



Society of the Sacred Heart™  
United States – Canada



Revealing God's Love  
*in the midst of uncertainty*

Mission Advancement Annual Report 2019-2020

## Dear Sacred Heart Family,

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** The liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. It is a sign of hope and encouragement that we might be heading into a new year, given all that we have lived through and experienced during this past year. Our prayers continue to be for your well-being and safety and that of your loved ones. Our prayers are filled with petition and gratitude.

This time for the Society is, as for everyone, a time of mystery and hope. As we begin this important time of preparation for the renewed coming of Christ in our lives and in our world, we are reminded of how much we depend on one another and the sharing of our gifts.

Every year we strive to make sure our elderly sisters are supported with loving and professional care. During the pandemic, we maintained a strong

staff who enabled our sisters to stay well, safe and protected. Even through the quarantines, when our sisters at times had to remain in their own rooms for prolonged periods, clinical staff and support staff maintained their shifts and their expert care.

In the midst of the pandemic, many of our efforts this year focused on our work to become an anti-racist congregation through active engagement in the work of changing the systems that disparately impact communities of color. The Conference of Sacred Heart Education and the Network of Sacred Heart Schools are examining curriculum, systems and programs of our Sacred Heart schools through the lens of anti-racism, as we move forward together in dismantling racism and creating a more just and equitable world.

Immersion experiences, such as the Stuart Center's Border Witness Program, have been transformational for our sisters, Associates, Sacred Heart alumnae/i, staff and colleagues in mission. We continue to study how we may best collaborate with people committed to ministry at the border. Our ongoing research includes assessing how our spirituality, education and justice initiatives can benefit people at or near the border who are in need.

Travel in the province has been minimal since the spring, but technology, especially Zoom, has enabled us to build relationships and learn more about our sisters in our province and the Philippine Duchesne Region (consisting of nine provinces throughout North, Central and South America). Intense preparation and practice enabled us to hold a provincial chapter meeting via Zoom, and we actually enjoyed the experience and the ways we could communicate with one another.

Our efforts in spirituality, education and justice are not possible without your support. Our life given to discover and reveal God's love in the heart of the world is impossible without you. We give thanks to our God for all that you have made possible, and we look forward to our ongoing efforts to build the world of God's dreams.

With gratitude, hope and love,



Sheila Hammond, RSCJ  
Provincial  
United States – Canada Province



United States – Canada (USC) Provincial Team: Maureen Glavin, RSCJ; Sheila Hammond, RSCJ; Donna Collins, RSCJ; Theresa Moser, RSCJ; and Diane Roche, RSCJ, in Cuba for the meeting of provincial teams of the Philippine Region (North, Central and South America) in December 2019.



Marie-Jeanne Elonga, RSCJ; Maureen Glavin, RSCJ; and Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, greeted students at Sacred Heart Schools Chicago in October 2019.

#### ON THE COVER:

Like an amaryllis blooming in the starkness of winter, so we are called to reveal God's love in the midst of uncertainty. Painting by Donna Dolan, RSCJ, who is a member of the Contemporary Art Society and the Association of Atlantic Area Artists. She lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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# Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

## Addressing Racism, Building Relationships

By Erin Everson, communications coordinator for the USC Province

**ON NOVEMBER 16, 2019**, thirty-five people, representing the various constituencies within our Sacred Heart family – alumnae, Associates, descendants of persons enslaved by the Society, educators, partners and colleagues in mission and RSCJ – gathered with facilitators, Patricia Chappell and Anne-Louise Nadeau (both Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur), to move forward our province’s commitment to address and act on dismantling the structural racism that is still part of our Sacred Heart community.

It was a day full of meaningful discussions and mutual learning. We acknowledged, as an organization and as individuals in today’s society and culture, that we participate in racist structures and racist attitudes, consciously and unconsciously.

Our facilitators stressed that the work of combating this reality can only be done together, as people of color and as white people, with empathy and respect. We gathered to confront the truth of our past, when the Society of the Sacred Heart participated in the slave trade and ownership of enslaved Black people, and to combat and deconstruct our present participation in structural racism, in ways both visible and invisible.

