



Società del Sacro Cuore  
Casa Generalizia

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Dear Sisters and Partners in Mission,

It is with great delight and gratitude that the Society of the Sacred Heart presents you with this important document, *The Philosophy of Sacred Heart Education... Sophie's Gift... Our Call to the Future*. I would like to thank the Society's Education Commission (Josephine Basaula, Suzanne Cooke, María José Domínguez, Eloisa Gómez, Urszula Głowacka, Hilary Thompson, Mieko Uno,) whose work to articulate an up-to-date philosophy of Sacred Heart Education was commissioned by the General Chapter of 2016. During the last several years, the commission navigated the challenges and opportunities of a diversity of languages, cultures, experience, and passion for mission. They also patiently lived through two years of COVID-19 and all that implied as well as generously putting aside their desire for a global dialogue with the Society as a body in favor of the International Planning Commission's work, discovering creative ways to engage the Society through regional zoom meetings.

The Spirit is clearly guiding us in the publication of this document at this particular moment. As you delve more deeply into each word and paragraph of this work, you will discover that it articulates Sophie's gift to the Society and calls us forward to live the mission in response to the urgent needs we see every day. It is an articulation of our mission of education rooted in a call to contemplation and a passion for the dignity of each person wherever we live our mission for the sake of humanity. It also provides an excellent tool for apostolic planning and decision-making. It connects perfectly with the work of the International Planning Commission and the preparation for the General Chapter 2024. We would encourage you to read and reflect on this document in light of the International Planning process, especially the Apostolic Priorities that will give light and fire to our educational mission and our future. As the recommendation for this work came from the General Chapter of 2016, this document will be presented to the General Chapter 2024 for ratification.

It is important to remember that this document does not stand alone. It is built on the hard work, deep thought, and vast experience of many women and men who have lived the Society's mission in a multitude of settings. It has its roots in Society documents that trace themselves back to the early 1800's, from the original *Constitutions*, to the *Plans of Studies*, to the *International Education Commission of 1988*, to *Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World*, to the many local articulations of our core values and our educational principles in schools, in projects, in base communities, in health and social services, in spirituality and formation programs and in the many ways that we live our vocation as educators. It is like a lens through which we can contemplate our educational mission.

Lastly, we invite each one of us to pray with this document, looking at our own life and way of participating in the mission. While not written necessarily as a resource for prayer, both the Philosophy of Education and the Profile of an Educator provide a back-drop for all of us who share in the mission of the Society. It holds an invitation to each one of us to integrate how we see ourselves as educators and where we need to grow and change for the sake of our mission and God's people.

May this new articulation of our educational mission give you renewed hope and energy.

United in the One Heart,

Bansan <sub>mj.</sub> Anne <sub>rsj</sub> Daphne Marie-Jeanne Mónica <sub>rsj</sub>