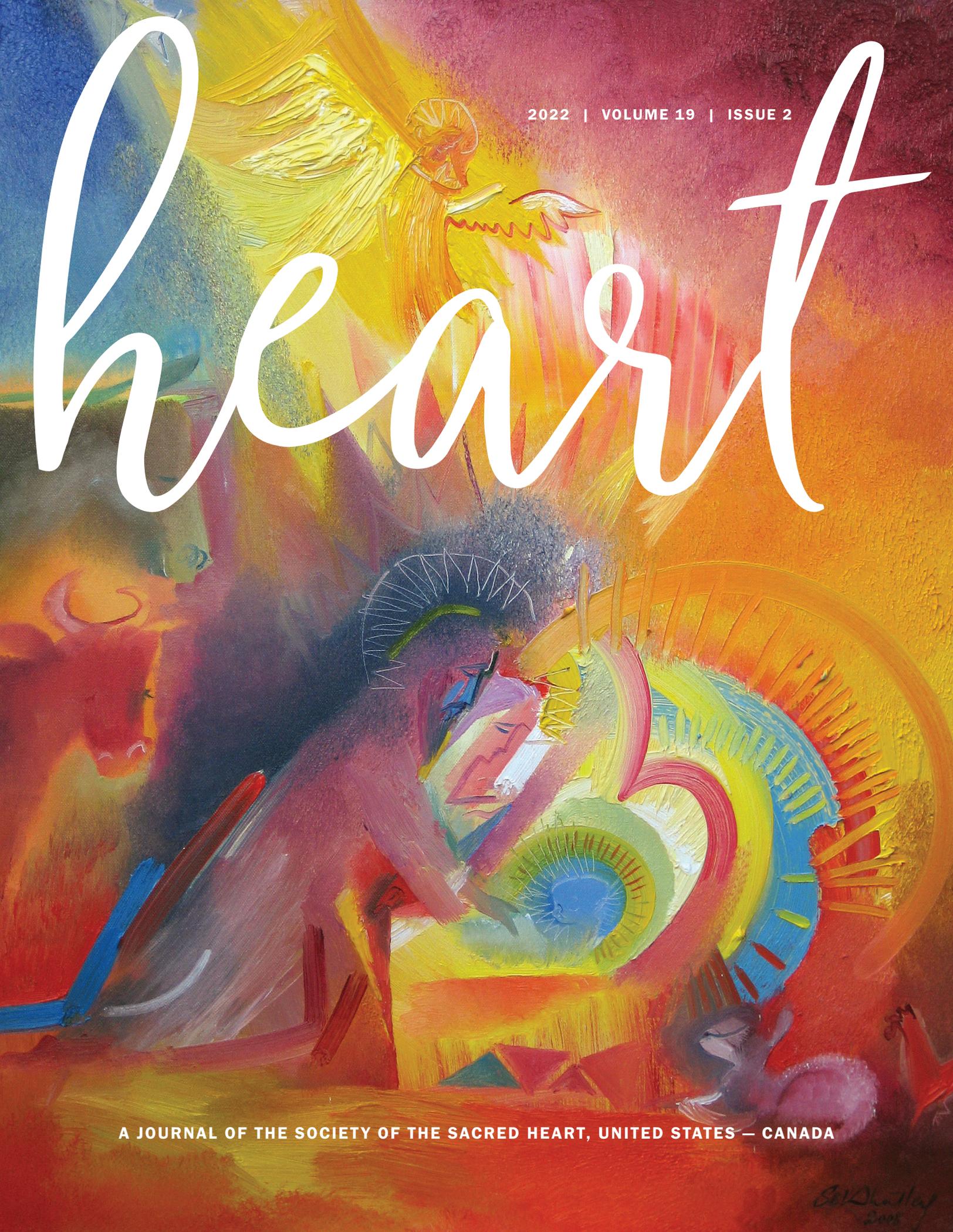


2022 | VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 2

# Heart



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

8/10/2021  
2022

# heart

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

Please update your address and mailing preferences at [rscj.org/connect](http://rscj.org/connect).

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

## PROVINCIAL TEAM

Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, Provincial  
Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ  
Marina Hernandez, RSCJ  
Lynne Lieux, RSCJ

## EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Erin Everson  
Designer: Beth Ponticello  
Copy Editor: Frances Gimber, RSCJ  
Staff: Lisa Terneus

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Society of the Sacred Heart  
4120 Forest Park Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314.652.1500 | [editor@rscj.org](mailto:editor@rscj.org)

## VISIT US ONLINE: RSCJ.ORG

## FOLLOW US ONLINE

-  @SocietyoftheSacredHeart  
@WeAreSacredHeart (Vocations)
-  @RSCJUSC  
@WeAreRSCJ (Vocations)
-  \_societyofthesacredheart\_
-  [rscj.org/forthesakeof](http://rscj.org/forthesakeof)
-  [vimeo.com/rscjusc](http://vimeo.com/rscjusc)



The *Heart* magazine team would like to hear from you. To share comments, ask questions or suggest articles for future issues, please email: [editor@rscj.org](mailto:editor@rscj.org)

# contents

- 3 from the Provincial**  
By Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ
- 4 Walking Into the Future Together With Courage and Confidence**  
By Maureen Glavin, RSCJ; Reyna González, RSCJ; Anne Wachter, RSCJ; and Bridget Bearss, RSCJ
- 8 Connecting Young People Through the Society's Mission**  
By Yannina González Samilpa
- 10 Staff Q&A: Getting to Know Megan Wilson-Reitz**  
By Erin Everson
- 12 The Sarah Community: RSCJ Establish New Eldercare Community**  
By Lynne Lieux, RSCJ
- 15 Sowing Courage and Confidence: The Society Supports Partners in Mission**  
By Erin Everson
- 20 RSCJ, Women of Inspiration**  
By Barbara J. Menard
- 22 Supporting the Society's Mission of Education**  
By Michael (Mike) Ryan
- 23 The Heart of an Educator, A Life-long Learner**  
By Erin Everson
- 24 Mission Advancement Report on Gifts**  
By Anne Wiehagen
- 26 In Memoriam**
- 27 Making Mission Possible: Staff Serving at Province Infirmaries and Retirement Centers**  
By The United States – Canada Provincial Team
- 30 Contest Winners**

Cover: *The Holy Nativity, Christmas Day 2008*  
by Stephen B. Whatley

Stephen B. Whatley is a British Catholic expressionist artist. His work is in collections worldwide, and his Catholic tribute paintings are owned by many Catholic establishments, especially in the United States and Canada. He was presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in recognition of his work. See more about his work, including signed prints at: [stephenbwhatley.com](http://stephenbwhatley.com)





# from the Provincial

## Dear Friends and Family of the Sacred Heart,

We have entered the season of Advent, during which we anticipate celebrating the extraordinary act of God’s love for all of us — the Incarnation, the divine choice to become one of us in the person of Jesus Christ. This stunning act of Love, of God’s desire to be one with us, impels us to be the love of the Sacred Heart within the world, quietly and consistently supporting people to grow in dignity as human beings and as children of God. All that we do springs from our being united in the Heart of Christ. It is this union that gives us the courage and confidence to walk into the future together.

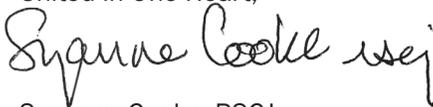
Each issue of *Heart* allows us to share stories of members of the Family of the Sacred Heart as they respond to this communal call to be love in the world. We hope that their narratives, their insights, their words inspire us to act as people of hope and of joy.

We remember those Religious of the Sacred Heart who have gone before us. We are united with them and they with us in the Heart of Christ.

We also recognize all those who have supported us through sharing talents, time and treasure. These acts of generosity have enabled us to extend the Society’s mission into the world. We thank you all for your commitment to the vision of our founder Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, for your gracious support and your kindness.

During Advent may we continue to encourage one another as we pursue Christ’s invitation to each to build the Beloved Community by being the Love of the Sacred Heart in the world. Let us continue to pray for one another as we engage in this holy work of transformation.

United in One Heart,



Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ



“

We share in a glorious mission and serious responsibility — to make the love of God visible in a world in need. As leaders with hearts of educators, we enkindle embers of hope and inspire flames of knowledge that will ignite blazes of transformation.”

The Network of Sacred Heart Schools  
Trustee Education to Mission Conference  
October 18, 2022  
Closing Prayer

# walking into the future together with courage and confidence

The following are reflections by four Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) sharing about their ministries and the importance each finds in answering her call to serve in the Society.

## Maureen Glavin, RSCJ

September 2022 launched a new moment for me as I moved to and began to live my vocation in the Society of the Sacred Heart with our sisters in the District of Indonesia.

I am currently studying the Indonesian language full-time and on November 1, 2022, I also began my ministry as a Provincial Team member. In that role, I support the newly named District Superior, Jovita (Lulud) Triwiludjeng, RSCJ, in her service of leadership. While Sister Lulud has been in leadership positions for many years, she is the first Indonesian RSCJ to take on this role.

Many factors draw me to live the Society's mission in Indonesia. Among them is the fact that the Society is growing and thriving here. While there are as of yet only eight finally professed RSCJ in the District, there are 20 women in formation: one live-in [a woman living in a community while deciding whether to apply for admission], five postulants, four novices and 10 young women who have professed their first vows in the Society.

