

# Esprit de Coeur

*spirit of the heart*

2021 - 2022  
ANNUAL REPORT

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS  
AND FINANCIALS



ASSOCIATED ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI OF THE SACRED HEART



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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Rhonda Raffi Meegan,  
President*

Dear Sacred Heart friends, and families,

As summer ends and our schools begin a new year, we remember that we are so blessed with so many educational gifts that our Sacred Heart educators gave to us. We pray that Sacred Heart school educators today have the courage and strength to sail into the future as we move beyond all the challenges that the pandemic presented to them, the students, and all of us.

What's happening in your regions? In October, we will be hosting our Regionals' Meeting via Zoom for all to attend. The theme for this meeting is "Sailing into the Future." Philippine had enormous courage and spiritual strength to sail toward her future adventure in America on the Rebecca. We hope you will join us on October 19th as our Regional Directors host this special meeting for you!

Next event after the Regional Meeting? Conference!! We are excited to share that we will be hosting our first in-person conference since the Covid pandemic! Our 44th National Conference will be held in Portsmouth, RI in May 2023! The theme for our conference is "Courage and Confidence."

We feel blessed that the St. Philomena School of the Sacred Heart ([www.SaintPhilomena.org](http://www.SaintPhilomena.org)), our 25th Network school, will be hosting our conference. We feel grateful for this support from Head of School and Principal, Brian Cordiero, who is welcoming our alumni, rscj, and friends for this special event.

At our conference, we will be honoring the Elmhurst school and our Sacred Heart French traditions! To kick off the conference, the Elmhurst Alumni Association has organized a lovely Shelagh O'Dwyer soirée at the old Elmhurst school which is now known as the Glen Manor House. ([www.glenmanorhouse.com](http://www.glenmanorhouse.com))

We look forward to seeing all of you soon!

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

With love from the Heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Meegan".

# 2021-2023 BOARD MEMBERS



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*On the cover:* Caps in the air as DASH Omaha graduates celebrate.  
Procession of RSCJ at the Grand Coteau Bicentennial Mass.  
Sheridan Road, ASH St. Charles and DASH Houston graduates are full of smiles on graduation day.

*On the back cover:* DASH Omaha graduate showing the love of the Sacred Heart.  
Bloomfield Hills Class of 2022 strike a pose on Prize Day.

*Editor:* Laurie Strickland, ASH St. Charles 1976, NationalOffice@aash.org

*Designer:* Angela Schulte



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## **Merci, Très Bien and À bientôt, Maggie!**

A very special thank you to Maggie Kaspura! As the former National Office Director, Maggie's contributions to AASH are too numerous to list. She served the organization for close to a decade. Always ready to take on whatever questions and projects that came to the National Office, she also made major advancements to our website and database. As the editor-in-chief of the *Esprit de Coeur*, she worked diligently to keep the Sacred Heart family connected and informed. In the last *Esprit*, Maggie shared, "I'm once again writing full-time as a Senior Editor at Fitch Ink, a company full of other former journalists..." This summer, she was thrilled to move back to her hometown of Houston. For your years of dedication and service to AASH, merci, très bien and à bientôt Maggie!

For me, Fall has always been a signal to begin anew and a time to get organized. First a student, then a teacher and mom, each new school year was a clean slate full of possibilities. I still feel compelled to buy new notebooks, pens, binders and folders. This feeling remains even though I'm not teaching in the classroom and my children are out of school. This season always brought anticipation of "firsts," a new teacher, new students, new things to learn and discover.

There have been a lot of new beginnings for me as I started as the National Office Director in December. As an alum, I'm thrilled to have a job that keeps me so connected to all things Sacred Heart. This edition of the *Esprit de Coeur* is another first for me. Within these pages, I bring you reports on our alums living out the Sacred Heart Goals, flooding of St. Philippine's Florissant home, the Bicentennial celebration at Grand Coteau, pictures of our recent graduates and more.

