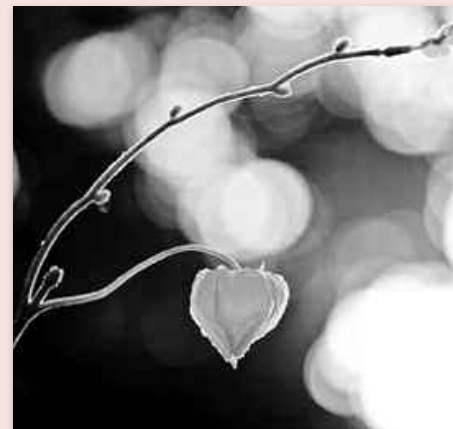
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Heart

Heart is published two times a year to highlight the mission and ministries of the Society of the Sacred Heart, U.S. Province, for a wide circle of friends. The covers, photographs of hearts in nature, symbolic of Christ's presence at the heart of the universe, bear witness to the contemplative dimension of the Society's "wholly contemplative, wholly apostolic" mission: To discover and reveal God's love through the service of education.



© Tasha Schalk / Redwall Photo

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 Philippine Duchesne in 1818. For more information about the mission and ministries of the U.S. Province, please visit www.rscj.org.

U.S. Provincial Team:

Paula Toner, RSCJ, Provincial
Anne Byrne, RSCJ
Margaret (Meg) Causey, RSCJ
Mary Charlotte Chandler, RSCJ
Melanie Guste, RSCJ
Mary Kay Hunyady, RSCJ
Susan Maxwell, RSCJ

Editor: Therese Meyerhoff

Designer: Peggy Nehmen

Copy Editor: Frances Gimber, RSCJ

Please send address changes for *Heart* to editor@rscj.org or to *Heart* editor at the address below. Article proposals are welcome.

Society of the Sacred Heart, U.S. Province
4120 Forest Park Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-652-1500
Fax: 314-534-6800

Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, Named Next Provincial

A familiar face will return to the office of provincial for the United States Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart next summer. Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, has accepted the appointment to serve as the next provincial. "This is a perfect moment for Sister Dawson's leadership with her gifts of a deep and open heart for our mission, creative energy and outstanding skills for community-building," said Provincial Paula Toner, RSCJ.

Sister Dawson previously served two three-year terms from 1993 to 1999. As provincial, she will be responsible for the communities and ministries of the Religious of the Sacred Heart in the United States. She is currently consulting with province members before assembling a new provincial team.

"It is both an exciting and challenging time to return to a leadership role in the Society of the Sacred Heart in the United States," Sister Dawson said. "I look forward to strengthening and deepening our mission and spirituality through collaboration and partnership with the many people and groups who are part of our extended Sacred Heart family. I know that together we can and will make St. Madeleine Sophie's vision a more vital part of our church and the larger community."

A native of San Francisco, Sister Dawson moved to Jakarta, Indonesia this past summer. She is working with the Society of the Sacred Heart there as it develops its plan for mission and ministry. She concurrently serves as an executive consultant to the Urban Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Oakland. Previously, she served as president of St. Martin de Porres, a diocesan school for underserved populations in Oakland, and as director of public policy and immigration outreach for Catholic Charities of the East Bay and director of ministry for the U.S. Province. ❖



Barbara Dawson,
RSCJ



Paula Toner, RSCJ

Warm Welcomes and Fond Farewells

Both the Network of Sacred Heart Schools and the Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart bade a fond and grateful farewell to long-time staff this past summer. AASH National Office Director Jeanne Burke O'Fallon and Network Assistant Executive Director Carol Haggarty, RSCJ, stepped down from their positions after many years of dedicated and gracious service. We wish them much happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

Joining the Network staff is Stephanie Moore, with the new title of director of technology and global integration. Moore comes to the Network after nine years as director of instructional technology at Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill. She is known in the Sacred Heart community through her presentations at last year's Network Conference for Librarians and Archivists and the Spirituality and Global Educational Conference. Moore has already begun to make her mark on the Network.

Maggie Sieger Kaspura has joined the AASH office as interim national office director. Valedictorian of her class at the Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, Houston, Kaspura is an award-winning journalist and author of *Deep in the Heart: Celebrating the First Fifty Years, Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart*. Her work has appeared in *TIME Magazine*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *Entertainment Weekly*, among other publications.

We hope both women find fulfillment in their new positions. ❖



Stephanie Moore, left, joined the Network of Sacred Heart Schools national office shortly before Carol Haggarty, RSCJ, departed.



Provincial Paula Toner, RSCJ, needed no introduction when AASH President Maureen E. Ryan, left, brought interim National Office Director Maggie Sieger Kaspura to the Provincial House. Sister Toner was head of school at Duchesne Academy, Houston when Kaspura was a student there.

The CANZUS Region: Affiliation Creates Opportunities

Internationality is one of the hallmarks of the Society of the Sacred Heart and one of its greatest strengths. The CANZUS region, made up of the provinces of Canada, Australia/New Zealand and the United States, is building on that asset to create a stronger future for the provinces and the Society as a whole. The spirit of collaboration permeated the halls of the Vallombrosa Retreat Centre in Menlo Park, California, this July as the provincial teams of the CANZUS region met, along with the central team of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Sharing and exploring were the dominant activities as the provincial teams discussed ways to work together.

CANZUS is one of five regions of the international Society of the Sacred Heart and the second to meet with the central team. The General Chapter of 2008 called upon provinces to strengthen their regional relationships, and this meeting in July did just that. As Catherine Lloyd, RSCJ, central team member and the link to CANZUS, said in her closing remarks, "I am coming to understand the CANZUS region as a relationship as much as a structure."