I am also attracted to the experience of the Society's internationality here. In Indonesia, internationality is a daily-felt reality. The eight finally professed RSCJ represent six countries: Indonesia, India, England, Japan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the United States. Additionally, there is a palpable presence of God's spirit felt in the beautiful contemplative prayer life and in simple, openhearted, joyful community life.

While I have been in Indonesia for only a short time, my experience here gives me great hope for the future of the Society. I am meeting women with youth, energy, love of God, thirst for knowledge, deep prayer, joy in community and openness to growth. They will surely become RSCJ who, by their very lives and love, contribute to the growth of God's love in our world. Given that, how can I *not* have *courage* and *confidence* as we walk into our future together!



Sister Glavin (left) with Sister Lulud, District Superior of the District of Indonesia.

***“I am meeting women with youth, energy, love of God, thirst for knowledge, deep prayer, joy in community and openness to growth.”***

***“Our mission is ALIVE and must be nurtured and cultivated with the loving hearts and hands of many.”***

## Reyna González, RSCJ

Last year I was invited by Provincial Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, and the Provincial Team to be the Director of the Young Adult and Vocation Ministry. For me, this service of walking together with young people in their search for meaning, in being part of their journey to discover their mission in life is part of my passion for working with young adults. I also believe that there are young women who would like to be part of the Society. They have our charism and mission; it is part of their DNA.

I think we have a responsibility to share with the next generation the gift that has been entrusted to us — our vocation to follow Jesus in the Society of the Sacred Heart.

This inspires me, and I believe that, as a community of followers of Jesus, we are invited to cross our cultural, social, ideological, and psychological boundaries to meet those who are different. We are invited to pull back the curtains and look at ourselves with new eyes, eyes that recognize ourselves as women and men willing and capable to risk in love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

I deeply believe that I have been given a treasure, an inheritance, and a horizon, but like any inheritance or legacy, if you do not care for it, it dies. I feel like the woman in the gospel who has found a treasure.

At the same time, I feel a challenge because I meet a generation that needs to trust us and believe in us. I need to co-create with them. I began to invite different RSCJ and young adults to dream and think together about what we can do to respond to the needs of the young and to explore the gifts that they bring as a generation. After a couple of months of working as a team, we developed “Sacred Heart Dream, Now Act (Sacred Heart DNA).”

Something I have learned is that young adults believe in interconnecting generations and they are open to working together. A sense of belonging is very important



Sister González discusses the importance of partnering with young people at the Province's Post-Chapter Special Assembly in July 2022.

for them. We need to offer experiences and spaces where they can feel that they are part of the mission of the Society.

Sacred Heart DNA gives me a lot of hope because we are a team of different backgrounds, ages and experiences; and we can work and create something together to offer to young adults. I believe that the future of religious life and, in fact, our future depends on the capacity to collaborate in a spirit of authentic mutuality. Our mission is ALIVE and must be nurtured and cultivated with the loving hearts and hands of many.

It gives me hope that we are here to take a risk, to open our doors, to allow new life to enter into our lives. For me, taking the risk to dream and co-create with young adults is one way of “walking into the future together with courage and confidence” *with* the next generation. I am sure that if we remain steadfast and open, we will be very pleasantly surprised!

*“Knowing my purpose and rooting discernment in the Spirit are possible because from a young age I have felt deeply loved and felt a strong sense of belonging.”*

## Anne Wachter, RSCJ

In 1986, I was working at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Omaha, Nebraska, and I let the students know that I would be entering the Society in the summer. With them, I shared a poem about a butterfly whose home is the whole world and not just one piece of the ground. It has always been clear to me that as RSCJ, our center of gravity is the whole world.

Knowing my purpose and rooting discernment in the Spirit are possible because from a young age I have felt deeply loved and felt a strong sense of belonging. I grew up with a big family, a bustling neighborhood, small schools, and through significant RSCJ at Duchesne and beyond, I have always felt I belong in the Society of the Sacred Heart. Being loved strengthens a person. And, deeply loving our mission makes us courageous. Parents who love their children find the courage to do what is necessary. RSCJ who love our shared mission and charism are empowered, encouraged, and discern well to go where called and to do what is asked.

I remember that Mickey McKay, RSCJ, facilitator of the Society’s General Chapter in 2000, told the delegates “If you wish to discern well, you must increase your love.” I believe it was another way of saying: dig deep, be faithful (even obedient!) to our charism and mission — this is my (our) primary source of hope and joy. Discovering and revealing God’s love is our purpose, and I believe that where one RSCJ is serving, all of us are present in some way. Where one of us is, we are strengthened through love; and at the same time, it is love that gives us the courage to go where called.

This is what I keep in my heart and mind as I discern God’s call to serve at the International School of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo, Japan. In this role, it will be important for me to be generous in the face of our humanness, to be as emotionally available to others as possible, and to be whole-hearted or stout-hearted, never half-hearted.



Sister Wachter shares a passionate reflection with RSCJ at the Province’s Post-Chapter Special Assembly in July 2022.



***“I have been continually invited to expand my circle of relationships, engaging and learning with new communities and always working towards building the ‘Beloved Community.’”***

## **Bridget Bearss, RSCJ**

My call to the Society of the Sacred Heart followed my first vocational call as an educator. That call was grounded in the desire to participate fully in the transformative work of justice — to change the world through the work of education.

Believing that I was called to change that is possible through politics, I headed towards a lifetime of work on behalf of the gospel. My trajectory over time has changed on account of a number of factors, but was significantly influenced by the work of Gustavo Gutiérrez Merino of the Order of Preachers, and his groundbreaking work, *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics and Salvation*. Through this book, my heart and eyes were opened to what I knew would become my life’s work.

At that time, my direction was transposed from changing policy through organizing and legislation to the conviction that real change begins in the heart and mind of every human person, especially every child.

My journey from 30 years in the Network of Sacred Heart Schools to the Stuart Center for Mission and now, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) is not difficult to map. I have been continually invited to expand my circle of relationships, engaging and learning with new communities and always working towards building the “Beloved Community.”

In the circular labyrinth that is my life’s journey, I have been in a simultaneous dynamic duet, invited deeply within while led into expanding responsive communities with whom I encounter the emerging future.

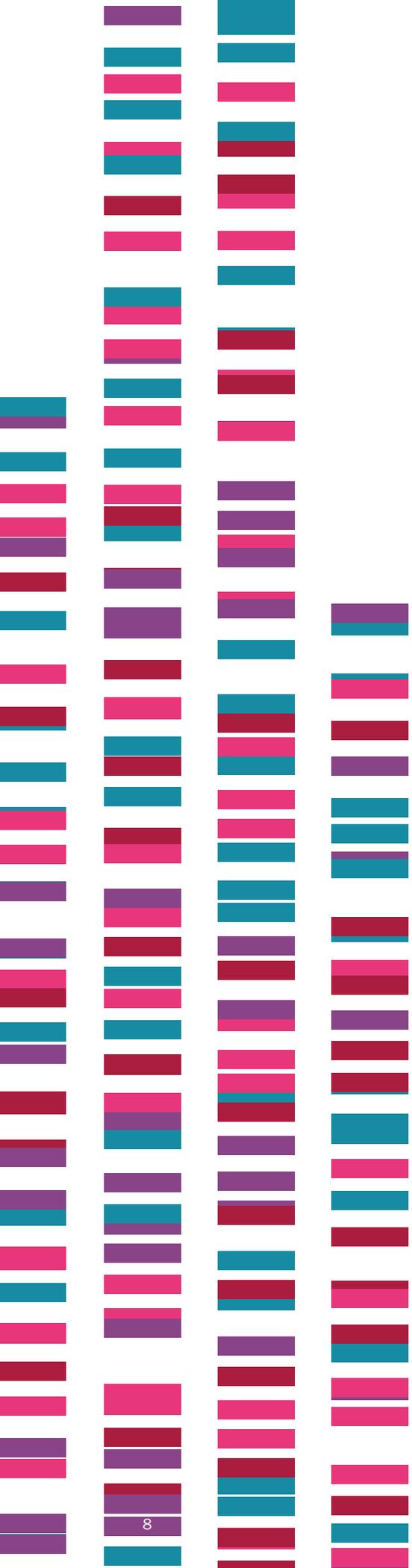
My current role as Associate Director for Transformative Justice for LCWR is a new and exciting way for me to live the charism of the Society. Here, I am engaged in work confronting the intersectionality of racism, climate and migration, while also charged with finding ways for us women religious to deepen our understanding of the role



Sister Bearss at the LCWR main office in Silver Spring, Maryland.

of transforming consciousness in justice work. While we advocate, witness, participate and re-imagine, we also want to examine root causes of systemic injustice. This work must include the transformation of consciousness as well as policy reform. We must live the transformative values we sisters have proclaimed and assist congregational justice promoters and leaders in finding “how” to refuse to remain in polarization and division.

I look forward to meeting each member of the Sacred Heart kinship on this journey of the emerging future. For more information on LCWR and our work of transformative justice, please visit [lcsr.org](https://lcsr.org).



# SacredHeartDNA

## Connecting Young People Through the Society's Mission

By Yannina González Samilpa, alumna of Colegio Sagrado Corazón in San Luis Potosí, México

### **What would your answer be if I asked you: what are you doing to improve the world you live in?**

There is no completely right or wrong answer; however, if you are not able to find in yourself clear indications about what you are doing to generate a better society, I invite you to give this article a chance; you might read something that could help or might interest you.