I'm honored to be your National Office Director and I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at the 44th National Conference in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, May 18 – 20, 2023,

In the Heart,



*Laurie Strikland,  
ASH St. Charles, 1976*

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## **Get Connected!**

The connections we all made at our Sacred Heart school are priceless. We are also able to connect with alums from other Sacred Heart schools because of our common bond – we are all Children of the Sacred Heart. Please invite your former classmates and any Sacred Heart alums to contact the National Office at [NationalOffice@aash.org](mailto:NationalOffice@aash.org) so we can update our database with current email addresses. You can also connect with fellow alums through AASH Connections where you can advertise alum businesses, vacation homes, job and internship opportunities and prayer requests. Visit the website at [www.AASH.org](http://www.AASH.org) to get connected!

# 2022 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

## Regional Conference October 19, 2022

Virtual event via Zoom

3 pm EST • 2 pm CST • 1 pm MST • 12 pm PST

Register online today at [aash.org/conference/register](https://aash.org/conference/register)

### AGENDA

**Call To Order** – Deborah Dunham, AASH Ambassador

**Opening Prayer** – Roselie Posselius, AASH Immediate Past President

**Introductions** – Deborah Dunham, AASH Ambassador  
Rhonda Meegan, AASH President

#### Regional Reports

- Southern – Charla Dziedzic, AASH Southern Regional Director
- Western – Marcia Tufarolo, AASH Western Regional Director
- Central – Andrea Ferris, AASH Central Regional Director
- Eastern – Maria Asteinza, AASH Eastern Regional Director

**‘Call to Action’ Overview and Review** – Kate Sawyer, AASH Vice-President

**Sacred Heart: Sailing Into Our Future** – Deborah Dunham, AASH Ambassador

**Keynote: Meg Beugg & Laura Haroian** – Sacred Heart Associates

**Other Business** - Deborah Dunham, AASH Ambassador

**National Conference Invitation** – Sr. Suzanne Cooke., Provincial, U.S.-  
Canada Province  
Rhonda Meegan, AASH President

**Courage and Confidence Rhode Island, May 18-20, 2023**

**Meeting Closing** – Deborah Dunham, AASH Ambassador



#### About the logo

*The logo for the 2022 Regional Meeting was created using the image from a stained glass window located on the campus of The Academy of the Sacred Heart in St. Charles.*

*The image, by stained glass artist Emil Frei, depicts the voyage of the Rebecca as it carries St. Philippine Duchesne and her companions to the New World.*

*The logo was designed by St. Charles alum, Tyler Strickland 2009.*

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Contact AASH National Office with questions at [NationalOffice@aash.org](mailto:NationalOffice@aash.org)

Laurie Strickland, National Office Director

# FIRST PERSON

## Connections of the Heart

by Lisa Tebbe, St. Charles, 1980

In the summer of 2021, Danny and Andrea Felder Williams (St. Charles '89) moved to Warsaw, Poland with their daughters Maria '19 and Jane '24 while Danny is on assignment with Bayer. In February when Russia began invading Ukraine, Andrea shared, "We are currently safe in Poland. It's interesting to be so close to the conflict and sad to know about the lives affected. The girls are in school with Ukrainian classmates and Danny works with Ukrainians," she wrote. "We understand that Poland will be taking in many refugees. Maybe we'll have an opportunity to help. We would be glad to do what we can."

That opportunity came quickly when Alyson Keirle Angus (St. Charles '72, 8th) learned that the family of a Ukrainian exchange student she had hosted was fleeing to Poland and wondered if there was any Sacred Heart connection in the area. Lisa Tebbe (St. Charles '80) put Alyson in touch with Andrea who immediately responded and shared the power of our Sacred Heart connections.

"We were able to offer support to Alyson's friends that fled from Ukraine to Warsaw last weekend. The father remained here with the children as they took care of documents at the embassy. I was in contact with the English-speaking daughter using WhatsApp," explained Andrea.

"We stopped by their hotel to introduce ourselves and dropped off a homemade, warm dinner for them to enjoy. They accepted my invitation to attend Mass with us on Sunday. I was happy they could see our parish's support for Ukraine, and hopefully they felt strengthened by our prayers and peace offerings. Over the weekend, they had successfully updated passports and made travel arrangements to join family in Finland," she continued.

