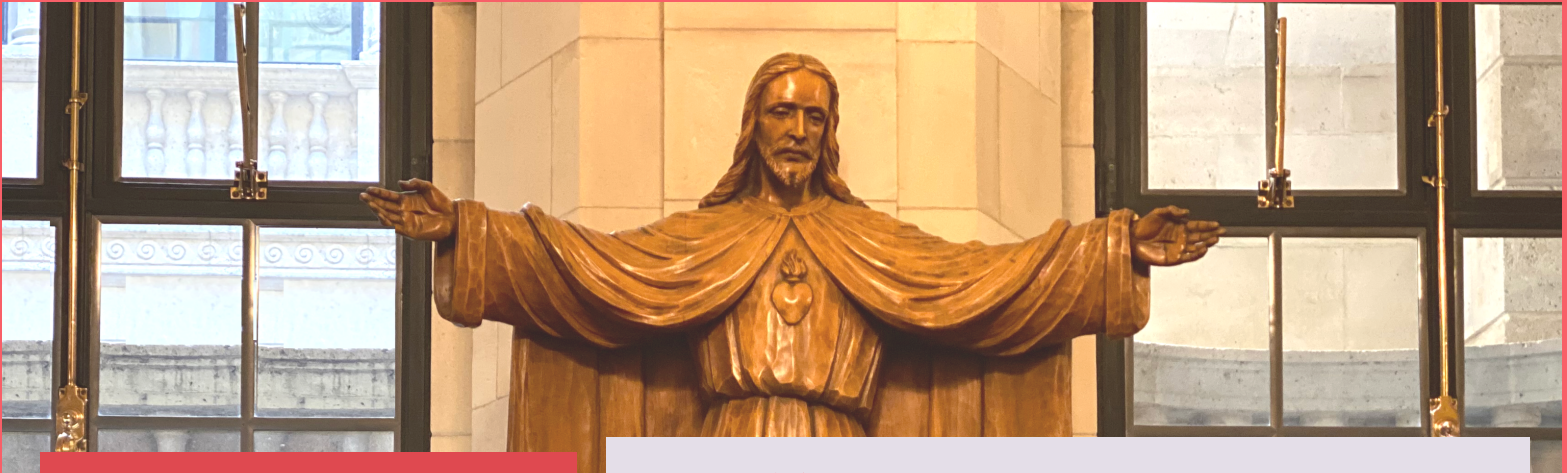


AT THE CORE

ANIMATING THE MISSION OF SACRED HEART EDUCATION



IN THIS ISSUE

- What is Lent?
- Why is Lent essential?
- Invitation to be united in Prayer
- 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching - Reflections & Videos
- Additional Resources

THE CONFERENCE OF SACRED HEART EDUCATION'S E-MAGAZINE

AT THE CORE is an interactive e-magazine designed for Sacred Heart Educators across the Network in the United States and Canada. Each issue contains multiple resources in support of deepening our understanding of the calls of the *Goals and Criteria*. Our hope is that AT THE CORE will prompt meaningful dialogue and discernment about our shared mission as Sacred Heart communities. It is this shared mission as expressed in the *Goals and Criteria* that unites and inspires us. This issue focuses on Lent as the ideal time to reflect on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching as we prepare for the Paschal Mystery.



During Lent, we consider our inherent tendency to separate ourselves from God, from God's love and from God's grace. This cutting ourselves off from God is sin. Lent provides us with the time to reconsider this tendency by making our hearts more consistently available to God. Lent is a time of discipline and self-denial, not for the sake of self-sacrifice, but rather for the sake of strengthening our relationship with God.



It is also a time to reflect on God's call to us to foster justice. This reflection on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching is offered as a way to consider specific elements of justice. Let us pray for one another that we may allow our hearts to be transformed as we ponder how to construct communities characterized by justice.