At the end of this meeting, eighteen participants agreed to be on the province anti-racism planning committee, a group that continues to engage in anti-racism education and dialogue and develop recommendations for the Provincial Team and the anti-racism coordinating committee, which includes facilitators Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, and Anne-Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN; Diane Roche, RSCJ; Meg Causey, RSCJ; and Bridget Bearss, RSCJ. The planning and coordinating committees were to gather together in March 2020. The meeting was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, they met virtually on the weekend of September 12, 2020.

Most notable from this recent meeting is the commitment of our province to extend anti-racism education and training to more of the Sacred Heart family, seeking to include more alumnae/i, Associates, descendants of enslaved persons, educators, partners in mission, provincial staff and RSCJ in this work.

One thing is certain: in order to wholly live out the mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart, the collective Sacred Heart community must commit to the ongoing work of anti-racism.



Bridget Bearss, RSCJ; Diane Roche, RSCJ; Clare Pratt, RSCJ; Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN; Meg Causey, RSCJ; Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ; and Lisa Buscher, RSCJ, in Washington, D.C.



## Kim Lamberty, new Director of JPIC – Welcome!

**GROUNDING IN HER EXPERIENCE** both globally and close to home, Kim Lamberty is a new and vital mission partner of the Society of the Sacred Heart as director of [Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation \(JPIC\)](#). Located at the Stuart Center in Washington, D.C., the JPIC Office coordinates educational resources, develops programs based on our justice priorities in collaboration with the entire Sacred Heart family, and creates partnerships with other organizations involved in justice work that relates to our province priorities. We were delighted that Kim joined us in March, bringing with her more than twenty-five years of social justice work experience, and most recently at Catholic Relief Services as senior advisor and university engagement director.

Kim views the province priorities of justice, education, and spirituality as a “three-legged stool,” each dependent on the other for its integrity, and is working in collaboration across the province to plan and implement an integrated vision. For example, JPIC includes integrity of creation, and given the current climate crisis, this work is a top priority. Environmental concerns begin with a creation-centered spirituality and formation grounded in the Sacred Heart charism. Through a partnership Kim has developed with the Catholic Climate Covenant, expect additional opportunities for concrete and effective action.

In a recent interview, Kim commented, “I am very excited about the possibilities that continue to emerge as we seek new ways to address the root causes of racism, migration and the climate crisis in accordance with the charism of the Society and with the support of all of those with whom I share this essential role. I am eager to continue to find ways to connect, collaborate and address the needs of those most impacted in this time of great challenge.”



# Spirituality

## Heart Response Team

By Bonnie Kearney, RSCJ

**WHEN THE PANDEMIC FIRST HIT US**, I began to wonder how communities and individuals would weather the storm, especially as it seemed likely that it would be long term. My first thought was to ask: how might we come together, even though it was not physically possible? My mind went to ideas like having an online retreat or just finding a way to share prayer across the province. I felt as if we needed to support one another with depth through prayer and community. I suggested this need to the Provincial Team, who affirmed it and asked Bridget Bearss, RSCJ, to breathe life into this idea through the Stuart Center. What a fortuitous choice, as Bridget gathered a group of people from different backgrounds and skill sets – Associates, provincial staff and RSCJ – and, with the benefit of Zoom, we began to meet and seek ways to reach our Sacred Heart family in a prayerful and reflective way.

We were gifted by so many people sending in reflections and artistic renderings in paint, photography, music, video and poetry. It began to feel as if we were forming a larger community, holding one another in these uncertain times, holding each in the heart of the uncertainty, in the Heart of a loving God. We heard from Sacred Heart educators who were juggling teaching and virtual home schooling. We listened to music that called into being together more deeply. Sacred Heart kinship grew in our shared experience of social distance.

Several months ago in March, when we first began this time of communal prayer and reflection, we were offered the musing “Hole” by Pam Hickey, RSCJ. For several years before her death, she would send out her morning “musings” to her sisters at Oakwood and to friends near and far. Prayer was the connection, the offering to be with, so it seemed a fitting beginning. Now, as I read it, I can only sigh and say, “Ah, yes. The commonplace calls us daily – to make us all whole.” We have probably all felt the “hole” during these times, and we hope this journey of sharing together has helped us move closer to the addition of one little thing, a “w” which makes us more one, more whole.

