

August 2007

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you all! As we wrap up the summer and get ready for a new school year, we are excited to join with the National Board in sharing with you our vision for the next two years.

At the end of June, the National Board met in St. Louis for a retreat and work weekend to set goals and plan the next Biennium 2007-2009. What fun we had staying all together at the “Cottage” at Villa Duchesne working (and laughing!) until the wee hours. It was a bonding experience and one that will result in an excited two years with our President Marcie Amory at the reins. We have set ambitious and attainable goals for the next two years and you are all an integral part of this plan.

- 1.) *Support the Society of the Sacred Heart’s “In Mission For Life” campaign by working in concert with the National Leadership Development Committee on this project. This is a campaign with a \$40 million goal slated to end in 2012 to address the needs of the Society into the future.*
- 2.) *Make AASH more visible to student in the Network of Sacred Heart Schools;*
- 3.) *Review all AASH publications to make sure they communicate information and major events in the life of AASH. Be looking for the new face of Esprit de Coeur and let your regional director know if you have any “good news” to report from your region.*
- 4.) *Encourage regions to host a business/social meeting (Regional) in 2008 to include information on and attendance at the 2009 National Conference.*
- 5.) *Encourage the formation of new associations in cities/schools where alumnae/i are not organized into a group. We are striving to establish new associates in each region. There is already interest in Cleveland, Sarasota, Atlanta, Charlotte, Raleigh/Durham and Wisconsin! If you have any friends and family in areas eager to form an association, please let us know.*

It promises to be an exciting and positive two years. We look forward to working with you as we take on these new challenges and take advantage of all of the gifts we have to share as alumnae/i of the Sacred Heart.

With kind personal regards,

AASH REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Mary Pelton Hildebrand - Central

Alice J. Burns – Eastern

Patricia Mulcahy Boer – Western

Kathleen E. Simon - Southern

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

NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK A SUCCESS – If you weren't able to make the National Conference in New York, or if you'd just like to relive the good memories, be sure to visit www.aashnet.org to see lots of fun photos. It was a wonderful National Conference and we extend a tres bien to all of our Eastern Region friends who planned and prepared an exceptional New York experience.

AASH MESSAGE BOARD – Did you know there's a special area on www.aashnet.org to enhance our communications? Under each of the regions, you'll find a message board where you can post a note at anytime. It's a great way to get the word out quickly, whether it's a reunion reminder, special Feast wish or updates on alums. Encourage your alums to post messages there at any time.

AASH CALENDAR AND REGIONAL NEWS SECTION ON AASHNET.ORG – Also keep www.aashnet.org in mind for posting your association's upcoming events. You are welcome to post the information yourself, or send your Regional Director the details and she will post it for you. It is a fantastic way to stay connected.

AASH GIFT SHOP – Since we were unable to really take advantage of selling items at our conference in New York due to University Club policy, don't forget that many items are available through individual associations' gift shops on our aashnet.org website at www.aashnet.org. If you need to make changes, corrections or additions to your association's gift shop, please contact our webmaster mary@argas.com. This is a wonderful source to shop for many unique Sacred Heart items that make perfect gifts throughout the year.

At our Conference, many of us were enthralled by the beautiful Sacred Heart pin/pendant created by Rosary alumna and New Orleans designer/artist India Stewart. The original image was designed for the Society of the Sacred Heart. This pin, inspired by that design is offered for sale with 50% of the proceeds being donated to the Society of the Sacred Heart as the Alumnae/Alumni effort to help support the retired RSCJ. To order yours (\$25-\$30) and see other inspired works please visit www.indiastewart.com.

In the same vein, the Academy of the Sacred Heart (St. Charles) Alumni Coordinating Council has published a book of poetry by beloved Sacred Heart educator, Sister Anna Mae Marheineke, who is now at Atherton. The title, "Smile the Sun Around my Heart" is taken from a line in her poem dedicated to her students at Grand Coteau. All proceeds will benefit the RSCJ eldercare.

NEW ASSOCIATIONS – Believe it or not - cross the country there are Sacred Heart Alumnae/i in towns and cities that do not have Alumnae Associations! In this age of the internet we would like to get all of our alumnae/i connected through the website at www.aashnet.org and to encourage the formation of new associations. We are excited about the new association in Los Angeles and their willingness to host the next National Conference in 2009! Remember, you do NOT have to have a school in your area to have an association and your Regional Directors and our National Office Director Jeanne Burke O'Fallon are available to assist you in locating alums in your area. What a wonderful way to network and gather with other Children of His Sacred Heart.

REGIONAL MEETINGS BEING PLANNED – Yes your Regional Directors are working now on planning the Regional meetings for this year. Stay tuned for more information on dates and locations.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009 – Although it may seem like a long way off, our friends in the west have already been busy planning for our National Conference in Los Angeles scheduled for Thursday, April 23 through Sunday, April 26, 2009. The Omni Hotel will serve as our conference headquarters. The Conference will be dedicated to St. Philippine Duchesne with the theme “Missionaries of the Heart – Here to Make a Difference”. The planning committee headed by chair Liz Bradley has some very exciting events in the works that you won’t want to miss. So mark your calendars now!

NEWS FROM THE RSCJ - Thanks to modern technology, the RSCJ Provincial Assembly/ Chapter held in Chicago in July included not only 230 RSCJs gathered at Loyola University but also allowed for a “web- cast” *live* to our retired sisters at both Kenwood and Oakwood on a big screen! The major themes for this gathering were RSCJ spirituality and the care for the environment as well as other governance issues for the province. The province voted overwhelmingly to endorse “The Earth Charter” (www.earthcharter.org) and to take concrete steps to live by its principles and make them known, making this statement: “As RSCJ whose ecological vision is rooted in the spirituality of the Heart of Jesus, we commit ourselves to deepen our awareness of our unique roles and responsibilities in sustaining the integrity of our planet and its inhabitants.”

Our Provincial Kathleen Conan RSCJ writes “[i]t is difficult to put into words the prayerful positive and renewing spirit of this gathering. St. Madeleine Sophie gave the Society the motto, *Cor Unum et Anima Una in Corde Jesu*. The RSCJ gathered in Chicago last week experienced this as a gift and a treasure to be nurtured. Our two facilitators, religious from other congregations, commented at the end that the RSCJs are very much alive and well!”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? – Shirley Miller RSCJ will continue to update the Regional Directors as our retired religious make the move from Kenwood to Teresian House and from Oakwood to Our Lady of Fatima Villa. The Regional Directors will circulate this information as it comes available so that alums might write or call the RSCJs they know.

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS – Can you believe that AASH earned over \$15,000 in the past fiscal year from the AASH MasterCards alone? AASH receives 50 cents for each \$100 charged to the card. What an easy way to support AASH for purchases you would be making anyway and it does not cost you a thing. Look for more information in the *Esprit de Coeur*.