I would like to start by acknowledging the fact that evolution is inherent in nature: if we don't have the ability to change, then we don't have the ability to survive either.

Every day the future, which with our existence we generate little by little, drives us to move, to transform ourselves, to progress, to transcend. For some, transcendence may be merely the experience of a quiet life; for others, it can mean so much more.

A few years ago, COVID-19 came into our lives, and this disease was responsible for shaking each and every one of us to the foundation. Its arrival did not go unnoticed by anyone, and one of the messages we all heard loud and clear was that the only consistent and persistent thing in this life is change. Nobody is promised the next day; and given the harsh situation that the pandemic made us face as a society, I am sure that for many it was impossible to silence the questions that came crashing in, over and over and over again... *Is what I'm doing with my life making me happy? Is it enough? Is it significant? Am I in some way, through my actions, inspiring someone else to take charge of their life?*

If anyone managed to arrive at a clear and concise answer, that person's help would be much appreciated!

There are so many fronts on which we can work to improve, that sometimes we get lost in a sea of possibilities and end up doing absolutely nothing.

We often come face to face with a huge, globalized world, which requires us to move fast, be reactive and even be ephemeral in our existence. In a single second, we can find out what is happening on the other side of the continent, on the other side of the world; and knowing that the solution to global problems is up to all of us can ultimately be, at least, overwhelming, especially for people who are aware of their environment. But what do we do with this concern? Where do we focus our good intentions?

Faced with the enormous challenges that today we are required to overcome, from the concern and the will to create the reality that we desperately need, and with the blessing of God, a new idea was born: “Sacred Heart Dream, Now Act (Sacred Heart DNA)”

Sacred Heart DNA is a group founded, organized and facilitated by Reyna González, RSCJ, Director of Young Adult and Vocation Ministry for the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province.

This group is made up of a multidisciplinary team of Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) and collaborators – which we are completely willing to expand – among whom are: María Casares; Amanda Codina; Rachel Connelly; Reyna González, RSCJ; Bonnie Kearney, RSCJ; Kimberly King, RSCJ; Ellen Nelson, RSCJ; Diana Ochoa; Karla Reyes; Diane Roche, RSCJ; and myself, Yannina González Samilpa.

Within this group, we seek to create strong networks that motivate younger generations to create spaces and opportunities that help us improve, include, grow and act for a better world.

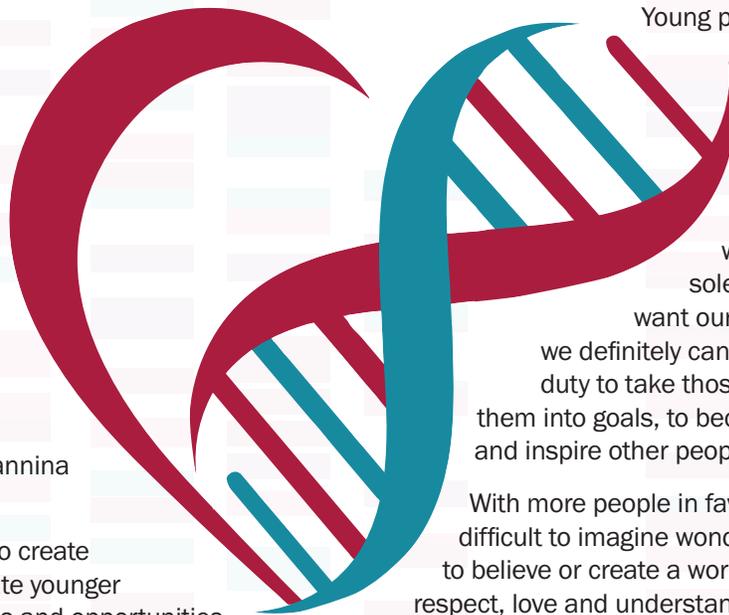
We, as a group, have come to realize that around the world there are people who share in the same purpose and yet have different types of experiences. The Society of the Sacred Heart has always been a congregation of pioneers and innovators in a variety of fields such as service and community, but also in education and vocations – instilling values that are not exclusive to any religion, but are simply human values.

Now, Sacred Heart DNA hopes to connect with people who have been affected by the Society’s mission and charisma – to discover and reveal God’s love – as well as those who have not come to know the Society’s mission, but still have the desire to make a change.

Like the nitrogenous bases found in our biological DNA, the incorporeal DNA of the type of person involved in this work is diverse and always exemplifies five important pillars: personal integrity, spirituality, belonging and community, active citizenship and transformative action. The meaning of each of these aspects varies for each person; and, although we are all different, and therefore valuable, we are able to share values, ideals and roots.

“Dream, Now Act” is a goal we are trying to achieve; to connect and build an action-oriented community with people who share in this “Sacred Heart DNA.”

The primary focus of this group is young adults ages 17-35, without restriction of gender or religious affiliation. Sacred Heart DNA, as a group, believes that with the correct mentoring and guidance, in partnership with the Religious of the Sacred Heart, we can be an enormous force for change.



Young people need hope. We need to be able to trust someone, and we need to create our own optimism about the future! The responsibility to create what we believe in is solely in our hands. If we want our dreams to come true, we definitely can’t go to sleep! It is our duty to take those dreams and transform them into goals, to become agents of change and inspire other people to do the same.

With more people in favor of people, it is not difficult to imagine wonders; it is not difficult to believe or create a world in which inclusion, respect, love and understanding are undeniable realities in all corners of the Earth.

Sacred Heart DNA is a mission for dreamers, for believers, for makers, for those who cheer life. Becoming the best version of ourselves, helping others own their own power, is our goal.

So, we invite you to change the rules of the game, knowing we are only what we are capable of giving. Let us lose the fear of the challenge, of difficulty and obstacles; let us understand that if there is a stone in our way, we must be the ones who move it away and keep walking so future generations can run and even fly.

The traces of our fingers do not fade from the lives we have touched. If our goal is to transcend, leaving a permanent mark, we must make sure we leave positive footprints behind and not scars on the skin of life.

May God let us muster the necessary courage then to achieve progress by learning to see more, to know more and to give more!

# Staff Q&A

## Getting to Know Megan Wilson-Reitz

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

**Megan Wilson-Reitz** currently serves as Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Coordinator for the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province, through the Stuart Center for Mission in Washington, D.C.

Megan is an activist, an educator and a leader, who hails from and currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio, with her husband and two children (see *photo p13*). A faith-centered woman, she places high value on genuine collaboration, dialogue and challenging the institutional status quo. Before working for the Province, Megan worked at John Carroll University in Ohio where she spent the last four and a half years in the Division of Diversity and Equity, first as coordinator then as manager of Diversity Equity and Inclusion programs. In addition, Megan has experience as a community organizer and coordinator, and in the early stage of her career, she was a volunteer in Chile.

She has authored several publications in both academic and popular circles and has an impressive repertoire of workshops, presentations and trainings. She has facilitated workshops on such topics as cultural competence, managing bias and anti-racism. She has also led trainings and retreats entitled: *Interrupting Micro-aggressions; What is Power and How do We Use It? Citizenship and Laudato Sí; and Diversity and Inclusion in Christian Faith: Building a Church Where the “Other” Is “Us.”*

### **Who in your life has been most influential in your faith journey, and how did you come into justice work?**

My husband and I both are long-term extended community members of Cleveland’s Catholic Worker community, which has grounded me in my faith for over 20 years. It is the Catholic Worker Movement, with its simultaneous commitments to both promoting the Works of Mercy and resisting the Works of War, that has been most instrumental in helping me to make sense of how to live out a faith rooted in concrete work for justice, compassion, peace, and respect for the dignity of all God’s Creation. (Also, we throw the absolutely best potlucks.)

### **In your own words, why is justice work necessary in the context of the Catholic faith?**

For me, the Eucharist sits at the heart of all of my work for justice. It is the sacrament of the everyday meal, where ordinary food becomes extraordinary nourishment; where the sacredness of the Body of Christ (and our own body, too) is honored; where brokenness is a gift shared out of love for others to meet their needs. When we gather to share this meal, we are regularly reminded that the Body of Christ is present, is all of us – and every part of that Body is worthy, every part deserves love, every part demands respect. For as long as any member of the human family lies hungry, wounded or broken anywhere in the world, then, the sacrament of the Eucharist reminds me that there is work to do.

### **What are some of the justice issues you are most passionate about and why?**

For me, all justice issues are deeply intertwined, but there are three core issues that have a pernicious influence on all the others: economic injustice, militarism, and racism. These are what Dr. King called the “giant triplets,” without which all other justice issues would look far different today. Living in this society, where so many of a person’s life outcomes still, today, are determined by race and wealth, and where so many of our social systems require violence (or the threat of violence), I think these three are the most serious structural obstacles today – just as they were in 1967 – to achieving the common good in any other area.



**What appeals to you most about the mission and ministry of the Society, and what drew you to accept the role of JPIC Coordinator?**

In my 12 plus years as an educator, I have learned that when we cultivate learning environments where people are treated with love and dignity, environments where all people feel they can belong, and can be heard, some truly remarkable transformation and conversion can happen.

It is a great honor, therefore, to be invited to bring this experience — my own “heart of an educator” — to participate in the Society’s mission to reveal the love of God to the world. If there is one truth about this work that I believe more than anything else, it is this: ultimately it is love, more than anything else, that will generate the power for the social change the world so desperately needs.

