

March 16, 2006

Dear Southern Region Friends:

Spring is in the air, and with it, the fresh scents and beautiful signs of renewal and rebirth. For me, the sight of the first crocus peeking out of the ground or the forsythia bushes blooming brings a sense of newness, life and hope.

Spring is also a busy time for many Alumnae/i associations in our region. Whether hosting Reunions or Days of Recollection, our alums are gathering to share their friendship and faith. It's always energizing to watch alums rekindle their relationships with each other.

Our Southwest Florida group hosted their annual luncheon on March 4 with more than 70 alumnae representing our schools across the country as well as Havana and Nova Scotia. Besides a chance to get together for an enjoyable afternoon, the luncheon serves as a fundraiser for the RSCJ Retirement Fund. Across the state, the Gold Coast group also celebrated their luncheon March 4—their 20th annual! Sister Meg Canty was able to join the group and give an update of the plans for moving the RSCJ at Kenwood. And, the group raised a phenomenal \$13,000 for the Kenwood RSCJ!

As you may have read, the winter issue of *Heart* (the beautiful publication of the Society of the Sacred Heart) featured a collection of poems by Sister Anna Mae Marheineke entitled *Smile the Sun Around my Heart*. Many alums in our region may know Sister Marheineke, who taught at our schools in St. Charles, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Grand Coteau and New Orleans. This past summer, she was moved to Oakwood. No teacher has made more of an impact on my life than Sister Marheineke and I am pleased to be a part of this project that serves as a loving tribute to her. Published by the Academy of the Sacred Heart Alumni Association, her poetry—with lovely illustrations by her former students—is a fundraiser for the Society of the Sacred Heart. Recently a check from the sale of these bright yellow books—\$10,000—was sent to the Society. Copies, which sell for \$20 a piece, are available and make wonderful gifts. To order yours, please contact the Advancement Office at St. Charles at 636-946-5632.

Plans are currently in the works for our Southern Regional meeting, likely in late September/early October. At this point, I am unable to share specific details, but as soon as they are finalized, I will be in touch. I regret that we can't meet in New Orleans this April and am really looking forward to this opportunity to get together.

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

AMASC WORLD CONGRESS

It was with great sadness that we all received the news that the AMASC Conference had to be cancelled. Please continue to keep all our Alumnae/i in the New Orleans and Gulf Coast area in your prayers.

AMASC President OLGA ROME writes that “while we are very saddened that there will not be an AMASC Congress, we are deeply grateful to Marion Glennon, AMASC Vice-President and Conference Coordinator, Sister Joan Magnetti, Headmistress for hosting the meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut. We are eagerly anticipating this gathering of the AMASC General Assembly Friday, April 21- Sunday, April 23 with arrivals on Thursday, April 20. The meeting of the newly elected President and her board will be Monday, April 24. Greenwich Convent of the Sacred Heart and the New York and Greenwich alumnae will be hosting the National Presidents Meeting and Home Dinners, which are always a highlight of our alumnae/i gatherings. We are also very grateful to the Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart throughout the United States for their generosity in helping underwrite some of the costs of the meeting and assisting us throughout the Conference.”

“Crescent City Consultants, the company that handled reservations for the Congress, assures us that all refunds will be in the hands of former registrants within the next few weeks. Their building suffered extensive damage! Your patience and understanding is sincerely appreciated!”

Please see the website for Olga’s beautiful letter in full and other updates by clicking on “AMASC” at “Related Sites” at www.aashnet.org. Of note, immediate past president Barb Lopiccolo is a nominee for the AMASC Board from the US; our late AASH president Maryliz deVito Lincoln is being proposed as a posthumous Emeritus Member of AMASC; Hermine van Asten Wennekers of the Netherlands is the candidate for president; and AMASC 2010 is planned for Malta. Let’s all hope to meet there!

REGIONAL MEETINGS 2006

Due to the cancellation of AMASC, where AASH regional meetings were to be held, and AASH’s current by laws requiring a regional meeting in the year between the national conferences, each region is planning a brief but important regional meeting.

The Western region will meet at the University of San Diego on Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24.

The Eastern Regional will meet at Stuart in Princeton, New Jersey on Saturday, October 21.

Dates are not firm for meetings of the Central and Southern Regions.

An update on The Rosary and the hurricane relief effort:

The Rosary in New Orleans is back in session with 87 percent of their 850 students and 21 new ones reported as of January 2006. Unlike other area private schools, the Rosary has laid off no teachers. As of January 6, 2006, fundraising through the Society/Network/AASH totaled \$275,000, including some large gifts, like \$30,000 from the Japanese alumnae. Some funds are being used to reimburse Duchesne Houston, Regis for Boys in Houston, and Grand Coteau for expenses of taking in Rosary students. The major portion of funds is being used to help the Rosary recover.

The Spirit of the Sacred Heart was felt all over the Network and in every Alumnae/i Association as so many donated and schools welcomed Sacred Heart students into their midst. For further updates and info please go to www.sofie.org and www.aashnet.org

MBNA CREDIT CARD

The MBNA credit card is a significant source of income for AASH. Last year we earned more than \$22,000! To apply for a credit card, visit www.aashnet.org. Remember with every purchase you make, you’ll be helping to support AASH!