 To tap into these ongoing reflections, go to: [rscj.org/covid-19](https://rscj.org/covid-19)

## Hole

by Pam Hickey, RSCJ (1929-2018)

So, what is a hole?

It is an absence, an emptiness  
of what used to be there –  
and waits to be filled.

A hole for a fence post  
a hole in the needle for thread  
a hole in the sand hollowed out  
by small hands.

Empty, waiting to be filled.

When I add a “w”  
the emptiness changes  
to something new, whole –  
but that whole can’t happen  
without the hole.

Make room for that “w.”



Associate Lori Wilson (top right)  
and her three daughters



A painting by Laurie Hoffman, accountant for the USC Province, inspired by a photo taken by Shirley Miller, RSCJ

## God moments (an excerpt from her August 16 reflection)

By Lori Wilson, co-chair of the [USC Associates](#) leadership team

The storm hit on Tuesday and, in addition to everything else, we had no power, no running water, no Wi-Fi, and no A/C. We are all a bit on edge and getting anxious that we can't get everything done, and I struggle with being able to rest at the end of the day. Praying each day, I'm reminded to listen for God's voice in unexpected places and to watch and listen for God

moments, times when I know God is speaking directly to me.

One evening I was particularly worried about what I hadn't gotten to and was sharing it with my middle daughter. She said gently, "Mom, you are only one person, you've worked all day. What would Jesus say to you right now? Rest and start

again tomorrow." She reminded me that our best efforts are enough and we can be satisfied with them. The gentle voice of God.

God speaks to us all the time, but we miss it. This week I am especially grateful for my three girls and for God's love speaking to me through their voices.

# Education

By Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ  
Head of the [Conference of Sacred Heart Education](#)

**SACRED HEART EDUCATORS BELIEVE** that their fundamental responsibility is to form young people on a path towards transformation and hope by providing an effective education and the formation of character. Given these uncertain times, the disturbance of social distancing and physical isolation, the grieving of loss of life, and the distressing scenes of dehumanizing actions against people of color, the education to integrity remains essential.

Years ago, in the face of the shock of 9-11, Mr. Rogers explained to children, “No matter our particular job, especially in our world today, we are called to be *Tikkun Olam*, repairers of creation.” The call to be repairers of creation is exactly the impulse behind Saint Madeleine Sophie’s vision of the Society’s mission and of Sacred Heart education. Sophie saw education as the primary means to communicate and reveal the love of the Heart of Jesus. Like Sophie, Sacred Heart educators believe that the experience of God’s love is the foundation of repairing the universe and fostering hope and justice.

Janet Erskine Stuart, RSCJ, comprehended the profound significance of each person’s call to “repair” life by fostering just communities. She wrote, “We must remember that each one of our children is destined for a mission in life. Neither we nor they can know what it is, but we must know and make them believe that each one has a mission in life and that she is bound to find out what it is, that there is some special work for God which will remain undone unless she does it, some place in life which no one else can fill.”

Throughout these months, while models of learning have had to be nimble, shifting from in person learning to online learning and/or hybrid models, Sacred Heart educators have worked tirelessly to ensure that school communities experienced the spiritual. Through webinars, online prayer services and virtual retreats, adult members of the school communities responded to people’s urgency to experience God’s love in the midst of uncertainty.

No matter the setting, educators of the Sacred Heart accompany young people in such a way that they can develop the skills and attitudes essential to be the repairers of creation. Within the Sacred Heart, this formation is rooted in an openness to Transcendence, a disciplined focus on forming the intellect, and a commitment to justice and nurturing the individual within the context of community. “In the midst of today’s complexity, the *Goals and Criteria* provide Sacred Heart schools with a prophetic orientation that leads to hope, a hope that believes in the goodness of each individual, a hope that believes in the goodness of humanity, a hope that believes in and trusts the love of the Heart of God.” (Final Paragraph of Introduction, *Goals and Criteria*, St. Louis: Society of the Sacred Heart, 2005).

Thank you for believing in our work as educators of the Sacred Heart. Without your confidence and support, this essential work of education would not be possible.



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(Above) Diane Roche, RSCJ; Monica Esquivel, RSCJ; and Marie-Jeanne Elonga, RSCJ, participated in a religion class at Sacred Heart Greenwich in Connecticut in September 2019.