As Dorothy Day says, “Love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up. If we love each other enough, we will bear with each other’s faults and burdens. If we love enough, we are going to light a fire in the hearts of others. And it is love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us.”

**What perspectives do you hope to bring to this role and to the work and ministries of the United States – Canada Province?**

From my perspective, justice work is like a compass with four points, all four of which help us locate ourselves in this work: 1) human relationships rooted in solidarity and love; 2) thoughtful strategies with measurable goals that continue to call us forward; 3) enough balance and moderation to allow the work to be sustained over time without ever ceasing to be prophetic; and 4) the “true North”: a clear vision for the joyful future we are building, a vision that feeds the burning hope that drives us onward. In this role, I hope to become one of many people encircling this compass, using its four points to guide our journey together.



Megan Wilson-Reitz, with the battered sign and rosary she carries into protest marches, stands before a mural honoring the workers of Cleveland.

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

The youth and young adults in our justice movements who are already out there trying to change the world give me so much hope! They are not waiting for someone to hand them a just world — they are going out and building the society they want to live in. In their demands and ferocity and holy impatience, they remind me of the healing knife of Langston Hughes’ poem:

*I am so tired of waiting.  
Aren't you,  
for the world to become good  
and beautiful and kind?  
Let us take a knife  
and cut the world in two—  
and see what worms are eating  
at the rind.*

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

I would recommend Robin Wall Kimmerer’s *Braiding Sweetgrass*. It is a beautiful collection of essays, written from an Indigenous perspective, about the way we interact with language, with family, with community, and with each other — but most especially about how we interact with the natural world. She never avoids the ugly truth of environmental devastation or climate change or social injustice, but she keeps scraping until she uncovers the seeds of promise for the future sprouting at the center of every story. It is a fundamentally hopeful book; and in this moment, it is hope we need more than anything.

# The Sarah Community:

## RSCJ Establish New Eldercare Community

By Lynne Lieux, RSCJ

The Sarah Community and Erin Everson contributed to this article.

### Foundations

In January 1996, representatives of five religious congregations within the Archdiocese of St. Louis began conversations around a mutual concern, the increasing number of sisters needing eldercare, specifically highly skilled nursing care, and the rising staff costs that each congregation was experiencing in caring for the health needs of elderly sisters. At the time, the five congregations — the Daughters of Charity, Franciscan Sisters of Mary, Society of the Sacred Heart, School Sisters of Notre Dame and Sisters of Loretto — identified 125-150 sisters who qualified for eldercare services. Representatives of the five congregations realized that space within existing congregational facilities could not accommodate such a large group

and together began to explore possible solutions to offering health care to their aging sisters.

Initial discussions about what would then soon become The Sarah Community included a group of lay women and men who not only shared a similar vision and commitment, but whose professional expertise provided insights into the formation of The Sarah Community. After securing grant funding, completing a needs assessment and actuarial study, and having conversations with the then Archbishop of St. Louis, Justin R. Rigali, The Sarah Community was certified by The State of Missouri as a nonprofit corporation.

As the discussions and plans continued, a broader vision began to emerge: the creation of a senior living complex providing a continuum of care — skilled nursing, assisted living and independent living — on a single campus and available to both religious sisters and lay people. Concurrently, SSM Health DePaul Hospital in nearby Bridgeton, Missouri, was moving skilled nursing beds out one of its buildings, the St. Anne building, and was looking for an alternate use of the space. In fall 1997, The Sarah Community negotiated a lease agreement with SSM Health for renovations and use of the St. Anne building as well as for additional nearby property on which to construct assisted and independent living apartments.



Connie Dryden, RSCJ, explores the living space at The Sarah Community.

### What's in a Name

The Sarah Community is named for Sarah of the Hebrew Scriptures, who as promised by God, bore a child in her old age. Sarah was a strong and capable woman with a lively sense of humor. She was known for her hospitality.

Anna and Elizabeth Houses, the skilled nursing care facilities, are named for Anna, the prophetess, a gentle, elderly widow who proclaimed Jesus as the Christ and a woman of prayer, patience and great faith, and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, who served as a model of patience and humility over the centuries.



(left) Irene Herbst, RSCJ, happy to welcome RSCJ to The Sarah Community.

(below) Shirley Miller, RSCJ, Frances Gimber, RSCJ, and Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, enjoy a tour of The Sarah Community from Margaret Munch, RSCJ.



In December 1999, the first residents moved into Anna and Elizabeth Houses, two skilled nursing communities at The Sarah Community. Residents of Veronica House, the assisted living community, and Naomi House, the independent living community, followed respectively in January and May 2000.

## The Sarah Community Today

The Sarah Community is managed by St. Andrew's Management Services, Inc., a St. Louis based management and consulting company specializing in eldercare services. After a deliberate discernment process in July 2022, the Daughters of Charity and the Franciscan Sisters of Mary decided to transfer sponsorship of The Sarah Community to SSM Health Ministries. With the transition of sponsorship, SSM Health would assume ownership of The Sarah Community.

This decision was affirmed by The Sarah Community board, which consists of representatives of the five founding religious congregations and several lay members. As a Catholic health ministry with experience in operating independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing facilities, SSM expressed that it would ensure that residents continue to receive exceptional health care within a faith-based context. St. Andrew's would also continue to manage the operations of The Sarah Community, thus, ensuring that residents experience a smooth transition in their services.

**Veronica House**, meeting the needs of those residents needing assistance, is named after Veronica, a woman of Jerusalem, who according to legend wiped the face of Jesus on his way to Calvary. She was a compassionate woman who offered care and comfort to others.

**Naomi House**, the independent living apartments, is named for Naomi, a widow in the Old Testament who lost two sons. Naomi was an inventive woman who made the best of whatever life offered her. She was a friend and a woman of competence and wit.

These Sarah Community "homes," named after these faith-filled women, provide each resident who comes to live in that particular community a connection to some aspect of life they may be experiencing at that time in her or his own life. The hope is that it strengthens their own faith for enduring the changes and challenges they are facing.

*Courtesy of The Sarah Community*

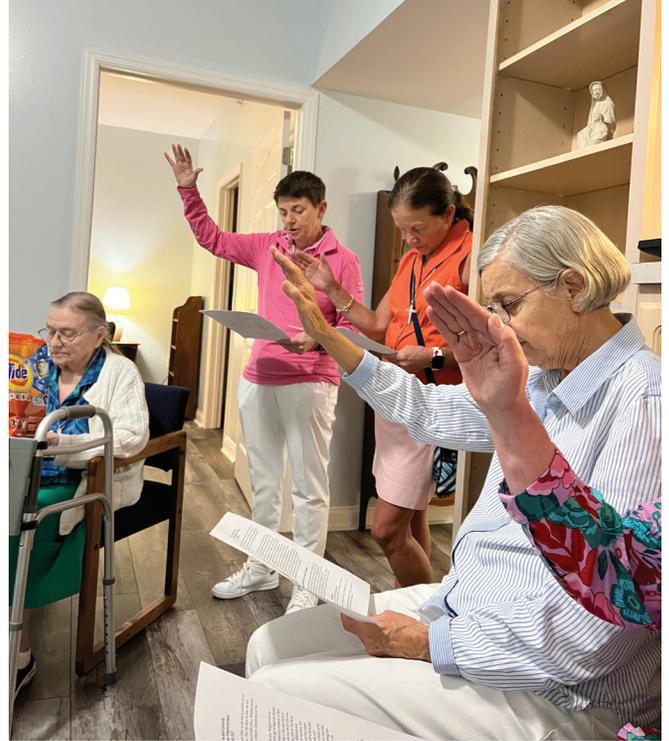
## RSCJ Homecoming

Since the beginning of this collaborative effort, several Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) have benefitted from the high quality, individualized care provided by The Sarah Community. The focus on wellness of body, mind, and spirit in an environment characterized by respect, compassion, and a spirit of welcoming hospitality aligns well with the mission of the Society.

This year, the Provincial Team of the United States – Canada Province, in collaboration with the RSCJ affected by the decision, decided to form a small RSCJ community within Naomi House at The Sarah Community. This decision provides new possibilities and opportunities in eldercare living for RSCJ in the Province, especially for some who have ministered and lived in the St. Louis area for many years. Naomi House also allows RSCJ to continue to live independently and minister in the St. Louis/St. Charles area without the concerns of maintaining a community house.

On August 29, Philippine Duchesne’s birthday, the Provincial Team along with all RSCJ living in St. Louis and St. Charles gathered for a blessing and officially opened the RSCJ community at The Sarah Community.

“Our accommodations are just wonderful,” said Margaret Munch, RSCJ. “Everyone is so friendly and welcoming. The chapel is lovely, and they offer Mass every day. And, my sister lives in Illinois so being here makes it possible for me to visit her.”



Sisters extend their hands to bless the RSCJ and their new community.

At Naomi House, each sister has her own small apartment consisting of a bedroom, living area, and kitchen. Additionally, the Province chose also to lease a two-bedroom apartment to serve as a community and guest space for RSCJ.

Some of the amenities provided to the residents of Naomi House include daily Mass, evening meal, housekeeping and maintenance. Sister Munch noted that the RSCJ at Naomi House gather every evening for dinner together.