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*"Goal 3 – a social awareness  
which impels to action."*

*"Goal 4 – the building of community  
as a Christian value."*

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*Sorting donations at church*



*Andrea and generous donor  
with grateful refugees*



*Helping friends of Alyson  
Kierle Angus (St. Charles '72)*



*The Williams Family*



*Maria organizes donations*



*Jane shopping for donations*



*Preparing for a barbeque for refugees*



# FIRST PERSON

## Connections of the Heart

"We went to the hotel again on Monday night before they left. With hugs and firm handshakes, we wished them strength and good luck as we said our goodbyes . . . We assured them that we will offer our support to their family or other refugees if needed in Warsaw."

### The Williams in Warsaw Campaign

Many have asked the Williams family about ways to help during the ongoing crisis. They are collecting monetary donations since the logistics of shipping items is difficult and have created a link (see below) for those who would like to contribute to their family's efforts in Warsaw.

"We named our campaign "The Williams in Warsaw Campaign" and we have been able to generously donate to some good causes," says Andrea. "I am happy to engage the girls in Goal 3 of our Sacred Heart education! Our Williams in Warsaw campaign is a successful fundraiser thanks to the generosity of our friends and family back in the U.S., especially from the Academy of the Sacred Heart community.

The Williams' efforts include:

- ✦ Danny donated to a co-worker that is making a property habitable for refugees. The funds helped to update the heating system.
- ✦ Their English-speaking parish is collecting basic necessities for donating to Poland's Catholic charity - Caritas. Jane, Danny and Andrea have delivered several boxes of items to church on Sundays. The collection is organized by men in the parish that distribute items to refugees arriving at the train station in Warsaw, and they drive medical supplies into Ukraine. "Our parish was thanked by a desperate refugee who was helped by one of our parishioners," shared Andrea. "She arrived at the Warsaw train station exhausted and disoriented. Our parishioner noticed her in tears and brought her to safety before providing comfort and support. The donations of water bottles and energy bars proved to be very useful as refugees were often dehydrated and hungry after a long journey."
- ✦ Maria has been volunteering at her school. The school invited families that are hosting refugees and their guests to campus for support. Maria led activities for the refugee children to play while the refugee mothers networked and received donated items from our school community.

The caring community's efforts quickly became more structured as members organized a 'Friends of Ukraine' group. The group works to provide assistance to refugees in Warsaw in a relaxed environment. Refugees are invited to attend the group's Saturday Community Support Club where offerings include food and clothing (provided through donations from the school families), refreshments, a warm meal and fun children's activities supervised by student volunteers. It provides a chance for refugees to meet others that have been displaced like them. They are also networking and sharing their needs with

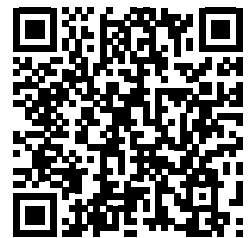
the school community. "We are offering job search assistance, underwriting the cost of Polish language lessons, sharing information about daycares and children's camps," adds Andrea. "As the head of Bayer's new digital hub in Warsaw, Danny was able to help a qualified refugee secure a job."

In addition, Maria worked with the Friends of Ukraine group to apply for a grant from the school's education company. The grant was awarded so they can offer education resources to the displaced refugees.

"We will continue to help as needed. Our parish collections are now scheduled once a month, and school's support for refugees is every Saturday. We will also donate to housing expenses as we become aware of where refugees are staying," writes Andrea.

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**Scan this QR code  
to make a donation  
to the Williams in  
Warsaw Campaign**



or visit <https://academyofthesacredheart.cmail20.com/t/i-l-ckiduc-yuyhkleo-a/>

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# NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## Destination Rhode Island!

*By Laurie Strickland, ASH St. Charles, 1976*

In spite of its small size, Rhode Island is packed with natural beauty, exquisite architecture and historic significance. This is the site of the 44th AASH National Conference. The Conference will take place in Portsmouth at St. Philomena's, the newest school in the Sacred Heart Network. We'll also pay tribute to Elmhurst, a Sacred Heart school that was located in Portsmouth and closed in 1972. A cocktail party at Glen Manor, the location of the former school, will be a special "add-on" event.

