

June 24, 2005

Dear Sacred Heart Friends in the Central Region:

Summer is officially here and we are experiencing our first official “heat wave” in Chicago. I hope this letter finds you well and preparing for a relaxing summer to be enjoyed with family and friends. Many of you were able to attend the **35th Biennial National Conference of the AASH** hosted in Chicago last April. The theme of the conference *“St. Madeleine Sophie’s Vision of Service--Living Our Legacy”* will continue to transcend its message as many returned home renewed in spirit and friendship. This was most apparent a month after the conference when Marcie Amory forwarded an email from Pam Snyder suggesting a special feast day project be undertaken to help victims of a tragic accident (a lorry had overturned on the road near the town of Kandole) in Uganda. So on the feast of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat many gathered in the Chapel at Barat College and approximately \$300.00 was collected which was later matched by the Barat Education Foundation. The monies were sent to the Sacred Heart students in Uganda that were hospitalized after suffering injuries from the lorry accident that took the lives of two fellow classmates. It is gratifying to know that we can come together in prayer and do something for others. God Bless all that participated in this very special feast day project!

One can never say these two words enough – ***THANK YOU!*** I’d like to send a sincere thank you to all who attended the conference but most especially to the individuals who behind the scenes helped to make the conference a reality. Many thanks to our schools: Sheridan Road, Josephinum, Woodlands and Barat. ***And, a very special thank you to the conference co-chairs - Catherine Miserendino and Tami Rocha and their core committee of volunteers: Rosemary Cramer, Marlene Elkins, Susan Halle, Marc Huber, Sheila Hussey, Whitney Jacobson, Kathy McKeown Linder, Ann Moorman, Kiki Rothing, Helen Ryan, Sally Sharp, Mara Sullivan, Ginger Tarjan, Laura Torosian, Diane Tymick, Maria Wanamaker and Deborah Wells.***

Personally, I treasure the experience of hosting a conference in my kind of town and will hold dear the memories of connecting with Sacred Heart alums from all over the United States. I send a heartfelt thank you to Kathleen Wellman who spoke so eloquently on the St. Madeleine Sophie Center and to our angel underwriter Sharon LeeMaster for the tote bags. The afternoon in Lake Forest was filled with speakers who gave us interesting perspectives and much to think about. Thanks to Dr. Leonard Sax who discussed *“Gender Differences in Learning”* and Madeleine Ortman who led our panelists (Pamela Hayes, Gerry Grossman, Nancy Kehoe, rscj, Susan Maxwell, rscj, Maria Paz-Salas and Sheila Smith) in a lively discussion on how our Sacred Heart education continues to influence a social awareness, which impels us to action.

And, last but not least, I want to thank the outgoing AASH Board, especially, Barb Lopiccolo and Jeanne O’Fallon for their support and friendship!

Now, on to other AASH news and updates . . .

AMASC WORLD CONGRESS EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 30. As you know, the United States is hosting the AMASC World Congress April 23-28 in New Orleans. **Registration is now open and there is an early-bird deadline of June 30, 2005.** Brochures are available on-line at www.amasc-sacrecoeur.org and if you wish to get a brochure sent to you in the mail, please contact Irene Mackenroth at Econotax 1-800-260-5651.

The programs are impressive and include opportunities to network with Sacred Heart alums around the world. In addition, there are many events to appeal to our young alums and we are hoping for increased involvement from our 35 and under crowd. And, you won't want to miss the variety of tours and added attractions designed to give you a taste of the "Big Easy."

At the National Conference, we voted to hold our Regional Meetings in tandem with the World Congress, not only to encourage support of this event, which is being held in the U.S. for the first time in 25 years, but also to reduce the costs associated with attending a regional and world conference. I do hope that many of you from the Central Region will consider attending. Just as I counted on your support last April so do Olga Rome and her team who are working hard to create a memorable experience for all.

MBNA CREDIT CARD The MBNA credit card is a significant source of income for AASH. Last year we earned more than \$21,000! To apply for a credit card, visit www.aashnet.org. With every purchase you make, you'll be helping to support AASH.

AASH CALENDAR When planning events, please keep the AASH web site calendar in mind. It's a great resource for upcoming dates for all of our groups. You are also welcome to add dates for your own events. It's easy and only takes a minute to update. If you prefer to send me your calendar of events I will gladly add them to the National Calendar for you.

HANDBOOK AND DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS: Please be sure to let me know if your association has any changes/corrections to be made to the AASH Handbook and Directory as this wonderful resource will be updated and distributed in the fall.

Wishing you all a most enjoyable and relaxing summer and a very safe Fourth of July weekend!

Warm regards,

Maureen E. Ryan
AASH Central Regional Director