

RSCJ International Newsletter

Vol. 4, May 2026



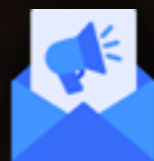
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Receive our updates



From the General Council

We are happy to receive news and life from the Society and to share with you this new international newsletter which helps us welcome the NEW LIFE that is growing in each of our daily contexts and in the context of our journey towards new provinces.

Thanks to these shared experiences, we renew our joy in being and acting ever more as One Body in Mission.

Through these pages, we immerse ourselves in the experience of living our mission as educators, nourished by our spirituality, working for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation in a continuous journey of formation. The experience of formation helps us to grow and prepare ourselves for Life and Mission at any stage of our lives and with all those with whom we share the mission.

In addition to “journeying” to try to live our vocation and mission in this world and time, in this newsletter we also visit some of the places, teams, and processes that are at the service of our common mission.

We recognize and appreciate, with all of you, the lives, work, efforts, experiences, and dreams of our sisters and partners in mission around the world. Their daily lives inspire us all to revisit the fire and Gift of Sophie and to continue spreading it and making it grow in creative fidelity.

Education

CEI Educators in Joigny

Twenty-eight educators from across the Schools Networks in the new Central Europe and the Islands Province gathered for the first time at the Centre Sophie Barat, in Joigny in October. Teachers from England, Ireland, Malta and Austria gathered to learn more about Sophie's life, experiences and vision of education as expressed now in Sophie's Gift.

Guided by Cath Lloyd RSCJ, the group enjoyed visits to the vineyards of Joigny as well as experiencing tours of Sophie's home and town. The group also met to plan some collaborative projects to develop spirituality in our school communities.

Before returning home, the group visited Sophie in Paris and prayed for

all Sacred Heart communities in our new province. One delegate wrote: "It brought the story of Sophie's life to life for me. ..her experiences reflect many things that ordinary people go through... The courage of Sophie also came to life when looking at the social and historical circumstances of her time."

The Schools Networks of Central Europe and the Islands intend for this to be an annual conference, knowing that those who experience this valued time together in Sophie's home return to their schools energized and even more committed to Sophie's vision.

*Vicky Lorenzato
Sacred Heart Schools' and College
Network Coordinator ENW*



Sacred Heart Educators Symposium in New Orleans

The Sacred Heart Educators Symposium took place September 21-24 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Educators representing all 25 Sacred Heart schools in the United States – Canada Province and four schools in Mexico were in attendance.

The theme of the conference was "Seeking Truth & Understanding Humanity." Guided by this theme, the symposium embodied Sacred Heart educators' collective commitment to fostering both intellectual and spiritual growth, cultivating meaningful relationships, and advancing transformative education for a more just and compassionate world.

Keynote speakers included Lisa Miller, Jacqueline Gallo, Joe Carver, and Provincial Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ.

In tandem with the keynote speakers, participants could choose from over 50 breakout sessions. These sessions covered a variety of topics and aligned with one of the four symposium tracks: Humanization Towards Transformation,

Thought and Inquiry, Seeking Common Horizons, and Communities of Hope.

The symposium offered ample time for networking, community building, and prayer among educators and Religious of the Sacred Heart. Several Society of the Sacred Heart ministries and partners in mission also participated through an exhibitor booth and/or as a breakout presenter. The Associates of the Sacred Heart, the Stuart Center for Mission and SacredHeartDNA were among the Society ministries present.

The Language Hub at the Stuart Center provided simultaneous interpretation and language services throughout the symposium, allowing for the full participation of all present.

Over the three days, participants gained valuable tools, deepened relationships, and left with a renewed commitment to Sacred Heart Education.

*Erin Everson
Province of USC*



REDLAC meeting

The Organizing Committee for REDLAC (Latin American and Caribbean Education Network) met in person from November 2 to 7, 2025 at the Provincial House in Chorrillos, Lima, Peru. Attended by delegates from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru, its purpose was to organize the 2026 REDLAC meeting in Lima, Peru.