From Portsmouth, it's a short drive to Newport where in the span of a few square miles, you can experience the man-made beauty of the Gilded Age mansions to the natural beauty of the New England coastline. The National Conference will take place on Thursday, May 18 – Saturday, May 20, 2023. Plan to extend your trip to enjoy some of the popular area attractions. Visit [www.discovernewport.org](http://www.discovernewport.org) for more information or use the additional websites provided.

The Historic District is full of a wide variety of shops from upscale designers to unique boutiques. Quaint shops housed in historic buildings line the cobblestone streets. You can admire the natural beauty by the wharf district and watch the sailboats and cruisers as they come and go from Newport Harbor. [www.discovernewport.org/things-to-do/shopping](http://www.discovernewport.org/things-to-do/shopping)

Restaurants in Newport offer everything from a quick bite to an elegant dining experience. Fresh seafood abounds in classics forms like lobster rolls and clam chowder but some area restaurants offer unique versions with lobster pizza and nachos. Family-owned restaurants in nearby Middletown, Portsmouth and Bristol offer a wide variety of dining options. There are also several wineries and breweries to explore. For a list of area restaurants, visit [www.discovernewport.org/restaurants](http://www.discovernewport.org/restaurants).



*Views of Newport Harbor*



Take a casual hike on the Cliff Walk and see the view treasured by the mansion owners – so much so that the rich and elite tried to keep this view for themselves. You can also take a cruise and see the area from the water.

[www.discovernewport.org/listing/cliff-walk](http://www.discovernewport.org/listing/cliff-walk)

Plan a trip to visit the famous mansions of the Gilded Age. The Elms, Rosecliff, The Breakers and several others are available for tours. Referred to as “summer cottages” by their owners, these mansions display the extreme wealth of these families with their grand architecture and luxurious furnishings. You can purchase tours of the interiors, but you can explore the ground for free. Parking is free and there’s a discount offered if you want to tour multiple mansions. [www.newportmansions.org](http://www.newportmansions.org)

Travel the “Ten Mile Drive” starting at Thames Street. You can drive along the water side toward Brenton Cove, past the East Passage of the Narragansett Bay and Ocean Drive and end on Bellevue Avenue. This drive provides views of mansions, Narragansett Bay and historic architecture.

[www.oceandrivenewport.com](http://www.oceandrivenewport.com)

Tour the International Tennis Hall of Fame that includes an indoor tennis facility, grass tennis courts and a museum. The facility is located on seven acres that was originally the Newport Casino. You can tour the ground for free, or purchase a ticket for the museum with over 1,900 artifacts.

[www.tennisfame.com](http://www.tennisfame.com)

Visit St. Mary’s Catholic Church where the wedding of John and Jacqueline Kennedy took place in 1953. Check the website for Mass times and available tours. [www.stmarynewport.org](http://www.stmarynewport.org)

Since the meetings will take place on campus at St. Philomena’s School, there is no designated Conference hotel. There’s a wide variety of accommodations available from large, elegant hotels to quaint boutique bed and breakfasts. Visit [www.discovernewport.org/places-to-stay](http://www.discovernewport.org/places-to-stay) for a list of area accommodations contact your travel agent or Muffie Jennings at Jennings Travel, Inc. [muffie@jenningstravel.com](mailto:muffie@jenningstravel.com).

How do you get to Newport? For those flying, the closest airport is in Providence, T.F. Green International Airport (PVD) located approximately 40 minutes from Newport. You can also fly into Boston Logan International Airport (BOS) and make the 90-minute drive to Newport.

**Make plans now to be part of the  
44th AASH Conference May 18 - 20, 2023**

**Registration will open October 20, 2022  
[www.aash.org/nationalconference/register](http://www.aash.org/nationalconference/register)**



*Bannister's Wharf*



*Glen Manor*



*Historic District*

# CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION PHOTOS



*Carrollton*



*Bloomfield Hills*



*St. Philomena*



*DASH Omaha*



# CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION PHOTOS



*Rosary*



*ASH St. Charles*



*Sheridan Road*



*DASH Houston*



*Grand Coteau*



# CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION PHOTOS



*Villa Duchesne*



*Convent & Stuart Hall*



*Bryn Mawr*



*Atherton*



# CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION PHOTOS



*Newton Country Day*



*91st Street*



*Greenwich*



*Josephinum Academy*



*Forest Ridge*

# NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

**To nominate someone for the 2023-2025 AASH Board of Directors, go to [www.aash.org/nominate](http://www.aash.org/nominate).**

The new Board will be elected at the National Conference in Portsmouth, Rhode Island in 2023. The term will be from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2025.