(Left) The Conference on Sacred Heart Education sponsored an Education to Mission Conference for Sacred Heart educators, Sept. 26-28, 2019, at Duchesne Academy, Houston. Sharon Karam, RSCJ, makes a comment during an afternoon round table discussion. Also shown is Jenna Landry, Campus Ministry director, Academy of the Sacred Heart and Berchmans Academy in Grand Couteau, Louisiana.

# Hope amidst the Pandemic

By Erin Everson, communications coordinator for the USC Province

**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS ALTERED LIFE**, in ways big and small. The roles and ministries our sisters serve in are vast, and many have faced unforeseen transitions, while others' work has intensified amidst the challenges of living through a global pandemic. Religious of the Sacred Heart, from California to Nova Scotia, have endured this time with compassion, love, and creativity. Uchenna Oluoha, RSCJ, (pictured below), and Linda Kato, RSCJ, are two sisters who have been on the frontlines of this pandemic.

Sister Oluoha is a registered nurse who, during this time, has been working with marginalized populations: detained immigrants, refugees and prisoners in California. She speaks to this experience, alongside others in our Sacred Heart family, in a special COVID-edition episode of the province's podcast, [For The Sake Of](#), released this past June. "They need me more than I need to stay at home," Sister Oluoha said of her work.

Sister Kato has been volunteering with the grassroots *Million Mask Challenge of VA, DC and MD*, now a large online group that is sewing and distributing cloth face masks for health care providers and other emergency workers. Since mid-March, Sister Kato has sewn 3,000 face masks and crisscrossed the region to distribute masks and collect donated fabric for her fellow volunteers.

"We are supporting local efforts to address immediate pandemic-related needs," said Sister Kato. She added, "Diane Roche [RSCJ] has been gathering and delivering necessities for homeless persons, as part of a drive organized by students of Catholic University of America, as the homeless are particularly vulnerable to contracting COVID-19." Even in the midst of greater hardship and suffering brought on by the pandemic, RSCJ have continued to work diligently and compassionately to meet local and essential needs in their communities.





Independence Day in the US! Our sisters at Oakwood Retirement Center in California, enjoyed a fourth of July parade of festive cyclists and decorated cars with loving messages from the Sacred Heart Schools Atherton students and parents.



## For Susan, with love

By Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ

**ON MAY 6, 2020**, Susan Nankya, RSCJ (Uganda-Kenya Province), graduated from Maryville University in St. Louis, Missouri, with a Master of Arts in Strategic Communication and Leadership. The ceremony took place in the front yard of the Mason Road RSCJ community residence. There was an academic procession to the tune of “Pomp and Circumstance,” a hooding of the graduate, the awarding of the degree, the proclamation of honors, and warm applause from the West Pine RSCJ community, whose procession of cars honked their joy as we began and who then parked their cars and participated from a safe distance.

No matter that Maryville was closed; no matter that the community’s academic garb was topped by mortar boards made from black paper plates and yarn; no matter that Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ, led the procession with a mace that was actually a feather duster; no matter that RSCJ on the Maryville Board were participants only by phone, and shared a song and toasts later in the day – nothing could discourage Susan’s sisters from creating a lovely ceremony to mark this important rite of passage.

Far Left: Uchenna Oluoha, RSCJ; Left: Sally Stephens, RSCJ; Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ; Susan Nankya, RSCJ; Mary Pat Rives, RSCJ; Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ

# Cor Unum Legacy Society

The *Cor Unum Legacy Society* recognizes in perpetuity those individual alumnae/-i, family and friends who have remembered the Society in their estate plans.

It is important to inform your legal and financial advisors to include our correct legal name in your planning documents. Please use *The Society of the Sacred Heart United States-Canada Province* to ensure your wishes are respected.

For more information, please contact Anne Wiehagen, Director of Mission Advancement, at 314-652-1500.