Importantly, while residents are encouraged to maintain as much personal agency as possible, daily check-ins and health monitors ensure that each resident is thriving in a safe environment.

Sister Munch is warm in her gratitude for this decision saying, “I’m so grateful to the Team, especially Suzanne [Cooke] and Lynne [Lieux], for being sensitive to our needs and foreseeing every need ahead of time.”

As of the middle of November, The Community consists of seven RSCJ, and the Province is confident that The Sarah Community will continue to be a welcoming home for RSCJ now and in the future.



Sisters gather for a prayer service and blessing of the new RSCJ community.

# Sowing Courage and Confidence

## The Society Supports Partners in Mission



By Erin Everson

Virginia Rodee, RSCJ; Marina Hernandez, RSCJ; Bonnie Kearney, RSCJ, and Caroline Richard, Director of Le Petit Musée and Shrine of St. John Berchmans in Grand Coteau contributed to this article.

## The Duchesne Fund for Ministry

Committed to revealing God's love in the heart of the world, the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province, manifests this mission not only through the work and ministry of each Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ), but also by supporting other organizations – partners in mission – through the Duchesne Fund for Ministry.

Prior to this fund, the Province had established the Fund for Ministry in 1985 with the purpose of supporting any ministry or project in which RSCJ were engaged or with which they were connected.

Additionally, in 1992, the Philippine Duchesne Fund was established

in response to the Province's statement, *An Act of Hope*; it was to provide grants for new initiatives, with particular emphasis on justice. These two funds merged in 2009 to become what is today the Duchesne Fund for Ministry. Staying true to its roots, this fund aims to benefit organizations with which an RSCJ or the Society has a relationship. Grants are awarded for both new and ongoing projects whose primary purpose is to serve under-resourced and marginalized communities within the United States.

The Society awards grants through this Fund every year, and at its height has disseminated up to \$180,000 in one year in support of numerous

organizations. These contributions to further the Society's mission would not be possible without the generous support of Society donors.

Each benefitting organization shares an important and often storied history with the RSCJ. Two, in particular, were founded by RSCJ, and today continue to sustain strong partnerships with the Society. **The Thensted Center** in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, and **St. Madeleine Sophie's Center** in El Cajon, California, through their respective missions and committed staff are shining examples of organizations building a present and future reflective of Christ's heart.

# The Thensted Center

The Thensted Center, a community outreach center in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, shares a unique history with the Society. Founded by the late Margaret Mary “Mike” Hoffman, RSCJ, in 1982, the Center opened in the former high school building of St. Peter Claver School.

St. Peter Claver — formerly named Colored School of the Sacred Heart and located on the grounds of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, until its name change and relocation down the road from the Academy in the 1930s — was operated by the RSCJ from 1875 until 1947. At that time the Society turned over administration to Father Cornelius Thensted of the Society of Jesus, who worked closely with the town’s Black community.

Father Thensted invited the Sisters of the Holy Family (SSF) to assume leadership of the school. The RSCJ, however, remained present, teaching at St. Peter Claver alongside a number of lay teachers, most of them graduates of the school themselves. When public school integration began, it provided more educational options for Black children in the area, and enrollment at St. Peter Claver declined. The school sadly closed its doors in 1978.

Just a few years later, the school building was repurposed and the Thensted Center, named in honor of Father Thensted, opened its doors under Sister Hoffman’s leadership. Ever since, the Center has been an integral resource for the community of Grand Coteau and surrounding areas, offering numerous programs, ministering especially to children, seniors, single parents, veterans, and the homebound. Its mission is “to build up people of all ages and

social backgrounds, without regard to race or religion, as they strive for healthier, more fulfilling and self-sufficient lives.”

Director Julia Richard has carried this mission forward and led the Thensted Center for over 20 years with steadfast faith and relentless dedication to the Center and her community.

“Sister Mike was like family to me,” says Richard. She lauds the faith and calm nature of “Sister Mike,” especially when she was faced with financial challenges. During Richard’s years working alongside Sister Hoffman, and in particular during the time she trained to become her successor, Richard says she often thought, *if Sister Mike can be this calm, then so can I.*

Sister Hoffman was a big influence on Richard’s faith life and strength, often reminding her that “if you’re doing what is right, then it’s going to work.”

Helen McCulloch, RSCJ, chair of the Duchesne Fund for Ministry committee, commends Richard’s years of service, saying, “Julia has been creatively and responsively at the service of others for years, and under her leadership amazing things have been accomplished on a shoestring budget.”

To this end, Richard recalls story after story of the Center’s summer renaissance program for children and teens, and the Center’s after-school tutorial program, that often began without funding. However, somehow, year after year, the funds would come through and cover the costs before the programs concluded. “We started programs, and did everything we needed to do, and it has always come. It’s

miraculous and it always touches me,” says Richard. “The Duchesne Fund [for Ministry] grant money was a part of those miracle moments.”

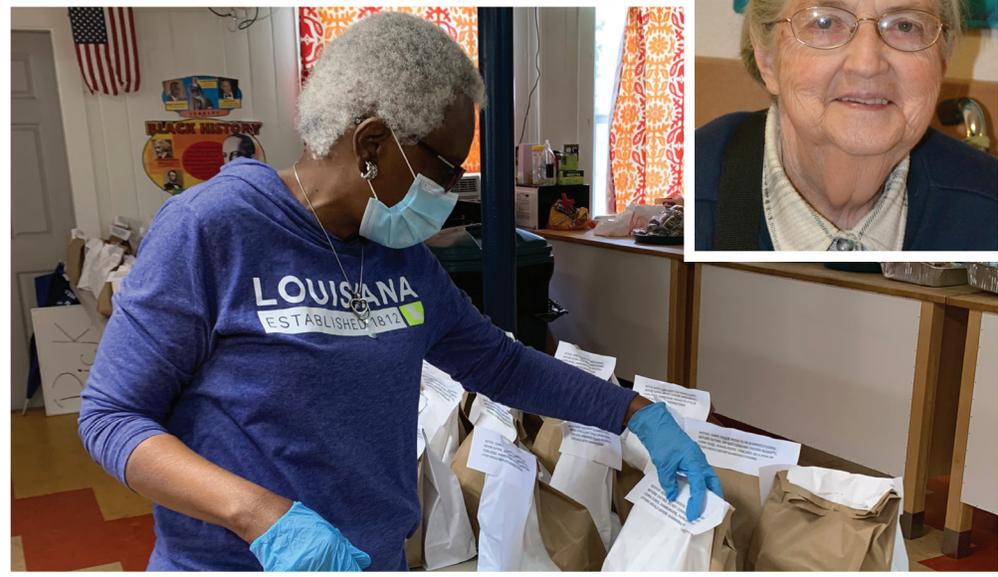
Richard says that the grants have helped the Center run its ongoing senior citizen programs and were especially important during the pandemic when clients were not able to meet in person. The funds enabled the staff and volunteers to deliver grab-and-go meals as well as essentials to community members in need, especially those who lived alone. As Richard puts it, this service “let people know they are not alone, that we love them and we care.”

In addition, grants from the Fund helped supplement breakfast and lunch for children in the area, every day, throughout the pandemic during 2020 and 2021. It also benefited the 2020 and 2021 summer renaissance programs, through which students in the community were provided backpacks full of supplies for summer activities.

“Our work with the kids ... they always knew they were loved; they were listened to and that it was a safe place to go to,” says Joan Ewing, RSCJ, who served as Director of the Thensted Center from 1986 to 1990, while Sister Hoffman was away on mission in the Uganda/Kenya Province.

Sister Ewing praises the community built around the Center, saying that “it’s a place where people knew they could trust those who were running it, and that their best interests were at heart.”

Richard echoes Sister Ewing. She says, “The sisters built a trust with the elderly and with those in the community because of who they



(top) Lynne Lieux, RSCJ (second from the left), and Sister Kearney (second from the right) sing along with Julia Richard (middle) and Thensted Center staff at the opening of the Thensted Center's first annual Juneteenth Celebration in Grand Coteau.  
 (middle) The late Sister Hoffman, founder of the Thensted Center.  
 (bottom) Julia Richard packs grab-and-go meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## A Meeting & Gathering Place

Thensted Center partners with and serves as a meeting place for many Grand Coteau groups including:

- Al-Anon support program
- Boy Scouts chapter
- The Knights of St. Peter Claver
- The Ladies Auxiliary
- Three local schools

And, as a special community service to families grieving the loss of loved ones, Thensted Center offers welcome and consolation as a post-funeral gathering place.

## Service of the Heart

RSCJ who have served at the Thensted Center:

- Nancy Bremner
- Beatrice "Be" Brennan
- Anne Byrne
- Theresa Downey
- Mary Driscoll
- Joan Ewing
- Rose Guidroz
- Tippy Guillory
- Margaret Mary "Mike" Hoffman
- Bonnie Kearney
- Alice Mills
- Georgeann Parizek
- Elizabeth "Betty" Renard
- Ruth Stanley

were. Their hearts were so open to the people and they weren't judgmental – it's the impact they had on me when I first started at Thensted Center."

Roughly half of individuals who receive services from the Center also volunteer there. Bonnie Kearney, RSCJ, who serves on the Thensted Center board of directors shares that community volunteers often pick up food and household items and deliver them to those in the town and surrounding areas. "There is a sense of community that encompasses young and old, those from Grand Coteau, Sunset, and other neighboring towns," shares Sister Kearney. "These are folks who know one another and take

care of each other, and Thensted Center is at the center of that organization."