Marina Ríos Neyra RSCJ (PER)



From left to right: Carmen Durand rscj (Peru), Luznelda Gonzáles (Chile), Pedro Ribet (Argentina), Mercedes Nava (Mexico), Gabriela Aliaga (Peru)

Popular Education meeting

The Continental Network of Popular Education, along with JPIC, organized a meeting on “40 years of networking: celebrating history, opening new paths in community” from October 26 - 29, 2025 in person in Bogotá, Colombia. Sister Iris da Silva, RSCJ, and Ms. Malena Avalos, teacher at our Madre Admirable “El Agustino” school, participated from Peru.

Marina Ríos Neyra RSCJ (PER)

Education Conference in NEANZ

There was a NEANZ-level education-related conference held via Zoom on November 20, 2025, planned by the heads of the Sacred Heart Schools in Japan. It was attended by students, the principals, vice principals, and chaplains of Sacred Heart Middle and High School from Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. On this occasion, Claire Castaing RSCJ gave a conference on Madeleine Sophie Barat: “A heart that dared to dream — a woman for our times.”

We thought that it would be memorable for the students to listen to Claire, our Superior General, on the centenary of Sophie's canonization, so we asked her to talk about the meaning of Sophie's wisdom in today's world. Before her talk, the students from each school made short greetings and after other students gave their short reflection. The students learned with Claire that

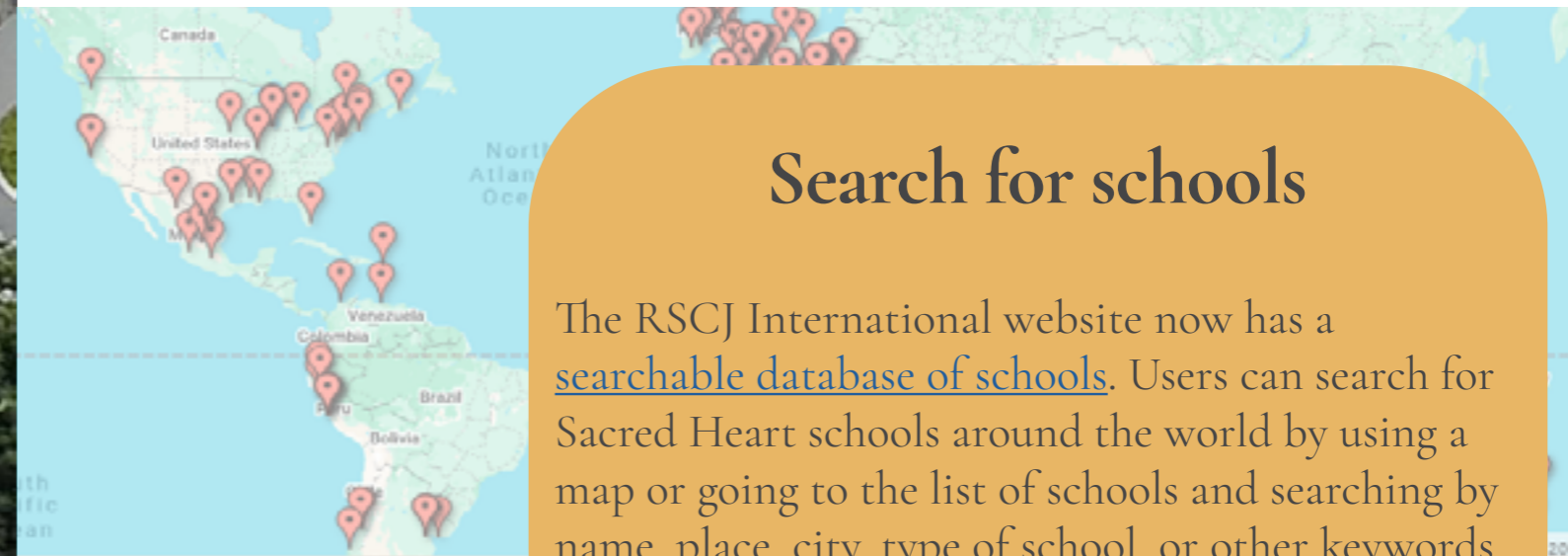
Sophie's wisdom is still powerful and meaningful in this changing world.