Our hope as Sacred Heart Educators is to cultivate in our students the aptitudes to take on responsibilities such as loving the world, cherishing justice and acting with compassion. During Lent, we ponder Christ's words and actions. In the *Beatitudes*, we hear Jesus' insights into the attitudes and choices necessary to take on these responsibilities. The *Principles of Catholic Social Teaching* amplify Christ's call to us to love one another as the foundation for being in right relationship with our God, ourselves and one another. Deepening our understanding of these is essential if we are to foster justice.

Without prayer, we cannot do this sacred work. We have learned a great deal during these months of pandemic and uncertainty about the hope we receive from the knowledge and experience of being united in prayer. Inspired by this belief that Christ continues to be in the heart of reality, let us continue to act as one as we pray:



Celebrating Lent 2021 Washing One Another's Feet

With open heart,
may I be willing to have my feet washed by another transformed by a power greater than myself, willing to be cleansed from what has been

With open mind,
may I be willing to wash the feet of another an Encounter that begins by being willing to see the heart of the one whose presence I have refused, whose voice I have rejected, polarized by differences

With open spirit,
may I be willing to hold the bowl of life-giving water awakened by the power that I hold to mend my world with my thoughts, words and actions today, to be the Sacred Heart to those I encounter

With open heart, open mind and open spirit,
may we be the bridge of relationship, the ones who see our neighbors and refuse to walk past, the ones who know the power of making it right, the ones who love.

 Revealing God's
Love in the midst of uncertainty

What Is Lent?

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal so that we can deepen our response to the message and teaching of Jesus Christ. During Lent, we unite ourselves with the same call Jesus had to go to the desert to pray. Why did Jesus seek solitude, silence and prayer? He needed this preparation to enter into the experiences of his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Why is Lent essential to us who believe in Christ?

Lent is a time for deeper prayer, conversion and transforming action. It affords us the opportunity to seek quiet, prayer, and resolve to respond to the call of Christ to be people of hope committed to fostering justice. As Schools of Christ's Heart, Lent is the ideal time for our learning communities to enhance our understanding and willingness to respond to this call.

How might Lent support our commitment to the building of community?

The building of community as a Christian value is a sacred imperative of our schools. We believe that every person is made in the image and likeness of God. We are committed to promoting the inherent dignity of the human person and strive for relationships characterized by inclusion and mutual respect. During Lent, each of us is invited to examine how each contributes to this relational ethos of our school. These 40 days afford us time to consider how we remain in right relationship with God, self and others. This is the time for us to pray about how we foster justice.

Martin Luther King, Jr. connected the call to justice with building the Beloved Community. In reminding us of the “solidarity of the human family,” Dr. King believed that all must learn to live as “sisters and brothers” because ... “we are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality.” He thought that as humans, we have been created by God and called to construct ... “a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.”

How might Lent support us in understanding how to affect this qualitative change in our souls, this call to conversion? How might we use this time to listen to the Spirit deep within our hearts? How might Lent support us as Sacred Heart educators committed to preparing students to serve the common good in an interdependent world?

We offer this reflection on the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching as a way to consider these questions.



THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE...

- ...the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ...those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ...the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ...those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- ...the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- ...the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ...the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- ...those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:3-10)

Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

1. **Life & Dignity of Human Persons**
2. **Call to Family, Community, & Participation**
3. **Options for the Poor & Vulnerable**
4. **Rights & Responsibilities**
5. **The Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers**
6. **Care for God's Creation**
7. **Solidarity**



Life and Dignity of the Human Person

“...human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.” (USCCB)

The Call from Scripture

”God created humankind in God’s image;
in the image of God,
God created them;
male and female God created them.”