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## General Board Member Responsibilities

Board Members are required to attend the National Conference before election and at the close of the biennium and must also be able to attend the annual June Board Meeting in person in the year of election and the following year. Each Board Member is required to participate in the monthly Board Meeting call and any additional calls as needed as well as have the ability to respond to emails and in a timely manner.

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## Job Descriptions:

### *President*

The President of AASH serves as the Chair of the AASH Board of Directors and the AMASC Representative. The President oversees the National Office and assists in the planning of and attends National and Regional Conferences while working closely with the Regional Directors and the local and national chairpersons. Presiding over all meetings of the Delegate Body and Board of Directors, the President plans the agenda and supervises any follow-up action that results from the meetings and gives presentations including the “State of AASH” address to various constituent groups, National Conference and reports to the international AMASC Board.

### *Vice President*

The Vice President performs the duties of the President in the event of the absence or disability of the President and assists the President whenever necessary in the functioning of AASH. Assisting the President as needed, the Vice President oversees various AASH Board of Directors’ projects and committees.

### *Corresponding Secretary*

The Corresponding Secretary is responsible for updating and maintaining the AASH social media channels and assists the National Office and the Board of Directors with eblast message, correspondence and general communications. The Corresponding Secretary supports the Recording Secretary as needed.



## **Recording Secretary**

The Recording Secretary coordinates with the President in arranging all conference calls, keeps an accurate written and audio recording of all meetings and provides copies of the minutes of all meetings to the Board of Directors. The Recording Secretary supports the Corresponding Secretary as necessary.

## **Treasurer**

The Treasurer is responsible for all AASH financial transactions: disbursements, balancing AASH accounts, sends annual dues notices and pays AMASC dues on AASH's behalf annually. The Treasurer also presents monthly and annual financial reports to the Board of Directors and the Delegate Body (National Conference), maintains a relationship with and helps oversee the financial management company (MONETA) and provides and supports AASH's CPA with all IRS related filings.

## **Regional Director**

The Regional Director attends and actively participates in all AASH Board of Directors meetings, prepares and sends Regional Director's letters to all Heads of Schools, Alumnae/i Directors, Association Presidents, encourages attendance at Regional and National Conference and updates the National Office about events in the region. Regional Directors work closely with the Alumnae/i Directors and Association Presidents.



## **Cor Unum – One Heart**

Sacred Heart alums are renowned for their accomplishments, achievements and contributions. They are active within their association, at their schools, in their communities, with their families and in many other venues. Each biennium, AASH salutes four of these alums with a *Cor Unum* Award. The presentation of these awards starts with your help in identifying outstanding alums. Please take time to nominate one or more Sacred Heart alums you feel deserving of this recognition.

You may nominate any Sacred Heart alum; it is not confined to your region.

Criteria for the *Cor Unum* Award:

- Excellence in one's work
- Loyalty to Sacred Heart Values
- The gift of self in service to others

Nominations are accepted from the membership at large. One outstanding person residing in each of the four regions (Central, East, South, West) is honored. Nominations are made at <https://aash.org/corunum>.

## **Maryliz de Vito Lincoln Generosity and Service Award**

This award is granted a Sacred Heart graduate 35 or younger who has demonstrated outstanding support of and loyalty to her/his local alumnae/i association or to AASH. Created in honor of outstanding alumna and AASH past president Maryliz de Vito Lincoln, the award recipient will be chosen from nominations submitted by individuals and alumnae/i associations.

To nominate someone for the award, go to [www.aash.org/maryliz](http://www.aash.org/maryliz).