To further this relationship, the provincial teams explored ways to come together, including face-to-face meetings, ministry groupings, shared resources, interest groups and more. One of the early instances of

collaboration was in November, when the chief financial officers of the three provinces met with the treasurer general of the Society, Bernadette Porter, RSCJ, in St. Louis.

The provinces will collaborate in a number of activities and projects in the coming months, including a prayer card and a Facebook page, which will give members and collaborators a virtual place to meet and share regarding Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation activities. Facebook users can find it under the name "CANZUS-Connect: Society of the Sacred Heart." Please be sure to click on the "like" button.

Attendees at the CANZUS meetings were struck by how much they have in common and how many ways the provinces can collaborate. They also noted the strong connections that Australia/New Zealand has with the Asian region and that Canada and the U.S. have with the provinces of ANAM (Antilles – North America – Mexico). These existing collaborations will continue.

The implications for involvement are far-reaching and extend to all members of the Sacred Heart family

Central team member Cath Lloyd, RSCJ, taking it all in.



U.S. provincial team member Susan Maxwell, RSCJ, never missed a beat while representing a future full of hope.

throughout the CANZUS region. Using the social networking tools available today, all are invited to explore new and broader ways of collaboration. Friends of the Society can be part of the new movement of the Society of the Sacred Heart in the CANZUS region. Visit the CANZUS-Connect: Society of the Sacred Heart Facebook page and get involved in the conversations that connect you with others who share your interests, talents and concerns. ✦

The leadership contacts for CANZUS call themselves CANZUS Connect. They are Susan Ross, RSCJ (Australia/New Zealand), Sheila Smith, RSCJ (Canada) and Melanie Guste, RSCJ (USA). If you have suggestions for the group, please contact Sister Guste at mguste@rscj.org.

Shifting Ground

Reports from RSCJ in Japan and Egypt

Japan after the Earthquake

by Masako Egawa, RSCJ

It is now early fall, and the disaster brought about by the March earthquake and tsunami is growing wide and deep, especially with the nuclear plant problems. Throughout the country, people live in a life-threatening situation. The disaster has affected agriculture, fisheries, industry. Nobody knows how long it will take to restore, reconstruct, recover – there is frustration, anger, exhaustion.



As at other Network schools, students at the Convent of Sacred Heart in New York raised money for Japan in several ways, including through the sale of these bracelets.

Many of our graduates, faculty, staff, parents and RSCJ have participated in various kinds of volunteer activities. Some are cooking at volunteer centers, listening to people's problems, clearing debris, or offering short stays to families. Fundraising is going on in our schools.

What has most affected our everyday life in communities

and schools are the service interruptions because of the power crisis. This disaster made us seriously reflect on the way we live today. We have taken for granted a comfortable way of living. We do not want to lose the precious qualities of our life or the attitude of the Japanese people in times of difficulty.

What we have experienced during this time has taught us that it is possible for us to live in solidarity with people, to feel the suffering of other people. We are very grateful for all the support we have received from the Society around the world: prayers, cards and generous donations. ❖

Egypt's Revolution

by Magda Mikhail, RSCJ

There are seven communities of Religious of the Sacred Heart in Egypt. None of us participated in the protests; but some of our students and alumnae did, and we heard from them what was going on. We were safe, but schools were closed for an extended time.

The revolution was a great event and we were impressed by the determination and courage of the leaders, willing to suffer to obtain democracy, freedom, justice for all. We supported their ideals and their struggle to overthrow the government and end the system of corruption and oppression of the poor.

Most Egyptian citizens are suffering. They cannot get enough to eat or send their children to school. After the revolution started, the police disappeared. Violence and terrorism increased. Protests became the everyday reality.

The lack of security discouraged foreign investments and caused a tremendous decrease in tourism, which is vital to the economy. The hopes for more democracy and freedom are not yet fulfilled. So much is uncertain.

We have been affected, as has everybody in Egypt. The economic crisis touches us, as daily life is becoming more expensive. But the many poor people of the country are struggling more than we are. We try to help and be near to those suffering. The unrest and uncertainty mean that we don't know if we will be able to continue our work in our schools and other places. ❖ *Editor's note: Sister Mikhail wrote this article prior to the November elections.*



Sacred Heart students in Egypt celebrate the end of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's regime.

Spirituality in Nature

Vocation Ministry Explores New Paths

What began as an unanticipated groundswell in the 1990s has become an accepted fact: people are thirsting for spiritual nourishment. Many of the generation born during that decade not only expect to experience the spiritual in their daily lives, they create opportunities to spend quality time with God. The vocation ministry of the U.S. Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart hopes to accommodate this generation's energy and hunger for spirituality and adventure through a series of outdoor spirituality retreats.

To date, the vocation office's nature retreats have included an eight-day hiking retreat in the Black Hills of South Dakota and a four-day biking retreat through the countryside of Missouri and southern Illinois. Building on the personal passions of the RSCJ involved, they combine rigorous physical exercise and periods of personal and communal reflection. These retreats have attracted people of different ages and walks of life, with the shared quest for the spiritual.

Kerri Clarkin attended the hiking retreat in July. She learned about the retreat at the Duchesne House for Volunteers in New Orleans and was immediately interested. "I'm on a spiritual search," she said. "I've always had a strong connection to nature, but had gotten away from it. It was a nice reminder that God was speaking to me. The combination of the place and the people meant I would get what I needed."



Hitting the road together helped to bond the small group on the biking retreat in St. Charles. Shown are Diane Roche, RSCJ, Genie Pimmel, Michelle Wright, Alison Sanford, Anne Gray-le Coz and Mary Pat White, RSCJ.

Each retreat offered opportunities to work together and time to be alone, and both groups fostered a sense of community from the very beginning of their time together. "Everyone brought a different energy, and we fed off that," Clarkin said.