It's clear that Sister Hoffman's initial desire to reach beyond the Sacred Heart school institutions into the town and surrounding area, and make known the love of the Heart of God to all, is fulfilled every day at the Thensted Center, benefiting and empowering young and old, of every background and need, notes Sister Kearney.

She adds, "We [RSCJ] are fortunate indeed to walk with the Thensted staff and volunteers into a future in hope."

**To learn more about the Thensted Center visit: [thenstedcenter.org](http://thenstedcenter.org)**

# St. Madeleine Sophie's Center

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center (SMSC) was founded by the late Mary "Be" Mardel, RSCJ, in 1966, when the international Society was asked to do something special to honor the centenary of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's death.

Originally opened for a small group of children with developmental disabilities, catechism classes were taught there by Society novices under the leadership of Sally Rude, RSCJ. When legislation was passed in 1975 requiring that the educational needs of children with developmental disabilities be met by public schools, the Center transitioned to serving adults with developmental disabilities.

Today the Center, in El Cajon, California, serves over 400 adult students, two of whom were among the first children to attend the Center roughly 53 years ago.

"We get our history and our values from the Sacred Heart and that's always in the back of my mind when working here," says Debra Emerson, Chief Executive Officer of SMSC. "We are about education."

The Center's vision has been consistent from the beginning – to serve individuals with developmental disabilities through innovative programs, which include an adaptive computer lab, therapeutic organic gardening, therapeutic aquatics, culinary arts, drama, aerobic/fitness/yoga, dance, Sophie's Gallery art program, music therapy, reading, and speech therapy/sign language.

Uniquely and most importantly, all students at the Center have choices in planning their program of study. The Society's educational mission of the development of the whole person is evident in all of the Center's programs through a

culture of care and the offering of not only a liberal arts education but also practical skills. Families and staff alike attest to the growth in independence, sense of dignity and self-esteem experienced by the Center's students.

"We open their eyes to different events and programs that they may not have known before. We encourage them to develop their skills and creativity, instilling dignity and confidence in them," says Joe Perucca, Development Director at SMSC.

The Center today remains closely connected to the Society of the Sacred Heart. Two RSCJ, Sisters Marina Hernandez and Mary Hotz, currently serve on the Center's board of directors. Additionally, Virginia "Gina" Rodee, RSCJ, serves on the board of directors of the Kraemer Endowment Foundation (founded in memory of Maxine "Mackie" Kraemer, RSCJ), which also assists with the Center's funding.

"It's a precious relationship we have with the Society, and we work on this relationship together to strengthen our missions and vision," says Emerson.

As with many nonprofit organizations, the need at SMSC is great. Perucca shares, "There's a lot going into the Center's garden, the aquatics center; and we are going out into the community, our students work and volunteer in the community at local nonprofits – there's always an intention to go out, and that costs money."

The Society has awarded several Duchesne Fund for Ministry grants to SMSC over the years to benefit various projects, which Emerson



A student and staff member work in the garden at Saint Madeleine Sophie's Center.



(above) Student learning in the Adaptive Computer Learning Center.



Photos © by Jerry Naunheim

(right) A student enjoying the swimming pool on a nice sunny day.

(bottom right) A student proudly shows off his artwork.

says helps supplement materials and additions the Center needs to support its programing. Most recently, SMSC used these grant funds to purchase a mobile aquatic chair, which better enables students to experience and enjoy exercise in the pool.

“Accidents often occur in entering and exiting the water,” says Sister McCulloch. “The chair lift provides opportunity for a large population, as this is the only pool in East San Diego County available to meet the needs of swimmers with disabilities,”

Moreover, Perucca emphasizes how important the aquatics center is to students and non-students alike. The Center boasts a Junior-Olympic-sized pool, serves as a home to the

Center’s Tritons swim team, and often hosts Special Olympics meets.

“There’s confidence building here every day because of additions like this,” Perucca says. “Students can swim, go to a meet, and win gold.”

As St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center moves into the future, its mission of “educating and empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to realize their full potential” remains a pervasive and strong call. Though challenges exist, the Center, founded in Saint Madeleine Sophie’s honor, looks to the future with great courage and deep confidence.

**To learn more about St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center visit: [stmisc.org](http://stmisc.org)**



## Summer Service Program

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, each summer, for more than 25 years, students from the Network of Sacred Heart Schools have participated in a summer service program at St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center, where they lived and volunteered for one week. Accompanied by Network teachers and staff, they had the opportunity to participate in programs, to interact with the adult students, and to reflect upon and share their learning experiences with one another. A highlight on the last evening of the program is a special dance held at the Center with the whole SMSC community. Several Network School alumnae/i who have participated in this opportunity have chosen careers and now work with adults/children with developmental disabilities.

## DONOR PROFILE

# RSCJ, Women of Inspiration

By Barbara J. Menard

My respect, gratitude and love for the Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) began as I attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart in El Cajon, California. I remember my interview like it was yesterday: what I wore, how nervous I felt, and meeting Mother Virginia McMonagle, RSCJ, for the first time. Attending school there offered more than just a solid academic foundation. It gave an education of the whole person from the proper way to get in and out of a car like a “lady,” to exposure to the arts, literature, prayer and spirituality.

Sister McMonagle and the RSCJ were role models of qualities of leadership and compassion, and there were no limits placed on who we could become. Virginia “Gina” Rodee, RSCJ, taught us freshman year, and we are blessed that she continues to be involved with our class and in the Sacred Heart alumnae/i events in the San Diego region. I was also fortunate to have the friendship and counsel of Madeleine Bruhn, a former RSCJ, who listened and supported me; many El Cajon students remained in touch with her through the years.

In 1966, St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center (SMSC) was opened right next to our high school by the late Mary “Be” Mardel, RSCJ, who was known to me and my classmates as Reverend Mother Mardel. Some of our classmates had siblings who became students at the Center. Maxine Kraemer, RSCJ, our eighth-class teacher, was a tireless advocate for St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center, and she worked there after her teaching career. We would go “up the hill” to help out at the Center at times. My uncle, James E. Chafey, was a member of the board of trustees at SMSC for many years. His daughter, Catherine Chafey Scanlon, is currently a member of the Menard Family Foundation board of trustees, which has benefited St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center for many years.

Irene “Renie” Cullen, RSCJ, was in the novitiate while we were students at El Cajon, and I remember seeing her and the other sisters at recreation or walking in line for chapel when the bell tolled. I reconnected with Renie once I moved back to San Diego, and she introduced me to the work of the Religious of the Sacred Heart in Uganda and Kenya. Her commitment to raising funds to support the schools and to assist women in learning a skill to support themselves is inspiring to me. I had the opportunity to meet some of the religious from the Uganda/Kenya Province who visited San Diego. I also learned more about the needs in Uganda from Fran



Barbara Menard (left) and Marlene Klobberdanz Miller (right), a member of the Menard Family Foundation board of trustees, sit with their former teacher, the late Sister Kraemer.

Tobin, RSCJ, who worked as an immigration attorney at Catholic Charities down the hall from my office.

I have lived in several cities where there are Network of Sacred Heart Schools member schools, including New Orleans, St. Louis, Houston, and Chicago. I always made a point of visiting the schools, especially to attend celebrations for the Feast of Mater Admirabilis or the Feast of the Sacred Heart, which were opportunities to get to know some of the sisters from around the country.

I am very aware of the need for places of serenity where people can go to reflect on their relationship with God, and I am fortunate to live near the Spiritual Ministry Center, operated by the Society of the Sacred Heart in Ocean Beach, San Diego. Remembering with gratitude the influence of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, I also have been able to visit a number of them at the retirement community at Oakwood in Atherton, California.

I can truly say that the bonds of friendship that began at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in El Cajon have continued through the years. My classmates are friends for life, and we remain in contact with one another, gathering every month via Zoom to share updates on our lives. It is because of the vibrant RSCJ community that the Menard Family Foundation is pleased to support the ministries of the Society of the Sacred Heart.



(above) Taken in 1961, students and Religious of the Sacred Heart line up for the dedication of Convent of the Sacred Heart in El Cajon.



(middle) Barbara Menard, Maureen King, and Debra Emerson at St. Madeleine Sophie's Center's Tea by the Sea event.

(below) Barbara Menard and her El Cajon classmates celebrate their 50th high school reunion.



## DONOR PROFILE

# Supporting the Society's Mission of Education

By Michael (Mike) Ryan

**My wife Fran's and my relationship** with the Society of the Sacred Heart began in 1990 when our seventh-grade daughter, Amy, was accepted at Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart (Newton, Massachusetts). We were particularly excited with the Society of the Sacred Heart's educational mission to teach girls how to become women who would make a positive difference in the world. As a result, Amy is now a well-grounded young woman of courage and confidence, with a strong desire to do what is right and just.

During her time at the school, our commitment to Sacred Heart education deepened, and I joined the board of trustees at Newton. The board worked in close partnership with Barbara Rogers, RSCJ, the headmistress, and her leadership team to ensure an ongoing commitment to the Sacred Heart educational mission and the future financial integrity of the school. Meanwhile, Fran served on the Parents' Association board for four years, was a member of the annual auction committee and led or actively participated on committees that organized and ran student/parent events during the school year.