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*The Maryliz de Vito Lincoln Generosity and Service Award recognizes a young alumna or alumnus who has demonstrated outstanding support of and loyalty to their alum association.*

# “TWO STREAMS FLOODED...” HISTORY REPEATS



*Drone photo of flooding*

*By Laurie Strickland, ASH St. Charles, 1976*

There has been much publicity about the historic flooding that took place in the St. Louis area this summer. After experiencing months of drought, the region received record setting rains, as much as eight to ten inches in twenty-four hours. Area streams and creeks rose beyond flood stage in as little as an hour.

St. Philippine Duchesne was no stranger to flooding as she writes of one occurrence in a letter to Madeleine Sophie Barat, June 15, 1826:

A week ago, two streams flooded and carried away our fence and a bridge, destroyed our garden, etc. We have never seen the water rise so high. The children in the school had to sleep on the first floor (above the ground floor), since their classroom, where they ordinarily sleep, was flooded to a depth of three or four feet. We have had great anxiety about the schoolhouse that is made of wood, elevated on four posts, so that it has water not only under it but even inside; it could easily collapse. Our big house was dry but surrounded by water on all sides, as was the church. We were almost at the point of not being able to light a fire, for lack of wood which the water made float around on every side.

*From the book: Philippine Duchesne: Pioneer on the American Frontier (1769-1852) The Complete Works, Vol. 1, 2019. Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ and Marie-France Carreel RSCJ, eds, Frances Gimber, RSCJ, Translator.*

Philippine was writing about flooding in Florissant, Missouri where she lived from 1819-1827 and again from 1833-1840. The site is now known as Old St. Ferdinand Shrine. Located just 12 miles from St. Charles where Philippine established the first Sacred Heart school in the United States, the Florissant buildings are owned, preserved, maintained, and protected by Friends of Old St. Ferdinand, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 1959. Visitors can tour the historic buildings and the schoolhouse is rented for events. The Shrine is available for weddings and funerals and offers some First Friday Masses.

The rainfall on July 26, 2022, once again saw the water in the two creeks swell and resulted in three feet of water in the convent, Shrine and the schoolhouse. Just eight days later, on August 3, a second flash flood brought six inches of water to the already soaked buildings. “Floods are not new to the Shrine - that said, I don't believe we have ever had this much water throughout. Three feet of water in all four buildings!” stated Shrine Director, Carol Campbell.





One of the most loved parts of the complex for Sacred Heart alums is the closet under the stairs that Philippine, by choice, used as her sleeping quarters. The floor of the closet did get wet from flood water, but there was no serious damage to items that belonged to Philippine that were displayed there.

As the flood waters receded and the cleanup began, thoughts turned to the cost of repairing the damage.” We are waiting to hear from the restoration company on the final word on what will be replaced and what will be restored. While we wait for that, the buildings continue to dry out and the humidity levels continue to drop,”said Anna Gettemeier Vogel, PR and Media volunteer coordinator. The Shrine flooring has buckled, and the electrical system damage is still undetermined. “We believe that many items of historic value will be salvaged, our restoration company has been very supportive and understands the significance of the property,” commented Vogel.

Residents in the area have donated to cleanup costs and a lemonade stand hosted by children earned \$500 for the cause. Area businesses are collecting donations and organizing fund raisers to help pay for repairs. “The Shrine is blessed with a great team of volunteers and community!” said Campbell. “The drying process is slow, complicated by the wet ground underneath the buildings.” And in the true spirit of Philippine, Campbell said, “We have lost

virtually everything in the complex - including all our new HVAC systems. It is devastating, but no one was injured, we do have insurance. And like all those generations before us, we will rebuild and go forward.”

Donations can be mailed to Old St. Ferdinand, #1 Rue St. Francois, Florissant, MO 63031 or though the GoFundMe account at <https://gofund.me/dbc6bf8f>



Drone photo of flooding



Lemonade stand



School in convent.