"The feedback has been gratifying," said Diane Roche, RSCJ, one of the retreat leaders. "The friends and colleagues who have biked and hiked beside us have returned home grateful to the Society for fostering their own capacity for contemplation in the midst of activity." ❖



Kerri Clarkin, Shell Olson, RSCJ, and Diane Roche, RSCJ, enjoy the reward at the top of the climb.

In 2012 there will be two hiking retreats; one in the Black Hills of South Dakota July 23 to August 1 and one in the White Mountains of New England August 19-27. The biking retreat in St. Charles will also be offered twice; a one-day retreat on April 28 and a four-day retreat June 7-10. Priority will be given to younger applicants (18-40), but others are welcome. To reserve your place, or for more information, contact Diane Roche at droche@rscj.org. And be sure to visit us online on Facebook or at: <http://vocation.rscj.org>.

In Mission for Life
Keeping Dreams Alive

By Shirley Miller, RSCJ

Looking out my large office window onto Forest Park Avenue, I watch many people go by, sauntering, jogging, walking the dog. Most wave and smile. Some little children put their faces against the glass and giggle. One man walks by twice a day. He has a radiant face and an enthusiastic wave. I have always wondered about his story. I stopped him one day and introduced myself and asked about his life. Charlie is from Viet Nam, and his simple life here is a dream come true. As he smiles in at me each day, he reminds me of the importance of keeping dreams alive.



Madeleine Sophie Barat and Philippine Duchesne were dreamers. They envisioned a world as it could be, and they crossed continents, oceans and rivers to live the dream of making the love of the Heart of Jesus visible throughout the world.

Four years ago the leadership of the U.S. Province had a dream – one of the boldest in our history – the launching of the \$40,000,000 *In Mission for Life* campaign. Not quite as bold as Philippine and her four companions, crossing the ocean on the *Rebecca* or coming up the river on the steamboat *Franklin*; but like Philippine's crossing the ocean, launching the campaign was a leap of faith, a leap well grounded in prayer and discernment, research and professional advice.

The purpose of the campaign is twofold: to reconnect with alumnae/i and friends across the country and to invite prayer, volunteer and financial support for the campaign. It will fill a twofold need: to support our present and future spiritual and educational mission in the United States and to care compassionately for our elder sisters, both now and in the future.

Over the past four years, through the ups and downs of the economy, we have continued to forge ahead with eyes and hearts focused on God and our saints, Philippine and Madeleine Sophie, whose dreams led us to forty-four countries in the world, and to whom we entrusted our campaign. Through the efforts of friends, families, alumnae/i, collaborators and associates, thousands of generous donors have come forward to make life-changing gifts for the Society.



Top left: Betsy Manchester, right, welcomed Southern California regional campaign leaders Maureen King, left, and Virginia Rodee, RSCJ, and many others to a delightful campaign breakfast.

Bottom left: Peggy Collins and Claire Bogaard co-hosted a wine and cheese gathering in support of the *In Mission for Life* campaign at Peggy's home in Pasadena.

Above right: Pat Lorne, president of AASH-LA, Kate Sawyer, president-elect, Sandy Farrell, and Pat Buyan, enjoy each other's company at a campaign luncheon.

Through the efforts of friends, families, alumnae/i, collaborators, and associates, thousands of generous donors have come forward to make life-changing gifts for the Society.

To date, \$32,000,000 (80%) has been committed in annual gifts, pledges and realized bequests. Each dollar is an act of faith in and love for the Society's mission.

During 2011-2012, the final year of the campaign, we will be launching regional campaigns in the Washington DC area, Houston, Arizona and Seattle. We will be completing campaigns in southern California, St. Louis/St. Charles, New Orleans and Chicago/Lake Forest. The regional campaigns throughout the country have included hundreds of volunteers and thousands of benefactors to whom we are deeply grateful.

A major part of the campaign has been the *Cor Unum Legacy Society*, which has encouraged many to make a singular commitment through bequests and planned gifts.

As we enter the final year of our campaign, we hope that alumnae/i, families, friends, collaborators, associates will consider making a gift, pledge or planned gift in support of the *In Mission for Life* campaign. If you are interested in supporting the campaign, please contact me or visit our website for more information. Help us reach our goal and plan a future full of hope. We entrust this final year to our gracious God, "Glory be to God whose power working within us can do infinitely more than we dare dream or imagine, today and all the days of our lives." ❖

In Memoriam

Please see www.rscj.org for biographical information on RSCJ who have died.

May they live in the fullness of God's love.

Elizabeth Stuyvesant White
June 15, 2011

Maryellen Harmon
June 18, 2011

Gerlanda (Julia) Micciche
June 24, 2011

Margaret Mary Coakley
July 2, 2011

Louise Lundergan
July 20, 2011

Madeline (Pat) Howe
November 12, 2011

A Broader, Deeper Experience of the Heart:

Josephinum Academy

Affirmed as Network School

By Jennifer Nodot



Josephinum students Brittany Daniels and Brianna Jackson are excited to work on their new netbook computers, a gift this year from the Society of the Sacred Heart's Duchesne Fund for Ministry, funded by an anonymous donor.

When asked what a Sacred Heart education has meant to her, Josephinum Academy graduate Corina Perez (2011) replied, “My life.” She elaborated: “It has been my friendships, my teachers, my values, who I am as a woman, and who I am called to be.” Such appreciation for the Sacred Heart experience is just one of the values shared by the young women at Josephinum, the newest member of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools.