All of us enjoyed her talk. It was so nice

“The students learned with Claire that Sophie’s wisdom is still powerful and meaningful in this changing world.”

for all the sister schools in NEANZ to get together, even online, and to see each other’s faces. We and our students felt the strong impact of the Sacred Heart worldwide community.

*Eriko Oyama RSCJ (NEANZ)
Board Chair, Sacred Heart School Corporation, Japan*

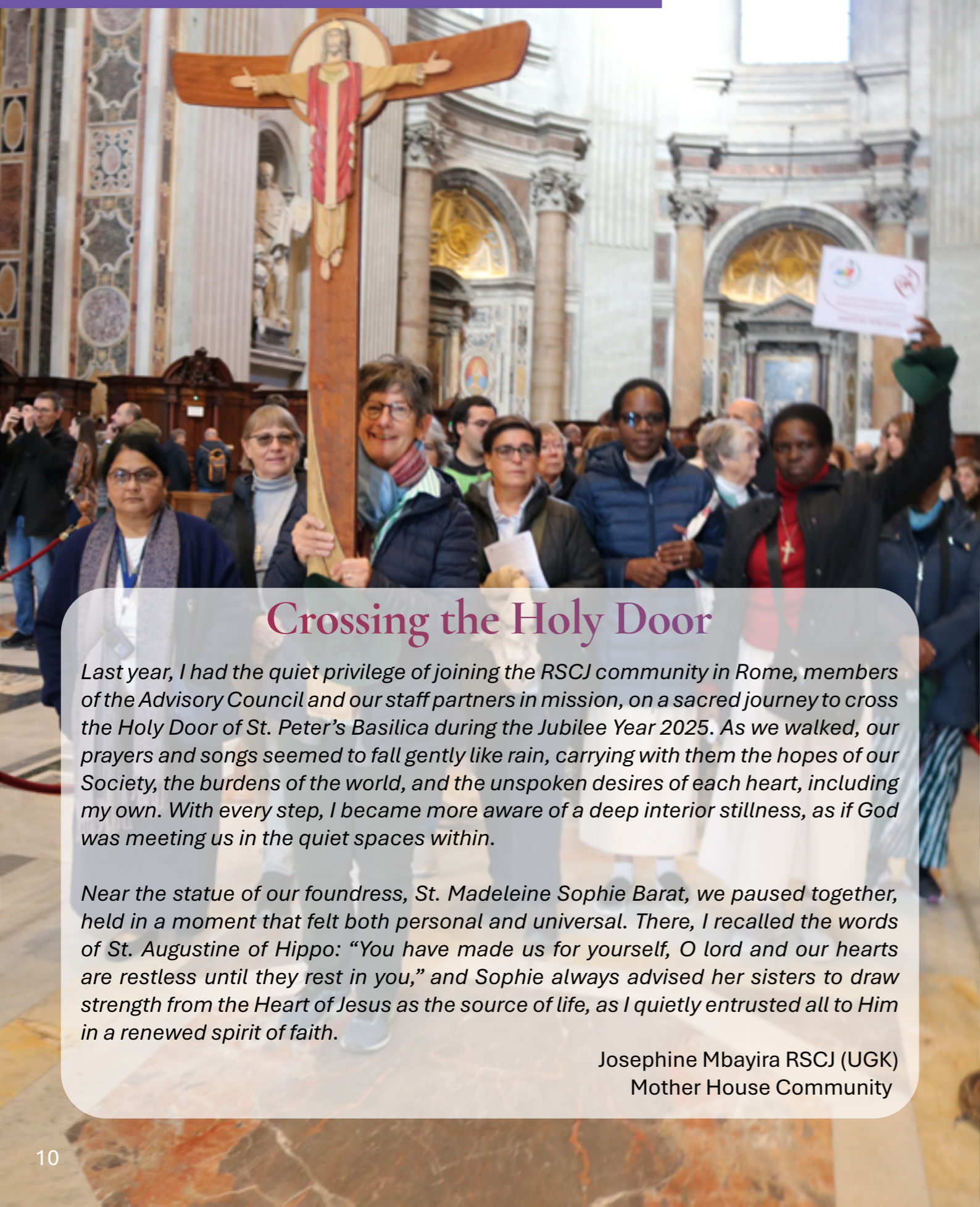


Search for schools

The RSCJ International website now has a [searchable database of schools](#). Users can search for Sacred Heart schools around the world by using a map or going to the list of schools and searching by name, place, city, type of school, or other keywords. Clicking on the school will lead to their addresses, websites and contact information.

Search the d

Spirituality



Crossing the Holy Door

Last year, I had the quiet privilege of joining the RSCJ community in Rome, members of the Advisory Council and our staff partners in mission, on a sacred journey to cross the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica during the Jubilee Year 2025. As we walked, our prayers and songs seemed to fall gently like rain, carrying with them the hopes of our Society, the burdens of the world, and the unspoken desires of each heart, including my own. With every step, I became more aware of a deep interior stillness, as if God was meeting us in the quiet spaces within.

Near the statue of our foundress, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, we paused together, held in a moment that felt both personal and universal. There, I recalled the words of St. Augustine of Hippo: "You have made us for yourself, O lord and our hearts are restless until they rest in you," and Sophie always advised her sisters to draw strength from the Heart of Jesus as the source of life, as I quietly entrusted all to Him in a renewed spirit of faith.

Josephine Mbayira RSCJ (UGK)
Mother House Community

María del Carmen Jamaica, Province of Colombia, shares her experience with the Basic Communities in La Argentina en Huila, Colombia during the National Meeting of Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) on August 16 - 18, 2025.