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Mary Catherine Hoffmann Ryan  
Michael E. and Fran Ryan  
Hortensia Hacker Sampedro  
Carol J. Sampson  
Barbara Corron Sanders  
George W. and Faye B. Saul *RIP*  
Carroll Saussy  
Joanne B. Schelske  
Ruth V. Schmedtje *RIP*  
Bernadette Kaulakis Settelmeier  
Ellen Schlafly Shafer  
Sharon O'Malley Shearon *RIP*  
Mary Lou Sheibley *RIP*  
Constance Hanley Smith *RIP*  
Peter Allen and Mary Alyose Smith *RIP*  
Pamela Moore Snyder  
Charlotte Sumpter Spagnuolo *RIP*  
Elizabeth Largay St. John  
Reverend Thomas R. Statt  
Rina Stefani  
Elaine S. Stenger  
Judith Kay Stowe *RIP*  
Merna Stoflet *RIP*  
Bonnie Walsh Stoloski  
Andree Strybos *RIP*  
Elizabeth Corby Sturges *RIP*  
Constance Heide Sullivan *RIP*  
Rose Breslin Sullivan *RIP*  
Dolores A. Supper  
Jean Brady Sweeney *RIP*  
Harriet K. Switzer and David L. Cronin  
Virginia Tarjan  
Joan McSweeney Terry  
Sandra J. Theunick  
Bernadette J. Thibodeau  
Mary Frawley Thompson *RIP*  
Mary Jane Tiernan  
Anonymous *RIP*  
Martha Peters Toon  
Lelia Timmins Totten *RIP*  
Margaret Cambron Tracy *RIP*  
Ruth Hogan Tredway *RIP*  
Diane Remien Tymick  
Dacia Van Antwerp  
Mary T. Verkamp *RIP*  
Virginia Vessa-McLaughlin *RIP*  
Louise Gerrity Vollertsen  
Madeleine Von Bargaen *RIP*  
Olga Gannon Warfield *RIP*  
M. Virginia Waterman-Casey  
Edward Watson *RIP*  
Patricia Bernstein Wells  
William and Mimi Welsh  
Susan Whalen  
John E. Whitfield, Sr. *RIP*  
Nathan T. Wilburn  
Suzanne Dale Wilcox  
Patricia C. Willis  
Francine Templeman Wimsatt  
Patricia Tarantino Woodley *RIP*  
Evelyn and Albert Worner *RIP*  
Loretta M. Young *RIP*

# Revealing God's love in the heart of the world

The Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is an international community of women in the Catholic Church, founded in 1800 by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat. Sharing her vision and mission, we are convinced of the centrality of prayer and contemplation in our lives. We, the Religious of the Sacred Heart, are committed to discovering and making God's love visible in the heart of the world through the service of education.

Conscious that what we do, we do together, and remembering a tradition marked by a love for young people and missionary spirit, the Religious of the Sacred Heart carry out this service of education:

- ♥ *especially in the work of teaching and formation*
- ♥ *in other activities for human development and the promotion of justice*
- ♥ *in pastoral work and guidance in the faith.*

— *Constitutions of the Society of the Sacred Heart, 1982*

## **General Council of the International Society of the Sacred Heart:**

Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, Superior General (United States – Canada)

Marie-Jeanne Elonga, RSCJ (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Monica Esquivel, RSCJ (Mexico)

Isabelle Lagneau, RSCJ (Belgium, France and Netherlands)

Daphne Sequeira, RSCJ (India)

## **Provincial Team:**

Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, Provincial  
Donna Collins, RSCJ

Maureen Glavin, RSCJ

Theresa Moser, RSCJ

Diane Roche, RSCJ

*Canonical Treasurers:* Anne-Marie Conn, RSCJ (Canada); Lyn Osiek, RSCJ (US)

## **Provincial Staff:**

Sandra Ahlheim, Janet Anderson, Linda Behrens, Meg Beugg, Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ; Danielle Dunleavy, Erin Everson, Mary Lou Gavan, RSCJ; Mary Glenn, Mary Halsey, Al Harvey, Tammy Hickman, Laurie Hoffman, Eliza Lynn, Lyn Osiek, RSCJ; Alicia Pelzer-Johnson, Michael Pera, Antonia Ponder, Adifa Qorri, Caroline Richard, Ann Taylor, RSCJ; Lisa Terneus, Deborah Vespa-Schutz, Anne Wiehagen