Located in an historic urban neighborhood of Chicago, Josephinum Academy shares much in common with the twenty-one other Network schools, yet it is also unique because of the community that it serves. Nearly eighty percent of Josephinum's students come from low-income families. Many of its graduates are the first in their families to complete high school, let alone have the opportunity to attend college.

“Many of our students have to overcome incredible obstacles, and they are inspiring examples of St. Madeleine Sophie's and St. Philippine's spirit of courage and confidence,” says campus minister Muriel Cameron, RSCJ. While Josephinum's students can afford only a fraction of the cost of their education, they demonstrate their commitment by commuting to school from thirty-seven different zip codes, some travelling more than ninety minutes each way, often through dangerous neighborhoods. They come because they find themselves at home at Josephinum, where they are challenged by a rigorous curriculum and empowered to develop their gifts in a caring environment. As former principal Donna Collins, RSCJ, said: “The young women at Josephinum are disadvantaged by their economic circumstances. Given the opportunity of a good education

they can accomplish the same things as the students at other Network schools.”

Josephinum’s journey to full membership is the result of more than twenty years of dedicated service and guidance from Religious of the Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart alumnae and the community of Josephinum’s supporters. Founded in 1890 by the Sisters of Christian Charity, Josephinum has always sought to create educational opportunities for deserving young women. However, the school was on the verge of closing in 1985. Its existence today is in large part due to the dedication of Mrs. Helen Bruns Ryan (Woodlands ’50), who first dreamed that the Society of the Sacred Heart would come to the aid of the academy.

Ryan began her involvement at Josephinum because she was inspired by St. Madeleine Sophie’s vision for educating the poor. In the early years of the Society, free schools stood alongside the academies, making a Sacred Heart education available to all. Here in the United States, St. Philippine Duchesne continued this tradition when she founded the first free school west of the Mississippi in St. Charles, Missouri. “I saw giving back at Josephinum as a way for me to live out the calling of my own education,” Ryan said.

Ryan recruited Bonnie Kearney, RSCJ, to become Josephinum’s first Sacred Heart principal in 1990. “Sister Kearney is the real heroine of the story,” says Ryan. “She took the great leap of faith that led to this moment.” Sister Kearney felt strongly that educating underserved students was a part of the Society’s educational heritage. She began the long process of building the bridges among the Society of the Sacred Heart, the Sisters of Christian Charity, and the



Laura Anderson, RSCJ, instructs juniors at Josephinum Academy in algebra.

Josephinum Board, formalizing an agreement that created a unique sharing of responsibilities in service to the ongoing mission of the school.

When Sister Collins succeeded Sister Kearney in 1996, it was her responsibility to further the collaboration and strengthen the academic program, while respecting the traditions of the Jo, as the school is affectionately known. Sister Collins led Josephinum to become an affiliate member of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools in 2002.

Martha Roughan, RSCJ, became principal in 2003 and continued the work of deepening the school community’s understanding of the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools and developing its relationships with other Network schools. “The Network was superb in the way it supported our faculty and students,” she said. “They

began to see themselves as part of something larger, something more.”

Michael Dougherty (who has a strong heritage within the Sacred Heart family) became president of the Academy in 2007 and led the Jo through the rigorous three-year process of critically evaluating its integration of Sacred Heart values. The culmination of the process was an intensive weeklong visit from a team of Sacred Heart educators in October 2010. On April 13, 2011, the Network unanimously affirmed Josephinum as a full-member school.

When Dougherty read the news of the Jo’s acceptance to the student body, they erupted into cheers of elation. He affirmed, “Our students were filled with pride at Josephinum’s recognition as a Sacred Heart school. This has been the work of so many



Muriel Cameron, RSCJ, shares her watercolor talents with seniors Jacquelyn Berrios, Monica Owens, Briel Daniels (left to right). Art students enjoy field trips to some of the best museums in Chicago.

Michael Dougherty, Josephinum president, takes a moment at the 2011 graduation with two shining stars of the class, Janaria Cowley (left) and Shantel McNeal (right), now freshmen at colleges in Wisconsin and Illinois. The 2011 class is the first to be a part of the Associated Alumnae of the Sacred Heart.



people for such a long time, and we remember with gratitude all those before us who made this possible.” For Ryan the news brought tears of joy and hallelujahs of thanksgiving: “In the end I’m not sure if I am happier for Josephinum, or for the Network of Sacred Heart Schools! We have so much to learn from each other, and we will all be so enriched through this relationship. I know that this is St. Madeleine Sophie’s dream for us!”

The Josephinum community continues to work for the future. According to Dougherty, “We feel as if we have reached a launching pad, and it is time to reach for the stars.” With the success of the 2011 graduating class, it is clear that the school is well on its way. For the fifth consecutive year every graduate has been accepted into college, and the twenty-nine graduates were offered more than \$1.7 million in merit college scholarships.

“The spirit of Josephinum is one of generosity and gratitude, on the part of the students as well as the adult members of the community,” related Michaela Betterman D’Arrigo (Duchesne Omaha, ’85) one of many Sacred Heart alumnae

who serve on the Josephinum board of directors. “It was because of scholarship support at Duchesne that I was able to attend school there. Serving on the board is a way for me to pass on the gift of Sacred Heart education,” adds Mrs. D’Arrigo.

Every family at Josephinum is asked to pay what it can, but almost all students depend on scholarships to make their education affordable. “There are times when we have to make the very difficult decision whether to invest in a needed building repair or to provide a deserving student with scholarship support,” Dougherty said. “Our students are our priority. It can be a challenge to maintain our facility when the needs of our students are so great.”

Indeed, for the young women who are not able to attend Josephinum, the alternatives are bleak. At the local public high schools students must pass through metal detectors as they enter school. Only fifty percent of students who begin as freshmen make it to their sophomore year. “There is an entire generation that is being failed by the public schools,” notes board member Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ. “Josephinum exists because of the

leadership potential of the young women that we serve and the communities that desperately need their confident, faith-filled leadership.”