Main aisle close up



School house



# CELEBRATING 200 YEARS IN GRAND COTEAU

by *Caroline Richard, Grand Coteau 1999*

The 2021-2022 school year at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, La., marked 200 years of Sacred Heart education. On October 5, 2021, members of the Sacred Heart family filled St. Landry Catholic Church to mark the anniversary of the founding of the school and the beginning of a year of bicentennial activities. Students and faculty, Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ), descendants of people enslaved by the Society, alumnae, and other notable guests were recognized and honored at the Mass. Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards addressed attendees, as did head of school Dr. Yvonne Adler, and Provincial Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ. Sister Cooke invited everyone to “celebrate 200 years of a learning community that has known struggle and glory, pain and joy, sin and grace.” She continued, “We come because we are called by Christ to build the beloved community that Jesus spoke about, that Martin Luther King described, and which Madeleine Sophie hoped all members of the Sacred Heart family would contribute to build.”

Following Mass, guests were invited back to the Academy for an afternoon of celebration. Visitors strolled the grounds while student ambassadors provided histories at various locations such as the Shrine of Saint John Berchmans, the RSCJ cemetery, and the 1834 enslaved quarters. The student bodies of both the Academy and its brother school, Berchmans Academy, attended brickmaking demonstrations, played period games, and participated in writing reflections, while many of the younger students made cards for and visited with RSCJ in the gardens.

Over the course of the school year, Academy faculty incorporated bicentennial history into classroom lessons, a group of students presented the history of enslavement to other Network schools, and *Academy of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau: 200 Years and Counting*, written by retired faculty member, Darlene Smith, was released. The book celebrates memorable RSCJ and the traditions and customs that make the school unique, all while presenting the fascinating yet complex history of the Society’s longest continuously running school in the world. In April 2022, the Academy hosted An Evening in the Gardens, a bicentennial dinner concert with the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, and finally, an outdoor Mass for the school community this October will conclude the bicentennial year of celebration.

Reflecting upon the bicentennial, the Academy’s administration writes, “we would like to recognize the strength and vision of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, the humility and courage of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, the fortitude and perseverance of the descendants of the enslaved individuals who built our campus, the fervor and passion of our educators, both past and present, the diligence and curiosity of our students, and the love and loyalty of our alumnae. Our hearts are filled with the memories of our traditions and legacy, and our eyes are affixed to the future as we await the unfolding of our next 200 years.”



*Seniors with gouter*

*“We come because we are called  
by Christ to build the beloved  
community that Jesus spoke about,  
that Martin Luther King described,  
and which Madeleine Sophie hoped  
all members of the Sacred Heart  
family would contribute to build.”*



# TOP SHELF

## Books by Sacred Heart Authors



### **The Golden Thread: Making Healthcare Decisions in Neighborhoods**

by M. Margaret McDonnell RSCJ

This book can be used when making difficult healthcare decisions at home with no available guidance. By enabling the gathering of people at such times, we can help patients make these serious decisions in their own home environment. Making these decisions in the home instead of a hospital or other institutional environment allows

a patient to engage in what becomes a life review with family and/or neighbor-support. A patient's final decision is rooted in their cherished values. The process leads to a deeply discerned and sound treatment decision.

*Margaret McDonnell RSCJ*

M. Margaret McDonnell RSCJ, founded the Center for Ethics and Advocacy in Illinois in 1995. A Certified Nurse Practitioner in Community Health, she worked in Boston's neighborhood health centers, providing adult patient care. Later she earned a Master's degree in Theology with a concentration in Ethics at Harvard Divinity School. After spending six years in Corporate Health Care her journey led her to founding The Center for Ethics and Advocacy in Health Care in a Chicago suburb. This, her main life's work, was strong in neighborhood healthcare ethics, focusing on end-of-life issues.