**Elder Care Staff:** *Oakwood:* Jenny Alvarado, Zulma Alvarez, Maricela Angel, Rosaura Angel, Laura Beeson, Hao Bui, Jesse Rey Cadiz, Rosa Cardenas, Trudy Considine, RSCJ; Lani Cordoviz, Maria Correa, Patricia Creedon, RSM; John Dasigan, Diana Dumlao, Bridget Emma-Harrell, Jessica Flores, Esmeralda Gallardo, Griselda Gallardo, Consuelo Gamarra, Edchel Guiriba, Maria Hernandez, Antonio Hurtado, Elenoa Ika, Rita Iverson, Cheryl Jackson, Catherine Janson, Luisa Jaso, Osimei Kata, Bo Li, Reina Lopez, Lucie Nordmann, RSCJ; Felicia Orozco, Mireya Perez, Tin Phan, Antonio Prieto, Carol Raymundo, Bessy Rivera, Guadalupe Rodriguez, Ulises Romero, Sally Rude, RSCJ; Ann Smith, RSCJ; Rosalinda Sokhn, Silvia Tamayo, Cindy Tran, Jerome Tumbaga, Maria Turenne, Elsie Turgo, Noel Umipig, Erik Valverde, Juan Valverde, Ruben Velazquez. *Abba House:* Jose Ruiz. *Regional nurses:* Marguerite Callahan, RN (Central); Diane Davis, RN (West); Karen O'Rourke, RN (East); Sharron Dolan, RN (Canada)

**Stuart Center Staff:** Lesly Alvarez, Laryn Bakker, Bridget Bearss, RSCJ; Clara Callahan, Fran De La Chapelle, RSCJ; Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ; Reyna Gonzalez, RSCJ; Kim Lamberty, Beth Ponticello, Vicky Rajca, RSCJ; Heidi Sajche



**Photo credits:** Yuka Arita, RSCJ; Laura Beeson, Linda Behrens, Erin Everson, Ann Griffin, Maureen Glavin, RSCJ; Rachel Zurheide **Designer:** Peggy Nehmen



(Top left) Frances Gimber, RSCJ; Superior General Barbara Dawson, RSCJ; Monica Esquivel, RSCJ; Archivist Lyn Osiek, RSCJ, and Mary Lou Gavan, RSCJ, at the USC Province Archives during the fall 2019 when the General Council from Rome visited the United States – Canada Province.



(Top right) Judith Garson, RSCJ; Gwendolyn Hoeffel, RSCJ; and Elizabeth Renard, RSCJ, attended a climate change demonstration in Albany, New York, in 2019.

(Far left) The RSCJ throughout the province are profoundly grateful for the excellent care they have received during the pandemic. Caregivers Rosie Angel and Lani Cordoviz model their masks at Oakwood, in Atherton, California.



Denise Stine, a senior at Sacred Heart Schools Atherton visited with Sis Flynn, RSCJ. Annually, the Sacred Heart Society at Sacred Heart Preparatory, Atherton, California, inducts a group of seniors to support the charism of the RSCJ through directed service projects, fundraising, advocacy, as well as 1:1 mentorship and community-building with the retired RSCJ residing at Oakwood.



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

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St. Louis, MO 63108

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The General Council celebrated the opening of the Probation at the Villa Lante in Rome with nine RSCJ from seven countries. This occasion marked the beginning of the last step of their formation, leading to final profession on January 26, 2020.

*Thank You!*

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Society of the Sacred Heart™  
United States – Canada

Mission Advancement  
*Report on Gifts*

September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

1,722

Donors



\$2,627,338

Total Gifts



\$833,195

Unrestricted



\$524,777

Mission and Ministries



**\$1,269,366**  
Total  
Elder Care Gifts

This includes the  
following:

**\$848,348**  
General  
Elder Care Gifts



**\$380,723**  
Oakwood  
Elder Care Gifts



**\$40,295**  
Albany  
Elder Care Gifts



Advent, 2020

*Dear Donors and Friends,*

**AS I WRITE THIS LETTER IN NOVEMBER**, I am looking ahead to December when you will receive our annual report. You can likely predict one thought running through my mind – what does December 2020 hold for us? With much hope, I pray all will end well this year.