The word about Josephinum’s success is spreading, and it is one of few Catholic schools in Chicago that is growing quickly. Josephinum welcomed a freshman class of sixty students this year. “We have made it this far thanks to the support of the Sacred Heart community in Chicago and beyond,” said Dougherty. “It is our prayer that more members of the Sacred Heart community will join us in our mission to provide a Sacred Heart education to all of the promising young women who aspire to attend.”

As is true throughout the Network of Sacred Heart Schools, Josephinum Academy is forming the leaders of tomorrow, and its students are ready for the challenge. They are ready to discover and make known the love of God in the world!

If you are interested in learning more about Josephinum Academy, please feel free to contact its president, Mr. Michael Dougherty at michael.dougherty@josephinum.org or (773) 276-1261. ✦

Sacred Heart Internship Program

THEY CALL HER Mama K.

It's not an obvious nickname for this petite young woman, but her passionate and caring heart has earned her the moniker. At 21, Kaitlin Liroff is the oldest of the four young adults who participated in the pilot of the Sacred Heart Internship Program (SHIP), and she tended to watch over the others. These remarkable women spent five life-changing weeks in Washington, DC, working at non-profits, blogging, sharing and learning from one another. And they've only just begun. This internship includes a collaborative advocacy project. The four alumnae of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills – Liroff, Shannon Lewry, Oyinkan Osobamiro and Laura Spinelli – are working on a social justice website.

It all started with an exciting proposition. In April, 2010, Liroff and her friend Amanda Waske, also a Bloomfield Hills alumna, were part of a group that presented at the 2010 RSCJ Conference on Young People and later developed the plan for an immersion experience for college-aged women that would offer opportunities to engage in social justice work. Using the Goals and Criteria for Sacred Heart Schools as their guide, Liroff and Waske developed SHIP to include an internship, assigned reading, reflection, seminars, communal living (at the Center for Educational Design and Communication, a Sacred Heart ministry) and the extended advocacy project for the ten months after their time in Washington.

But wait. Perhaps that proposal in 2010 isn't where it all began. In fact, all four young women had plenty of service experience while Sacred Heart students. As Liroff and Waske wrote in their proposal, "These experiences in high school inspired us to take our learning to the next level." Out of a required social justice class grew a student group called P.E.A.C.E. (People Educating Adults and Children Everywhere).





Above: When not at their internships, Bloomfield Hills alumnae Oyinkan Osobamiro, Laura Spinelli, Kaitlin Liroff and Shannon Lewry hit the tourist spots in DC.

Below: Liroff at work at the Franciscan Action Network.



Its goal was to build bridges between the school and the global community by increasing awareness of social justice issues both domestically and abroad.

“The uniqueness of both the PEACE initiative and the current internship initiative is that both were designed and run by the students,” said Margaret Causey, RSCJ, provincial team member and SHIP supervisor. “While several of us were there to mentor them through both, they really took the leadership and full responsibility for implementation of both programs.”

“We believed we could do something,” Liroff, now at the University of Michigan, said. “The adults trusted me enough to allow me to investigate my world, while simultaneously offering support. That trust instilled confidence, the belief that I have the power to do something.”

Spinelli added, “High school instilled the idea that you’re supposed to do something. If you see something you don’t like, change it. This experience has deepened that conviction.”

Working for change is at the heart of this program. Each intern followed her passion in choosing her service site. Spinelli worked at Living Wages, a community-based organization that provides adult education, alongside Elizabeth Hartson, RSCJ, one of the founders of the organization. Spinelli spent time tutoring adult learners, working on the website and producing a marketing video – real world experience.

Lewry and Osobamiro both chose to serve at the Perry School Community Services Center. Osobamiro, who plans to pursue a medical degree, worked primarily in the health clinic, where she shadowed a doctor, worked on brochures and did general administrative work. Lewry worked in the finance office (with

Victoria Rajca, RSCJ) and development office, where she researched grants and worked on the website. Both women were touched by the lives of the underserved people who came to the Center for help. “Sometimes it seems like it’s a sin to be poor,” Osobamiro noted. “It was important to treat them with dignity. They’re not getting that anywhere else.”

Liroff’s experience at the Franciscan Action Network did not involve direct service, and that in itself was eye-opening for her. She spent her internship doing research and writing reports, including case studies about human trafficking that were presented to the United Nations Human Rights Special Rapporteur. She was impressed by the way the people around her lived a consistent ethic of life, especially the Gospel mandate to “welcome the stranger.” But she learned that she needs to work directly with people to see that her work makes a difference in a tangible way – an important lesson for someone who has been considering a career in politics.

An Education Beyond the Classroom

Sacred Heart educators have long known that education cannot be confined to the classroom. The four interns learned important life skills, including patience, collaboration and the art of compromise. In the process, they came to know themselves and their friends in a different light. Liroff, for instance, learned she's "a lot more maternal than I realized." Hence, the nickname Mama K.

The interns found community life to be full of challenges as well as joys, as they negotiated how to spend their joint food budget, prepared meals together and talked late into the night. Indeed, all four young women agreed that the communal lifestyle was the best, most important part of their experience. They talked about everything under the sun. Osobamiro – a self-described meat-eater – even learned to like veggie burgers!

"I knew the internship would be a good experience, and I knew I would have fun. I didn't realize how much I would learn about myself and how much I would grow," said Osobamiro. She smiled as she noted that her mother always told her never to discuss politics and religion in company. "Here we talked politics and religion at every dinner!" But, as Lewry pointed out, "Every conversation was respectful, deep and rewarding."