*This book is available at Amazon and other booksellers.*



### **From Refugee to Consul: An American Adventure**

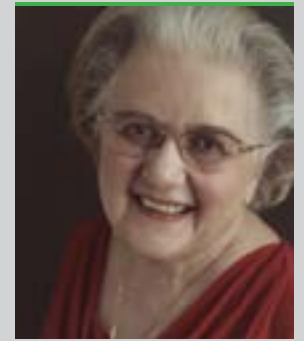
By Helen M. Szablya

Imagine leaving everything behind... Follow along as Helen Szablya tells the tale of life after her harrowing escape to freedom from

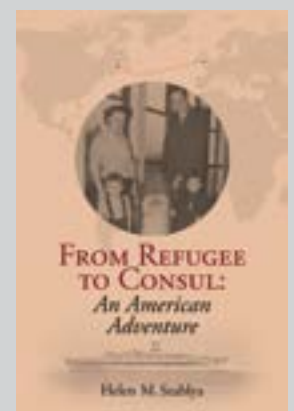
Communist Hungary with her young family in 1956 to establish a new life as a refugee in Canada, then the US. As she builds her family and her business acumen, she eventually helps establish the Hungarian Honorary Consulate in the Northwest US and becomes the first woman Honorary Consul General of Hungary to the USA and the first on the West Coast supporting the new Hungary as it emerges from communism. A deeply personal memoir and a true American adventure with global reach, this book continues where her book *My Only Choice: Hungary 1946 - 1956* leaves off and takes the reader on an epic journey to the end of 2020.

Helen M. Szablya, Honorary Consul General Emerita of Hungary for WA, OR and ID, based in Seattle, and Past President of the Washington Press Association, is an award-winning author, columnist, translator and lecturer. She has two university degrees, speaks six languages, and many of her more than 700 publications have won awards. She was a student at the Sacred Heart Convent in Budapest, Hungary when the Communist Government took over the schools in 1949. Helen was active with the Point Grey alumnae and is a member of the Children of Mary.

*This book is available at Amazon and other booksellers.*



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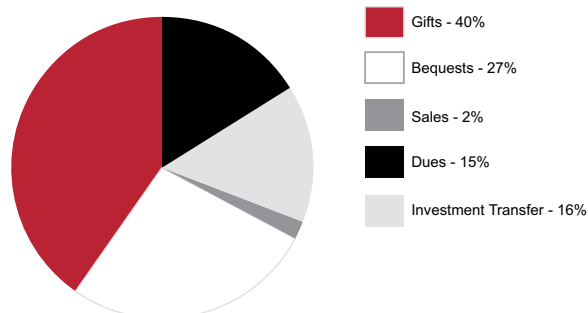
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# ANNUAL REPORT

Reflects gifts received June 1, 2021 — May 31, 2022

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Gifts .....	\$62,249.00
Bequests .....	\$41,699.78
Sales .....	\$3,165.00
Dues .....	\$23,003.00
Investment Transfer .....	\$25,000.00
<b>Investments Total .....</b>	<b>\$155,116.78</b>

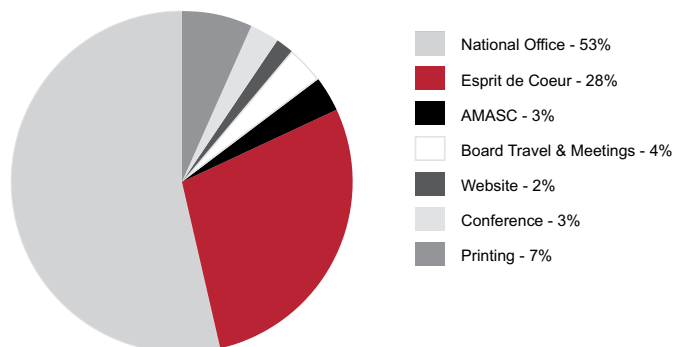


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### Expenses

National Office .....	\$84,828
Esprit .....	\$44,961
AMASC .....	\$5,000
Board Travel & Meetings .....	\$5,978
Website .....	\$2,661
Conference .....	\$4,088
Printing .....	\$10,957
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$158,474.00</b>
Net Loss.....	(\$3357.22)



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AASH recognizes members of the AASH Legacy Society in the annual report published every September in the *Esprit de Coeur* magazine. With the member's permission, we will run a photo and brief bio in the *Esprit* and publicly thank them when the gift is first planned. In the following years, they will be noted in a special list of AASH Legacy Society members in the annual report. A complete profile/obituary along with photos will be run in the *Esprit* and posted on AASH's social media when we receive the gift. Legacy Society members should feel free to send high resolution photos they would like to be included in the magazine.



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*The Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart (AASH) was created in  
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