GIFT SHOP

Please take a look at your Association's gift shop site and contact our webmaster Mary Mahoney at mary@argas.com with changes, corrections, additions, etc. You will find many unique Sacred Heart items available for sale that will be the perfect gift for First Communions, Confirmations, Graduations, Alumnae/i Reunions and all other festive springtime occasions.

AASH CALENDAR and REGIONAL NEWS SECTION on the AASHNET.ORG WEBSITE

Alumnae/i Directors, Association Presidents, AASH Reps, this is yours to use. When planning events, please send me your calendar of events and news. I will gladly enter your events and news for you. We hope to offer a Bulletin Board for your use in the near future.

2005-2006 AASH DUES ARE DUE

Thank you to those who have sent in their dues. If you were remiss in sending them in by the January deadline, please do so now. Thank you in advance for looking after this bit of housekeeping.

HANDBOOK AND DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

A newly revised edition of the AASH Association Handbook and Directory (aka the "RED BOOK") is in your hands now. As changes of officers and contact numbers are in flux, please keep our Corresponding Secretary, Diane Tymick, and the AASH National Office up to date so that your new book will be current as well. Attached you will find changes recently received. We hope you find this expanded Handbook helpful. Among the additions are National Conference Guidelines, pages 3.10 – 3.15 that a hard working committee put together this summer.

UPDATE ON RSCJ MOVES TO NEW RETIREMENT HOMES

Sister Conan reported at the AASH conference call February 7, 2006 that the RSCJ are being so courageous as they make the necessary moves to alternate care facilities at Kenwood in Albany, New York. As we discussed at the Chicago Conference, Alum Associations will be informed as these moves take place so that your Association members might write notes of welcome and encouragement to these religious in their new homes. Kenwood now has a web site www.rscj.org/kenwood that may be reached through our web site www.aashnet.org by clicking on RSCJ. Oakwood is working on getting a web site. Moves at Oakwood will come later and you will be informed about them as all members of the Sacred Heart community are linked to AASH at aashnet.org.

THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The National Leadership Development Committee met for the first time in St. Charles on the feast of Philippine Duchesne, November 18, 2005 to begin to create a national development strategy. The committee met again by conference call on February 16, 2006 and will meet again face to face in St. Charles May 12-13, 2006.

Comprised of lay men and women and members of the Society of the Sacred Heart who are committed to the support of the Society's mission activities through philanthropy and volunteerism, this national committee will advocate for the Society's joint fundraising initiatives focusing on elder care and the Society's missions and ministries. Committee members will be asked to attend two formal meetings per year. Conference calls, in between the meetings, will be used as needed.

The members of the National Leadership Development Committee follow, listed by constituency:

- Kathleen Conan, RSCJ, Provincial, Province
- Shirley Miller, RSCJ, Director of Mission Advancement, Province
- Susan Maxwell, RSCJ, Head of School, Sacred Heart Schools, Chicago, Network Board
- Mike Ryan, Towers Perrin, Network Board
- Cathy Taft, Development Director, Kenwood
- Nancy Morris, RSCJ, Development Director, Oakwood
- Adele O'Grady Botticelli, President, Associated Alumnae/i of the Sacred Heart (AASH)
- Ellen Shafer, Alumna

Patricia Arnold, Development Director, Missouri Botanical Gardens, Alumna
Jane O'Connell, President, Altman Foundation, Foundations
Larry Vaclavik, Partner, Dini Partners, Consultant

STATE OF THE SOCIETY

On May 1 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m, a reception will be held at Convent of the Sacred Heart 91st Street, hosted by friends of the Society. Invitations will be mailed in mid-March to about 1,000 alumnae.

Kathy Conan, RSCJ, Provincial, will make a presentation on the status of elder care issues, financial planning, mission advancement efforts and the strategic planning process. It is hoped that events like this will soon be held around the United States to educate the alumnae/i community about the current state of the Society and to solicit alumnae/i support for the Society's mission activities through philanthropy and volunteerism. Please let Shirley Miller, RSCJ, smiller@rscj.org or me know if your school is interested in hosting a "State of the Society" event.

Before closing, I'd like to share a couple of Sister Marheineke's poems:

Life!

That is what the Resurrection
is all about:
dawn race to the tomb, earthquake,
sun on angels' faces that shout
Rejoice! Praise!
The Lord lives! And always
we live too and loudly call:
Blow your Spirit through, clean
through us. Overturn
these rocks that are our hearts.
Be Emmaus-Jesus and break
daily bread with us. Burn
prophecy-come-true on our
every waking Easter. Surprise
our dulled wits with "Here I am! Don't fear!"
And eyes—ours—yearn
to fix you, O Risen Lord,
forever fast, forever here.

Southern Sunset (at Grand Coteau)

Just above me a new April moon
held cupped in its crescent a star,
while the sun's last ray
made a rosy delay,
sending opal and mother-of-pearl to play
on the slim white moon's curved bar.

I whistled goodnight to a cardinal who called
an answer from a dark-branched pine.
All twilight was fraught
with the beauty I'd caught
from a moon-cupped star and a tall pine taut
against a sky like Burgundy wine.

This time of Lent calls us to a conversion of heart. During this Lenten season, let us take the time to pause and reflect on the beauty in our lives and the potential of resurrection in all of creation.

With love,

Lisa M. Tebbe
AASH Southern Regional Director
St. Charles '80

P.S. Please note my corrected work phone number for the Red Book: 314-810-3529.