The interns were not completely on their own. Their support team included the staff at the CEDC, Sister Causey and Religious of the Sacred Heart Anne Byrne, Mary Pat White, Lisa Buscher, and the other RSCJ in Washington who met with them for weekly reflection and discussion. The young women valued this opportunity to get to know the RSCJ better. "To see how they live their charism together, to see what real faith is and what it can motivate people to do, is really beautiful," Liroff said.

This internship program is just one example of how a Sacred Heart education continues throughout a lifetime. The four interns believe this experience has changed them, and it will change the way they live. They are better listeners, more open, slower to judge. Osobamiro noted that her concept of service has deepened. "This experience was not 'I'm helping this person,'" she said. "It's about giving and taking as equals, striving to understand where the other person is coming from." Or, as Lewry put it, "Service is about relationships. This is the Goals and Criteria, living and breathing." ❖

(The Sacred Heart interns maintained a blog about their experiences in the District of Columbia. It is still available at <http://sacredheartinternship.tumblr.com>. The trial for the Sacred Heart Internship Program has been extended for a second year. To apply, contact Sister Meg Causey at mcausey@rscj.org.)



Meg Causey, RSCJ, center, credits Kaitlin Liroff (left) and Amanda Waske, both graduates of Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, for developing the new Sacred Heart Internship Program.

Working for change is at the heart of this program. Each intern followed her passion in choosing her service site.

Oyinkan Osobamiro and Laura Spinelli at the reception the interns hosted for those who helped them during their stay.



The Golden

Rose Guidroz, RSCJ, at her new ministry – making others happy by making fudge.



While a teacher at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, Rose Guidroz, RSCJ, was known far and wide for her homemade fudge. There's a good chance her fame will expand to the West Coast now that she resides at Oakwood, the Society of the Sacred Heart's residence in Atherton, California. Despite some mobility limitations, Sister Guidroz, 92, still concocts her candy, thanks to a certified nursing assistant (CNA) who helps with the shopping and some of the stirring. This personal attention is not the exception at Oakwood; it is the rule. The same is true at Teresian House in Albany: care and assistance are determined by the individual's needs and preferences, not the dictates of the facility. Both facilities are examples of person-centered elder care.

A person-centered approach is a simple restatement of the Golden Rule: treat your elders as you would want to be treated. The focus is on enabling them to do what they want and can do, rather than on schedules and restrictions. This philosophical change in residential care for seniors is known by many names – Green House, Live Oak, Eden Alternative – but the concepts are the same: respecting elders as individuals.

“At Teresian House, each resident is treated as though she is a member of each staff member's family,” said Joan Gannon, RSCJ. “Each one is valued as an individual person, her personality appreciated, her wishes and needs met if at all possible. The activities directors on each floor gear their many offerings to the tastes of the residents on their floors.”

Oakwood residents Theresa Teshima, RSCJ, and Mary (Be) Mardel, RSCJ, rehab dollhouses for sale at charity auctions.



Each resident is treated as though she is

Rule in the Golden Years

Teresian House Administrator Pauline Brecanier, O. Carm, was a pioneer in creating homelike environments in elder care facilities. More than a decade ago, she was also one of the leaders of the Pioneer Network, a grassroots association formed to transform the culture of aging in America. The organization seeks to accomplish throughout the country what Sister Pauline has established at Teresian House. Several representatives from both Oakwood and Teresian House attended the Pioneer Network's 2011 conference, including Meg Canty, RSCJ, who participated in a panel discussion.

Oakwood resident Ann Smith, RSCJ, noted, "In the old model of residential care, staff believed the residents were in their work space. Now, they say, 'I am coming to work in your home.'" Each staff member does what it takes to keep the residence running smoothly, without job descriptions getting in the way. "It's much more like home; like a family," Sister Smith said.

Sister Gannon said much the same about Teresian House, "The overall, day in, day out, sensitive, humorous, personal, warm, generous response of staff makes the place feel far more like a family inn than like a 300-bed facility for the aged."

Individualized care allows RSCJ at Oakwood to take classes or attend the ballet in San Francisco. They regularly spend time with students from the adjacent Sacred Heart Schools, and educators from the school lead monthly seminars, including concerts, lectures and art displays. They attend art classes and pursue their own hobbies, whether it is making fudge or rehabbing dollhouses. There's even

a chance to interact with cats, goats, chickens and rabbits. "The staff makes it possible for us to do things that used to be impossible for the elderly," said Sister Smith. "They find a way to do it."

This person-centered approach to residential care has benefits beyond the obvious. In addition to happier residents, many such facilities have found success with holistic alternatives to medications; they have also enjoyed reduced staff turnover. But when it comes down to it, this approach allows elders to continue to be who they are. Said Sister Guidroz about her fudge making, "I love to do something for other people – I consider it my ministry." ❖



Above: Pauline Brecanier, O. Carm, escorts Gertrude Cosenke, RSCJ, and her faithful companion, Daisy, on a walk outside Teresian House in Albany.

Below: Bebe Kearins, RSCJ, enjoys a visit from a fuzzy friend at Teresian House.



a member of each staff member's family.

RSCJ Serving the children of the Congo

By Mary Frohlich, RSCJ



Village children in the Plateau de Bateke, Congo.

It seems as if every place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is overflowing with children. Little tribes of children run and play in the muddy, rutted streets of the slums; the dark classrooms of the schools are stuffed wall-to-wall with children; in the countryside a strange (i.e., white) visitor attracts ever-growing crowds of giggling children. Children are often workers. Tiny children, as young as three or four years old, run errands in the slums. Boys as young as seven work with others to haul carts through the streets. Children of all ages aggressively hawk the foodstuffs their mothers have prepared. Most babies are cared for by other very young children. Up to fifty percent of the children in the Congo do not go to school, or drop out after the third grade when their families must start paying school fees.

