



Society of the Sacred Heart™
United States – Canada

September 15, 2023

Dear Friend,

Have you ever imagined the impact your financial support could have on our mission and lives as Religious of the Sacred Heart? Allow me to share with you some ideas of the difference you would make in the Sacred Heart family:

Your help will strengthen **our commitment as educators to young people** through supporting our new initiative, “SacredHeartDNA,” our commitment to Sacred Heart Schools, and our commitment to lovingly care for our older sisters.

- SacredHeartDNA brings together an intergenerational group of young adults and RSCJ and creates spaces and opportunities for them to connect, grow in faith, build community, and act. This summer, five RSCJ joined 24 young members of SacredHeartDNA for World Youth Day with Pope Francis. These young adults are filled with passion for what our sisters and they can accomplish to share our mission to discover and reveal the love of God in our world. One participant, a graduate of a Sacred Heart Network school, now a sophomore at the University of San Diego, will help start a chapter of SacredHeartDNA at USD. Would you consider a gift today to allow us to say “yes” to supporting these young adults who want to continue to engage with us in extending the mission of the Society?
- After conversations and consultations with our elder sisters, we have expanded our RSCJ retirement communities to include The Sarah Community in St. Louis, Missouri, and Carmel Terrace in Framingham, Massachusetts. These supplement our retirement communities at Oakwood in Atherton, California, and Avila and Teresian House in Albany, New York. This change will enable our elder sisters to look forward to **continuing active engagement in regions of the country where they have served so many**. Please consider a gift of support and to offer encouragement to our sisters. Your financial assistance also enables us to provide specialized care for our sisters through hiring additional personnel in the memory unit at Oakwood and purchasing medical equipment for enhanced care of our sisters.
- Another important decision involves bringing together the approximately 50 RSCJ who serve as trustees on the boards of the Sacred Heart Schools in the United States and Canada. This meeting will provide the RSCJ with essential training in their fiduciary responsibilities as board members as well as time to probe their

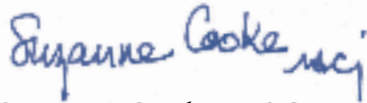
unique responsibilities as religious serving as school trustees. After their day and a half conference, the RSCJ will join the Network schools' new trustees, heads of school, and board chairs for the annual Network of Sacred Heart Schools Trustee Conference to be held October 22-24 in St. Charles, Missouri. Gathering stewards of mission for education and formation will have a significant impact on the mission of Sacred Heart education. Please support us in this essential endeavor.

- During our recent Assembly and Chapter meetings, we prayed as a congregation and talked with one another about ways to communicate the love of God that bring new focus, energy, and life to our ministries. It was a life-giving and Spirit-filled experience for me. This coming year you will hear us speaking about our Sacred Heart mission in terms of four apostolic priorities: Education, Spirituality, Formation and Justice Peace Integrity of Creation (JPIC). Please pray with us as we reflect further on how these contemporary expressions of our call as RSCJ can serve God's people.

As we begin a new fiscal year on September 1, **I come to you, hoping that you will see the importance of participating in our fall appeal.** The truth is that we need your continued financial assistance. We have many dreams to continue to be the Love of the Sacred Heart in the world, and we cannot accomplish them without you.

Thank you for considering sharing your talents, your time, and your treasure – your love. Let us continue to pray for one another.

Gratefully in the Heart of Christ,



Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, Provincial
Society of the Sacred Heart
United States – Canada Province

P.S. If you have any questions about how you can best support our work, I hope you will reach out to Anne Wiehagen, Director of Mission Advancement, at 314-880-0551 or missionadvancement@rscj.org.