(Genesis 1:26-27)

The Call from the Society of the Sacred Heart

“Recognizing the sacredness of each person is the basis of Catholic Social Teaching and the underpinning of universal human rights. Sadly, when we look around we see that much life is not sacred. We know people who are afraid to be on the streets because of the color of their skin with fear of violence or even death. We know people who are alone and hungry, without work, in fear of losing their homes, or perhaps isolated in a nursing home. We see people on the move from country to country, walking from one end of a country to the other, crossing large bodies of water, deserts and mountains to find safety. Like Sophie we hold people and their suffering before God, in our times of silence, before the Eucharist. We anguish because God’s sacred people and God’s sacred planet are suffering...”

(Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, Super General, Society of the Sacred Heart)

The Call of the *Goals and Criteria*

Goal IV: #01

“The School, affirming that all are created in the image and likeness of God, promotes the inherent dignity of the human person and strives for relationships characterized by inclusions and mutual respect.”



[Click here to reach CRS's video and guide for this principle.](#)

Reflection:

What does each call say to you?

How do I hope to respond to each of these calls?



Call to Family, Community, & Participation

“The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society--in economics and politics, in law and policy --directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.” (USCCB)

The Call from Scripture

“There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.”

Acts 4:4-35

The Call from the Society of the Sacred Heart

"As members of Sacred Heart communities, we are convinced that to educate is in itself an act of justice and we take to heart the call to orient all our educative endeavors toward creating relationships of equality, inclusion, non-violence, and harmony, believing that to have life, and life in abundance, is the deepest desire of God..."

(2008 General Chapter, 9)

The Call of the Goals and Criteria

Goal III: #01

“Sacred Heart educators prepare students to serve the common good in an interdependent world.”

The Call from Pope Francis

“Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. . . . Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds.”

(Pope Francis (Laudato Si., 179, 219)



[Click here to reach CRS's video and guide for this principle.](#)

Reflection:

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How do I hope to respond to each of these calls?



Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

“A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.” (USCCB)

The Call from Scripture

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

(Matthew 25:34)

The Call from the Society of the Sacred Heart

“Contemplation of the pierced Heart of Jesus in the heart of wounded humanity impels us to be in solidarity with the displaced and excluded; to defend the victims of abuse of power, and to commit ourselves to search for systemic changes...”

(Artisans of Hope, 1)

The Call of the *Goals and Criteria*

Goal III: #06

“The School community engages in direct advocacy, outreach and partnerships to work for justice, peace and the integrity of Creation.”

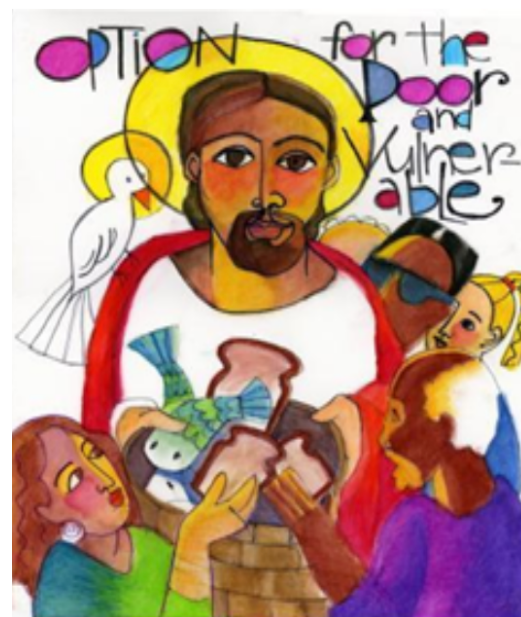
Goal III: #07

“Sacred Heart Educators work to develop in the students a life-long commitment to service.”

The Call from Pope Francis

“The poor not only suffer injustice but they also struggle against it! . . . [Solidarity] means that the lives of all take priority over the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means fighting against the structural causes of poverty and inequality; of the lack of work, land and housing; and of the denial of social and labor rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money: forced dislocation, painful emigration, human trafficking, drugs, war, violence, and all those realities that many of you suffer and that we are all called upon to transform . . . Love for the poor is at the center of the Gospel.”