That is the context in which the Congolese Religious of the Sacred Heart operate five schools and several vocational training programs. During the five months I was in the Congo, I lived on the compound of the Sacred Heart schools in Kinshasa. The school buildings, built in the early twentieth century by Belgian RSCJ, now house two high schools, three primary schools, and a two-year kindergarten – a total of 4500 students, mostly girls. During the Mobutu era, the Kinshasa schools were taken from the sisters and run by the government. Three years ago, with both the buildings and the moral fiber of the schools thoroughly run down, they were given back.

I was greatly impressed with how much restoration the sisters have achieved in such a short time. Basic repairs have been completed on the buildings, and everything has been freshly painted. More importantly, the spirit and discipline of the schools have begun to take on the Sacred Heart character. This is especially impressive since most of the faculty and staff continue to be those hired during the period of government management. These men and women have to be gradually “converted” to an understanding of Sacred Heart education.

In the Congo it is never easy to accomplish anything. I learned a lot about this when I took on the project of taking care of the rabbits that lived in hutches in our back yard. The hutches were in terrible shape, and the hired workers were not always giving food and water to the animals. I learned how

difficult it is to persuade people who have always been hungry and oppressed to invest themselves in their work. I also learned how difficult it is to achieve a simple practical project like repairing the hutches when money, expertise, and supplies are all chronically unavailable. Finally, I learned that even after one thinks one has made progress, the next day is likely to bring a setback – for example, the carpenter hired to do repairs disappearing with the money given to buy supplies. After these experiences, I understood much better the challenges facing our Congolese sisters. They face similar issues – scaled up a great many times – as they deal with the problems of the schools.

Despite everything, I truly enjoyed my time in the Congo. Of course, there are many un-enjoyable aspects of life there. The daily heat is draining; water, electricity and/or the internet are liable to go off at any time; the pervasive poverty and political corruption make one sometimes sad, sometimes angry. My more abiding memories, however, are of the vitality of the sisters' community life, the good work of their schools and the overflowing joyfulness of Congolese liturgies. I was struck by the fact that in some ways living in a milieu where Christian values are so obviously in peril brings out the best in Christians. Our RSCJ sisters, along with other devoted Congolese Christians, know both what they have to stand against and what they have to stand for. Their witness of joy, generosity, and hope makes a huge difference to the Congolese children who are lucky enough to encounter them. ✦



Top: Sisters Therese and Annie with children at Kimbanseke.
Bottom: Sister Fideline at the fish pond and rabbit hutches.



Following her five-month international experience, Mary Frohlich, RSCJ, has returned to her ministry as associate professor of spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She anticipates going to Rome this January to prepare for final profession in July. To learn more about the Congolese reality, please feel free to contact Sister Frohlich at: mfrohlich@rscj.org.



◀ Use your smartphone to view more photos from Sister Frohlich's stay in the Congo.

Lucile Mathevon, RSCJ, Frontier Educator

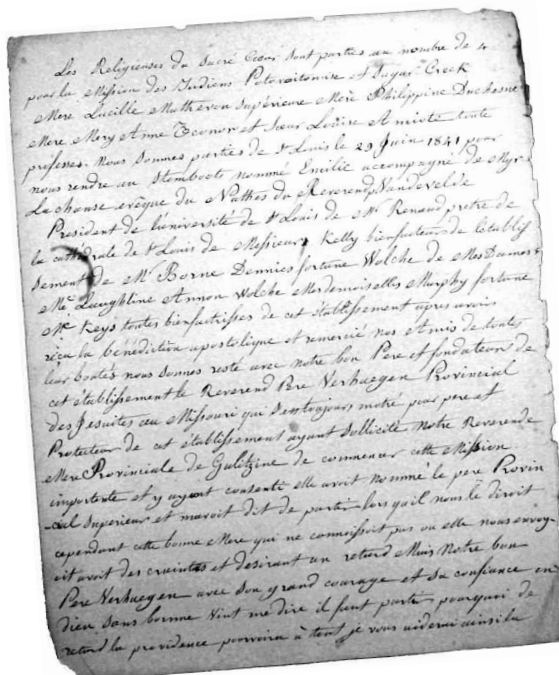
By Helen Rosenthal, RSCJ

Lucile Mathevon entered the world in Lyon, France, in 1793, during the Reign of Terror. Formed and inspired by Saint Philippine Duchesne, Lucile was destined to be a great and holy pioneer on the American frontier. Both of these great women were enflamed with love for the Heart of Jesus and the desire to share their devotion with others.

Lucile was still a child in Lyon when Madeleine Sophie Barat went to Grenoble in 1804 to meet Philippine Duchesne. Later, Philippine would welcome Lucile to Grenoble and inspire in her the same intense desire that she had: to bring Christianity to the Native Americans.

Lucile entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1813. She made her final profession in 1818, the same year that Philippine set forth for America.

In December of 1821, with Mother Xavier Murphy, Lucile began her voyage. It was a stormy one, and the ship was chased by pirates, but they arrived in New Orleans on February 2, 1822. Mother Murphy proceeded to Grand Coteau, Louisiana. Lucile went up the Mississippi to Florissant, Missouri, where she was reunited with Philippine. She was there for six years, during which she helped with the school for Indian girls and took charge when Philippine left for a new foundation in St. Louis.



A page from Lucile Mathevon, RSCJ's journal.

In October of 1828, Lucile was named superior of the St. Charles community, with the charge to reopen the school at St. Charles. The Jesuits had built a church and bought the land near it, including the original house rented for Philippine in 1818; they deeded this land to the Society of the Sacred Heart. As superior at St. Charles, Lucile built the convent and an addition to connect to the church.