Our daughter Amy graduated and headed off to college, and I continued to serve on the Newton board, serving as chair for six years. I also joined the board of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools, which today boasts a membership of 25 schools. The Network, led by its executive director, is comprised of the heads of school and board chairs from each school who work in partnership with the Conference of Sacred Heart Education and Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) serving on the Provincial Team of the United States – Canada Province. The Network oversees the development and delivery of services and programs for students and educators, and its mission is to promote creative education and leadership framed by the *Goals and Criteria* for all Network schools.

I was subsequently elected board chair for the Network. In that capacity, I worked with the Provincial Team to reimagine the Society's ongoing development strategy in coordination with the activities of the individual



Fran and Mike Ryan, longtime friends and supporters of the Society and Network of Sacred Heart Schools.

schools. This resulted in an unprecedented increase in financial support for the Society and the Network.

Throughout our Sacred Heart journey, we have been blessed to know many of the women religious who have committed their lives to the Society and its mission to discover and reveal God's love in the heart of the world through the service of education. They embody Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's vision of intelligent faith, compassionate action and courageous hope. In this complex and volatile time in our history, we can think of no better effort to support.

A photograph of Sister Roach, an elderly woman with white hair, wearing a black graduation cap and gown with a red stole. She is smiling and holding a red diploma folder with "Santa Clara University" printed on it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

Sister Roach walks across stage during her commencement ceremony at Santa Clara University.

# The Heart of an Educator, A Life-long Learner

By Erin Everson

© Santa Clara University

**Judith “Judy” Roach, RSCJ**, graduated from Santa Clara University this past summer, with her second master’s degree, this one in pastoral ministry. Sister Roach was 87 years old.

Sister Roach began her studies in 2017 and worked hard over the next five years, persevering through the setbacks and limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic, and while also having endured the loss of several family members who were near and dear to her.

Her motivation to return to school was to sharpen her theological education. She remarked that she entered the Society of the Sacred Heart pre-Vatican II and that most of her theological background was rooted in that time, so she wanted to “update” her theological understanding and learn skills that would help her better serve her parish of St. Raymond (Menlo Park, California) and the community at-large.

When asked about achieving this degree at her age, Sister Roach shared that she thinks “the whole attitude of aging is archaic. I wish everyone my age would take on a new field that they want to learn about and do it.”

She expressed that her time and studies at Santa Clara University have affected her greatly, that she is more familiar with scripture and how to better study it, more in touch with her religion, and has a better appreciation for all religions. “This program really opened me up to the fact that we are all beings loved by God, and that we are all one,” said Sister Roach.

Sister Roach has a background in elementary education, having worked in both public and private schools. She spent more than a decade volunteering with, and ministering to, those in juvenile detention. She also spent several years serving with the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians at the Soboba Indian Reservation in Riverside County, California. Currently, she volunteers as a sacristan at St. Raymond Catholic Church in Menlo Park, California.

Reflecting on this accomplishment as a Religious of the Sacred Heart, Sister Roach said, “My life has been a life of so much joy. I cannot begin to express the awareness of God’s love that came to me when I entered the Society of the Sacred Heart. That is the most important thing in my life. This degree is a way to further my life and round it off because it makes me more capable of ministry.”

Sister Roach earned a bachelor’s degree in history from the former San Francisco College for Women (now University of San Francisco), and a master’s degree in history from the University of Iowa. She recalled that when she attended the University of Iowa in her early 30s, one of her classmates was a woman in her 50s. She thought *if she can do it, then I can do it!* Years later, she now hopes her graduating may inspire others as well.

# MISSION ADVANCEMENT

# Report on Gifts

Dear Donors and Friends,

This is the time of year when you would normally receive a copy of our annual report. In a deliberate choice to serve as better financial stewards, we are not printing and mailing the annual report this year.

We are very **grateful for your gift** in support of our mission to **discover and reveal God's love in the heart of the world through the service of education**. Each and every gift makes a true difference.

This brief report is a snapshot of gifts given to be used where most needed, in support of elder care and our ministries, and special gifts to the Ukraine Emergency Fund.

We know you have many choices for your charitable giving. Your choice to support the Religious of the Sacred Heart encourages our sisters in their various ministries. In the course of my work, I often hear how much it means to a sister that you remain connected to them and to the mission. Thank you.

This year, we are encouraged by the overall increase in our number of annual donors. To our new and reconnected donors, welcome!

Please contact me if you would like to receive a digital version of our annual report or if you have questions.

Thinking of you this Advent season with much gratitude,



Anne L. Wiehagen, CFRE  
Director of Mission Advancement  
awiehagen@rscj.org | 314.880.0551

## REALIZED BEQUESTS

Maureen Aggeler RIP  
Christina Lynn Bernal RIP  
Helen J. Carey RIP  
Richard L. Chenault RIP  
Mary Miller Cochran RIP  
Dorothy Bosetti Cuono RIP  
Dorothy Babka Filippine RIP  
Marie Grace Joffrion RIP  
Carolyn A. Moynihan RIP  
Mary Jane Christy Power RIP  
Mary Frawley Thompson RIP  
Virginia Vessa-McLaughlin RIP  
Francine Templeman Wimsatt RIP