(Pope Francis, Meeting of Popular Movements)



[Click here to reach CRS's video and guide for this principle.](#)

Reflection:

What does each call say to you?

How do I hope to respond to each of these calls?



Rights and Responsibilities

“The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.” (USCCB)

The Call from Scripture

“To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.”

Proverbs 21:3

The Call from the Society of the Sacred Heart

“To acknowledge our complicity in systems that hurt, diminish, and disregard others and our earth is a sign of our capacity to respond to God’s call in a new way – that of strength in weakness. Such awareness of our personal, communal, congregational, institutional complicity in unjust systems humbles us. It invites us to be more open to the transforming work of the Spirit in us and in the world. We are called to listen and be reconciled, to confront our own sins of racism, classism and sexism, and from this profound awareness of our weakness and complicity, to take action with others to advocate for structural and systemic change...”

(Artisans of Hope, 2019, 13)

The Call of the *Goals and Criteria*

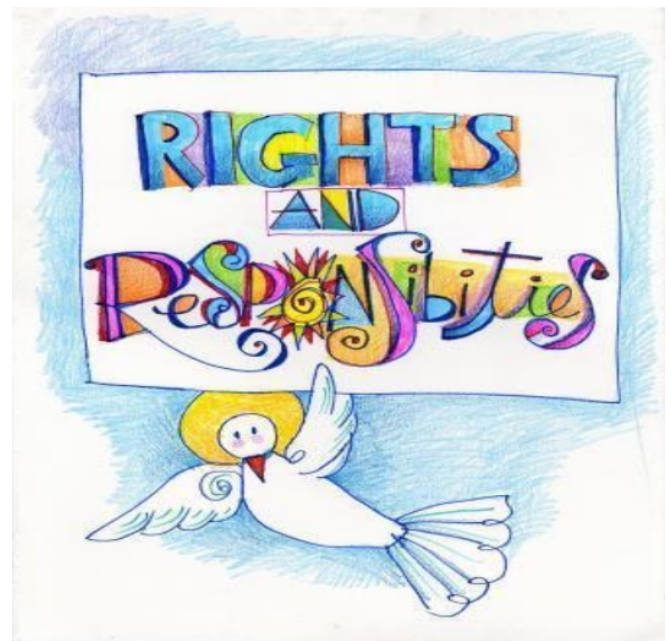
Goal III: #03

“The school, drawing from Catholic Social Teaching, educates students to analyze and work to eradicate social structures, practices, systems and values that perpetuate racism and other injustices.”

The Call from Pope Francis

“A people’s culture...has to do with their desires, their interests and...the way they live their lives. To speak of a ‘culture of encounter’ means that we, as a people, should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone...an aspiration and a style of life. The subject of this culture is the people.”

(Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 216)



[Click here to reach CRS's video and guide for this principle.](#)

Reflection:

What does each call say to you?

How do I hope to respond to each of these calls?



The Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers

“The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God’s creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.” (USCCB)

The Call from Scripture

“My son, rob not the poor man of his livelihood;
force not the eyes of the needy to turn away.”

Sirach 4:1

The Call from the Society of the Sacred Heart

"As we hear and respond to the cry of the poor and of wounded earth, we see the effect of unbridled power, especially when it is driven by greed, domination, and callous indifference. As we stand with the weak and oppressed, engage in efforts to bring about structural change in our local and global contexts, advocate for a more just, humane society and an ecologically balanced world, we are confronted with the reality that power, without justice, is destructive and death-dealing. Power, when exercised without mutuality and reciprocity, becomes a tool of domination and oppression. Power without concern for peace and unmindful of the integrity of creation is cruel and violent, and is harmful to both victims and perpetrators of violence."