Lucile later wrote to Mother Barat:

When I took possession of our house, there was neither sash nor glass in the windows. I had not even a bed to sleep in, having given mine to Mother Duchesne. Everything is going well in this house of poverty...

We needed a cupboard... I spied one in the yard and had it mended. It is our library, our linen room and our pharmacy. We are happy as queens. To spare our purse we have become masons, carpenters, painters and joiners... You must forgive us, Reverend Mother, for in the beginning we did nothing but laugh: we wanted to keep silence and religious gravity, but the sight of a room that has eight doors and only one window was enough to excite our gaiety. Finally, I cannot express the joy that our poverty brings us: we are happy, because we feel we are so united to all our dear Mothers in procuring the glory of the Divine Heart.

It is easy to see one of Lucile's characteristics in this account: she found joy in all she did, a trait she manifested in even the most difficult moments throughout her life.

In 1841, Lucile was named superior of the community, which included Mother Duchesne, that served the Potawatomi Indian Mission at Sugar Creek, Kansas. There were 3000 Potawatomi, about one-third Catholic. Lucile desired to share her love of Jesus with all.

The Religious occupied a very small cabin that had been vacated for them. The little space they had was often crowded with Indians who liked to watch them. They used one corner as storage, kitchen and refectory while the rest of the room served as dormitory and parlor. The Indians were taught outside.

Just ten days after their arrival at Sugar Creek, the school for Indian girls was opened. After only two weeks Lucile had learned enough of the Potawatomi language to write new hymns and so taught her students to sing. In six weeks, there were fifty pupils learning catechism, reading, writing, knitting and sewing.

Lucile remained at Sugar Creek until the treaty of 1847 pushed the Indians even farther west. The Jesuits established a new mission and named it St. Mary's (Kansas). The forced migration of the tribe began in 1848. Mother Mathevon crossed the Kansas River first and then led the way across the prairie, cutting down the high grass as the tribe followed. The new mission had forty-five girls in the school; by 1866, there were ninety-six. As the children of white settlers entered the school, some of the Indians withdrew farther west.

Because of an incurable disease (never mentioned by name in any of my sources), Lucile was sent back to St. Charles. The distress of the Potawatomi was so great and their pleas for her return so persistent that Lucille received permission to return to the mission; the Indians rejoiced at her coming. She spent the last five years of her life among them and died on March 11, 1876. ❖



Helen Rosenthal, RSCJ is an alumna of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in St. Charles and Maryville University. She entered the Society in 1950 and taught in several Sacred Heart Schools. She spent 20 years as a missionary in Chile, then earned her doctorate in historical theology from St. Louis University. She established the Center for spirituality at St. Thomas University in

Miami in 1986, the training program for Spiritual Directors and an International Online Program in Spirituality Studies. She has a blog at www.ReflectionsofanRSCJ.blogspot.com.



Top: Margaret Munch, RSCJ, and Helen Rosenthal, RSCJ, visit the gravesite of the pioneer RSCJ who served in Kansas.

Q&A

with Archivist and Author Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ

Kathryn Sullivan, RSCJ, spent a lifetime making the Bible more accessible to the average reader. Her life and accomplishments are recounted in a new biography, Kathryn Sullivan, RSCJ (1905-2006): Teacher of the Word, by Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, archivist for the U.S. Province.

Q: Why did you decide to write about Kathryn Sullivan?

A: Kathryn was a pioneer in the field in which I followed later, biblical studies. There was simply no one like her in her day. Most of her professional life was spent in the field of Scripture, a very hot topic in the mid-60s in the Catholic Church, comparable to the heat generated today by medical ethics. Religious life was also changing rapidly in the same years, and she was caught up in that, too. I interviewed her for a project for the Catholic Biblical Association. Afterward I realized that I had quite a bit of material about one who lived an extraordinary life, whose story deserved to be told.



Kathryn Sullivan, RSCJ

Q: Would you reflect on Kathryn's example as a Religious of the Sacred Heart?

A: She said of herself that from the time of her encounter with the Society, she never doubted that she was to become a Sacred Heart nun. She was totally devoted to the Society of the Sacred Heart. Prayer was always her first priority. When she taught or lectured, it was clear that her pondering of the Scriptures came not only from study but also from her own deep prayer.

At the same time, she was totally given to her ministry of teaching and lecturing. She was part of the Catholic biblical renewal that was shaping the Church in the

1960s and 70s and felt an urgent call to communicate what she knew. She traveled relentlessly to do this, and lectured so much that eventually her vocal cords began to wear out, and she was warned to stop speaking so much!

She demonstrated that it is possible to live a life of complete contemplation and complete apostolic labor at the same time.

Q: What do you consider Kathryn's most lasting legacy?

A: Many, many people still remember her. Though more attention has been given to some of the priests who were her contemporaries in the post-Vatican II biblical renewal in the Catholic Church, she was one of its anchors. Thousands of people were reassured through her writing and lecturing, helped to understand and embrace change and at the same time confirmed in their faith. She shows us how to make the best of what life deals us and to love generously.



Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ

For the complete interview with Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, please visit our website, www.rscj.org. Click on Features and choose Spotlight.

Kathryn Sullivan, RSCJ (1905-2006): Teacher of the Word is available by contacting Dorothy Schmerbauch at dschmerbauch@rscj.org.

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Kaitlin Liroff (left) discovered her nurturing side through the Sacred Heart Internship Project. That's one of the reasons **They call her Mama K.**



Carol Bialock, RSCJ enjoys quality time with Bella, part of the **Golden rule in the golden years.**