Our hearts overflow with gratitude for the blessings we received during our past fiscal year that ended August 31. We are very grateful for the generous gifts you sent in response to our special appeal to help protect our sisters in the early months of the pandemic and pivot our important work in the midst of uncertainty. Thank you to our monthly donors for their faithful gifts throughout the year. Thank you to donors who made a first gift this year. To those who give every year, we thank you again and again for the many ways you partner with the RSCJ and support the mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

We appreciate in new ways how your gifts helped us keep aspects of the sisters' lives as normal as we could in 2020. There were RSCJ who needed physical and medical assistance to move from one city to another. Our elder care coordinators were able to request services to make these transitions less stressful for these sisters.

We celebrate the opening of a new “Welcoming Community” in New York City called Artisans of Hope, that welcomes young people for prayer and reflection gatherings and offers young women discerning religious life an experience of living in community. The international Society has young interns at the United Nations who will live at Artisans of Hope while working at the UN. Not to be hindered by COVID-19, the community is welcoming young adults virtually during the pandemic.

We feel blessed to have had successes this year during uncertain, difficult times – and that is because of you. Thank you once again.

Thinking of you this season of Advent with sincere thanks,



*Anne L. Wiehagen*

Anne L. Wiehagen, CFRE  
Director of Mission Advancement  
[awiehagen@rscj.org](mailto:awiehagen@rscj.org) • 314-652-1500

*P. S. Just to share – an Advent message from the writings of Janet Erskine Stuart, RSCJ (1857-1914)*

The Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary:  
A lesson in God's way of doing things.  
His ways are the most unimaginable  
until they are known, and then,  
their very simplicity is what dazzles us most.

**Fundraising income for  
September 1, 2019 –  
August 31, 2020**  
(unaudited figures)



**Number of gifts**  
2,587



**Annual appeal**  
\$2,044,724



**Total gifts**  
\$2,627,338



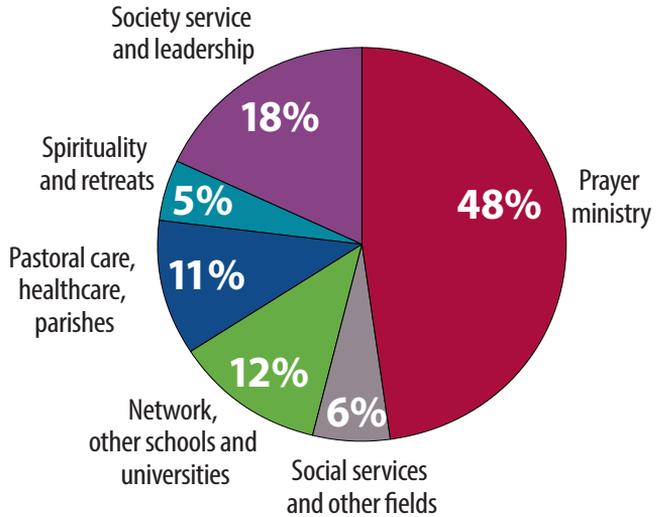
**Realized bequests**  
\$569,557

**Realized Bequests**

- Rose Baumeister *RIP*
- Beverly M. Boyd *RIP*
- Mary Ann Manion Bridge *RIP*
- Alice J. Burns *RIP*
- Margaret Hopkins *RIP*
- Sharron Vavak McKenzie *RIP*
- Margaret Crowley Phelan *RIP*
- Eileen Pohl Rengh *RIP*
- Charlotte Sumpter Spagnuolo *RIP*
- Constance Heide Sullivan *RIP*
- Virginia Vessa-McLaughlin *RIP*

**RSCJ ministries in the  
United States – Canada Province**

Percentages of RSCJ who are involved  
in each area of service



**Additional facts 2019-2020**

Number of RSCJ in USC Province (as of 11/11/2020)	230
Average age of USC RSCJ	79
Percentage of RSCJ in Eldercare	35%
Income from RSCJ salaries	\$3,087,459
Average per-person cost for RSCJ in retirement homes	\$82,868
Annual budget allocation for retirement centers	\$6,380,840
Annual USC Province budget	\$23,604,192

**United States – Canada  
Provincial Office**

4120 Forest Park Avenue  
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