(Artisans of Hope, 5)

The Call of the Goals and Criteria

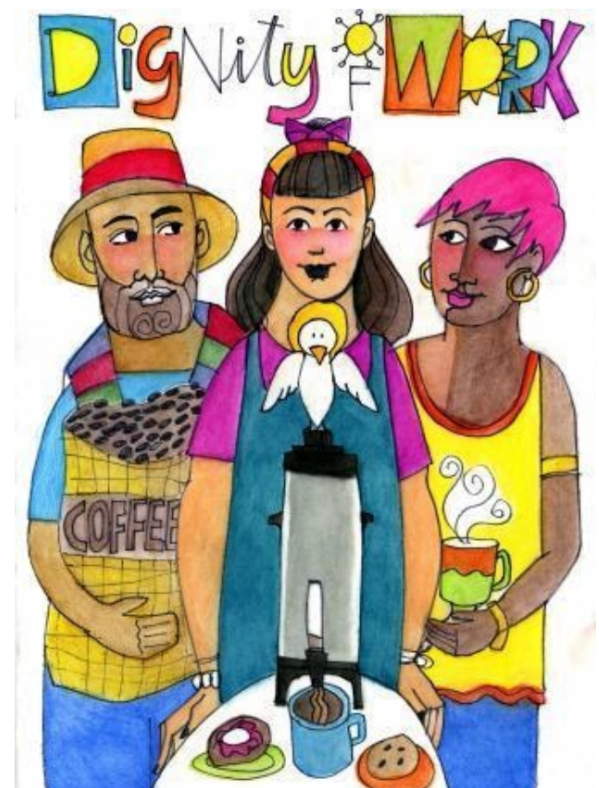
Goal III: #05

“School programs promote active citizenship and civic responsibility on the local, national and global levels.”

The Call from Pope Francis

“Solidarity... means combatting structural causes of poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labor rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of many.”

(Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti)



[Click here to reach CRS's video and guide for this principle.](#)

Reflection:

What does each call say to you?

How do I hope to respond to each of these calls?



Care for God's Creation

“We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God’s creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.”
(USCCB)

The Call from Scripture

“The Lord God then took the man and woman and settled them in the Garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.”

Genesis 2:15

The Call from the Society of the Sacred Heart

“We have been called in many ways to understand our relationship with the earth and to care for our common home. We recognize in the broken and suffering earth the broken body of Christ. The cry of our wounded earth demands urgent and deliberate response and caring for this, our common home, is both a call and a witness to hope.”

(Artisans of Hope, 15)

The Call of the *Goals and Criteria*

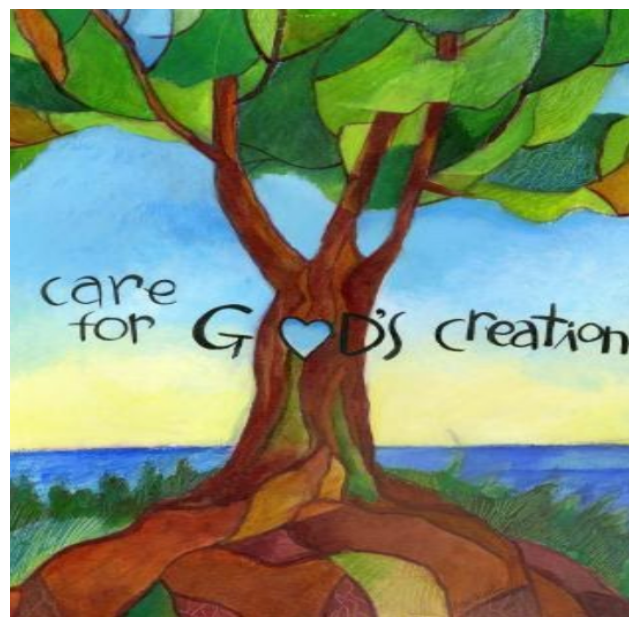
Goal III: #04

“All members of the school community accept accountability for the care of God’s creation, practice effective stewardship of the earth’s resources and work to alleviate the climate crisis.”

The Call from Pope Francis

“A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. . . Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.”

(Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 49, 91)



[Click here to reach CRS's video and guide for this principle.](#)

Reflection:

What does each call say to you?

How do I hope to respond to each of these calls?



Solidarity

“We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice. The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.” (USCCB)

The Call from Scripture

“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon God.”

Romans 10:12

The Call from the Society of the Sacred Heart

“We need to WAKE UP AND PAY ATTENTION to this moment when our hearts are filled with both fear and compassion, to allow this pain to enter into our own hearts, to begin the slow process of transformation and the invitation to real solidarity. The first step toward SOLIDARITY is knowing real people who are suffering, and deepening our compassion.”

(Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, Super General, Society of the Sacred Heart)

The Call of the Goals and Criteria

Goal I: #03

“The school community reflects an ethos of joy, hope and celebration, and its programs assert that there is meaning and value in life.”

Goal IV: #05

“Members of the school community practice and teach with a spirit of peace and reconciliation the principles of non-violence and conflict management.”

The Call from Pope Francis

“Solidarity... means combatting structural causes of poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labor rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of many.”

(Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti)



[Click here to reach CRS's video and guide for this principle.](#)

Reflection:

What does each call say to you?

How do I hope to respond to each of these calls?



Additional Resources

Sacred Heart Examen on Social Sin

Designed to be used over four weeks, taking one level of Gregory Baum's four levels of social sin a week and one reflection question each day.

 [Sacred Heart Examen](#)

Sophie Talks



[CATHOLIC SOCIAL
TEACHING](#)

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
ELEMENTARY AGES



[CATHOLIC SOCIAL
TEACHING IN 3 MINUTES](#)

PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC
SOCIAL TEACHING
GRADES 4-12



[CATHOLIC SOCIAL
TEACHING](#)

FRED KAMMER, SJ ON
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
GRADES 6-12



[AT THE CORE
2020 LENT ISSUE](#)



[CONFERENCE OF SACRED HEART EDUCATION
COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCES FOR
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING](#)



[EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING](#)
• NETWORK MEMBERSHIP LOGIN REQUIRED.



[US CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING VIDEOS
WITH STUDY GUIDES](#)

Downloads

[Celebrating Lent 2021 - Prayer Card](#)

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART
US-CANADA PROVINCE

[Catholic Social Teaching & Sacred Heart Education Graphic](#)

CONFERENCE OF SACRED HEART EDUCATION

[The Beatitudes & Catholic Social Teaching](#)

CONFERENCE OF SACRED HEART EDUCATION

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Society of the Sacred Heart

The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded in France by St. Madeleine Sophie Barat in 1800. Today over two thousand Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) serve in 41 different countries around the world. RSCJ consider themselves members of this one international community. Their union is rooted in the shared mission: “We are sent by the Church to communicate the love of the Heart of Jesus. In Him, all find their true growth as persons and the way towards reconciliation with one another....We participate in the mission of the Church through the service of education.” RSCJ join a vast community of Associates, educators, partners in mission and Sacred Heart alumnae and alumni as all share in this mission.

Additional Information:
RSCJInternational.org
RSCJ.org

The Conference of Sacred Heart Education

The primary purpose of the Conference is to animate fidelity to mission as the most effective means of invigorating Sacred Heart education for the future. It focuses on three dimensions of mission effectiveness: governance to ensure vitality and relevance of mission; education to mission of boards, chairs, heads and leadership teams to promote depth of understanding of mission; and accountability on the part of school communities to fulfill the mission as articulated in the Goals and Criteria. The Conference aims to provide resources, opportunities and avenues for thoughtful dialogue and discernment about the evolving mission of Sacred Heart education among trustees, heads, leadership teams, provincial team and school communities.

Stuart Center Virtual Conference

Fratelli Tutti: Introduction and Reflection in the light of our Sacred Heart Spirituality

February 24, 2021

4:00-5:30 EST

[Click here to register](#)



Conference of Sacred Heart Education