# \$728,810



**\$2,834,681**  
TOTAL AMOUNT

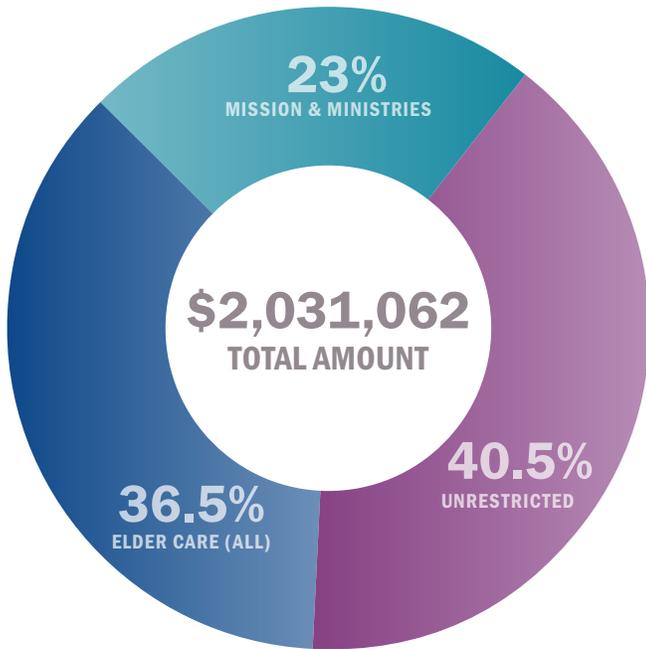


**2157**  
TOTAL DONORS

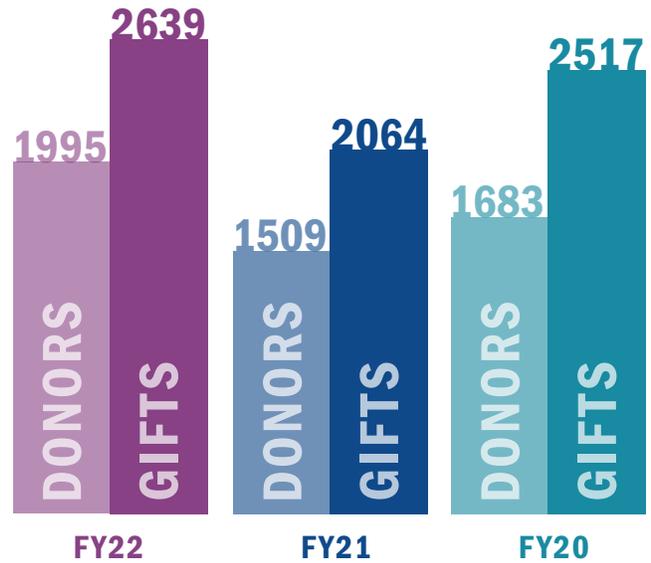


**2802**  
TOTAL GIFTS

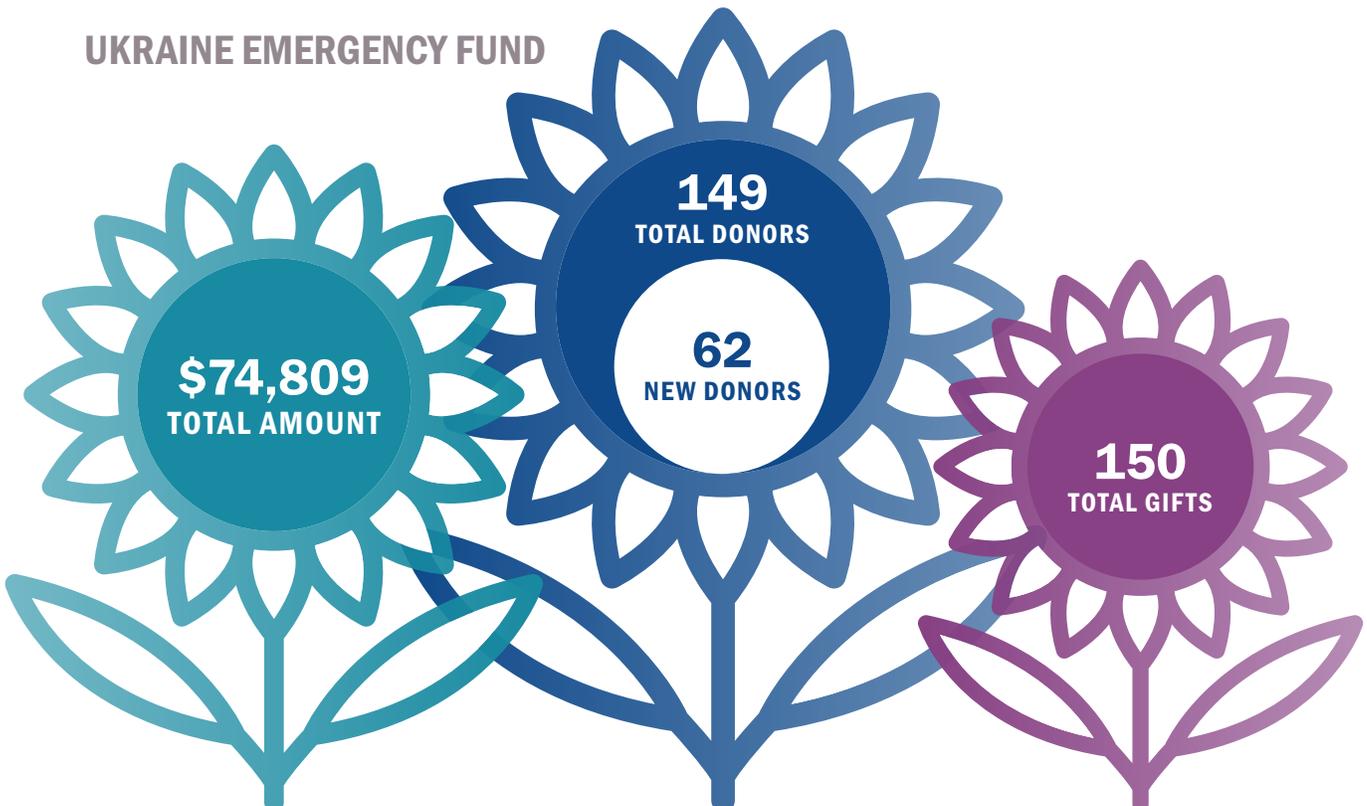
## FY22 ANNUAL APPEAL



## ANNUAL APPEAL THREE YEAR SNAPSHOT



## UKRAINE EMERGENCY FUND





## *In Memoriam*

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

**Adele Caire, RSCJ**

JULY 22, 2020

**Anne Leonard, RSCJ**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

**Maureen O'Halloran, RSCJ**

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

**Ann Johnston, RSCJ**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

**Leontine O'Gorman, RSCJ**

OCTOBER 10, 2020

**Barbara Carey, RSCJ**

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

**Clare Peckham, RSCJ**

DECEMBER 20, 2020

**Ann Ryan, RSCJ**

MARCH 9, 2021

**Yasuko Theresa Teshima, RSCJ**

MARCH 31, 2021

**Nancy Finn, RSCJ**

APRIL 12, 2021

**Karen Olson, RSCJ**

MAY 18, 2021

**Mary Bridget Flaherty, RSCJ**

MAY 30, 2021

**Patricia "Pati" Desmond, RSCJ**

JUNE 2, 2021

**Eileen Bearss, RSCJ**

AUGUST 3, 2021

**Rose Chen, RSCJ**

NOVEMBER 11, 2021

**JoEllen Sumpter, RSCJ**

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

**Carolyn Mouton, RSCJ**

DECEMBER 21, 2021

**Mary Elizabeth "Ada" Burns, RSCJ**

DECEMBER 29, 2021

**Mary Helen McComas, RSCJ**

DECEMBER 31, 2021

**Mildred Peterkin, RSCJ**

JANUARY 9, 2022

**Mary "Shoe" Schumacher, RSCJ**

JANUARY 21, 2022

**Mercedes Serna, RSCJ**

APRIL 5, 2022

**Mary Ann Foy, RSCJ**

APRIL 19, 2022

**Dorothy Murray, RSCJ**

MAY 25, 2022

**Mary Loretta "Buschie" Busch, RSCJ**

JUNE 2, 2022

**Mary "Be" Mardel, RSCJ**

OCTOBER 4, 2022

**Patricia "Pat" Reid, RSCJ**

OCTOBER 18, 2022



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

# Making Mission Possible:

## Staff Serving at Province Infirmaries and Retirement Centers

By The United States – Canada Provincial Team

The Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province, operates and partners with several infirmaries and retirement centers where dedicated staff care for the Religious of the Sacred Heart every day. In particular, we wish to recognize the individuals who work on behalf of the RSCJ at Abba House, Avila Retirement Community, and Teresian House in Albany, New York; Caritas Residence, in Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Oakwood Retirement Community in Atherton, California, as well as the Health and Wellness Professionals who serve our sisters.

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



Photo © by Jerry Naunheim

(from left to right)  
**ABBA HOUSE**  
Gwen Hoeffel, RSCJ,  
Community Coordinator  
**AVILA COMMUNITY**  
Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ,  
Community Coordinator  
**TERESIAN HOUSE**  
Natalie Runfola, RSCJ,  
Community Director



**HEALTH & WELLNESS PROFESSIONALS** (from left to right)  
Lauren Kanai, RN, Wellness Coordinator, East Region, United States  
Marguerite Callahan, RN, Canada, Central South Region, United States  
Diane Davis, RN, West Region, United States  
Sharron Dolan, RN, Canada  
Erica Folkes-Innerarity, LPN, East Region, United States  
(not pictured) Donna Heffernan, MD, East Region, United States  
(not pictured) Robin Connolly, FNP, East Region, United States

## OAKWOOD RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



### Administrative Staff

(above left - left to right) Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, Community Life Director; Cheryl Jackson, Assistant Director; Patty Creedon, RSM, Executive Director (middle) Agnes Chimbayo, RSCJ, Head of Pastoral Care

(above right) Bridget Emma-Harrell, Driver

(right - left to right) Maria Turenne, Administrative Assistant; Cindy Tran, Office Manager; Stephanie Goodyear, Life Enrichment Director



### Dining Services (above)

(standing left to right) Cesar Clavijo, Utilities; Tin Phan, Food Service Director; Noel Umipig, Cook (seated left to right) Maricela Angel, Utilities; Silvia Tamayo and Hao Bui, Cooks; (not pictured) Erik Valverde

### Maintenance/Housekeeping (above right)

(standing left to right) Ulises Romero, Building Maintenance Director; Ruben Velazquez, Maintenance Technician (seated left to right) Rosa Cardenas and Maria Martinez, Housekeeping; (Not pictured) Lizeth Najera

(bottom left) Jessica Flores, Housekeeping

(bottom right) Antonio Prieto, Gardener



## OAKWOOD RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



Photos pp. 26-27 by Stephanie Goodyear



### **Nursing Team**

(standing left to right) Maggie Hernandez, Esmerelda Gallardo, Luisa Jaso, Griselda Gallardo, Bessy Rivera, Zulma Alvarez, Elizabeth Valdez, John Dasigan, Gloria Correa, Lani Cordoviz, Jenny Alvarado, Jesse Cadiz, Health & Wellness Nurse, Rosalinda Sokhn, Catherine Janson (seated left to right) Consuelo Gamarra, Rosie Angel, Elise Turgo

Below (left) Osimei "Mei" Kata, Nursing Team

(middle) Carol Raymundo, Nursing Team

(right) Jerome Tumbaga, Nursing Team

(not pictured) Reina Lopez

*Thank You*  
for all the work you do!

# contest winners

Early in 2022, the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province, hosted two creative contests: a heart in nature photo contest and a Sacred Heart coloring book design contest.

Hoping to inspire creativity and garner submissions from throughout the Sacred Heart community, the Province was grateful to have received photos and coloring book designs from current students at Network of Sacred Heart Schools member schools, Network school alumnae, educators, former educators, parents of students and friends of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Among the many who submitted entries, three winners were chosen for each contest. Here are those winners:

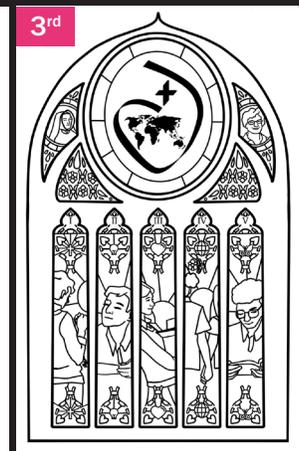


**PHOTOGRAPHY WINNERS:**

**1st Place:** Holly Westergren, Graduate of Stuart Country Day School Middle School (Princeton, New Jersey)

**2nd Place:** Marnie McLaughlin, Art Teacher at Sacred Heart Greenwich (Greenwich, Connecticut)

**3rd Place:** Dino Vandenheede, Former Director of Technology at Academy of the Sacred Heart (Bloomfield Hills, Michigan)



**COLORING BOOK WINNERS:**

**1st Place:** Charlotte, Student at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart (Bethesda, Maryland)

**2nd Place:** Lina, Student at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart (Bethesda, Maryland)

**3rd Place:** Emily, Student at Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr (Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania)



GRAPHIC DESIGN



MEETING SPACE



JPIC

# STUART Center.org

*celebrating ten years*



YOUTH INITIATIVES



ORG MANAGEMENT



**Society of the Sacred Heart™**  
United States – Canada

4120 Forest Park Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63108

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit No. 5806

# in this issue