La Argentina en Huila is a town known for strengthening, encouraging, and enlivening small communities that were once the foundation for strengthening faith and today continue to be a source of expertise throughout that region and in Colombia.

The fundamental pillars of the BECs are the REALITY, that is, the social, political, and economic context; the WORD that illuminates and strengthens the commitment to transform that reality, and the COMMUNITY that, by sharing its experience of faith, seeks to recover its dignity and achieve conditions of justice and peace.

There was a review of what had been experienced over the past three years and

a report on the Intercontinental Meeting in which Colombia participated.

About 100 people were present, convinced of their community experiences with a strong Synodal Spirit. From the small, simple, and silent, they continue to proclaim Jesus: a brother, human and fraternal.

Basic Ecclesial Communities in La Argentina en Huila, Colombia

This call was extended to all communities in different parts of the country, who each brought their fruits and cultural riches, with songs and dances from each region. Making these roots present gave it a celebratory character with a holistic sense of life.

This joyful experience was an opportunity to recognize the journey of the People of God in the here and now, where the Kingdom continues to be built with hope and solidarity.

María del Carmen Jamaica RSCJ (COL)





Encountering the Gift in Oakwood and Puerto Rico

My experience this summer with the sisters of Oakwood and the surrounding area, and of Puerto Rico, was a profound experience of encounter from the love of the Heart of Jesus, which led us to relate to each other, to get to know each other, to share who we are and our desire to follow Him in the Society.

It was a true gift to be able to share this time and this experience with my sisters and to recognize God's passage through our lives and how He has always been present, encouraging us to walk and follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as well as to experience that it is the Heart of Jesus who unites us and continues to impel each one of us from where we are to walk in His footsteps.

I am grateful for the trust placed in me and for the welcome and affection of the sisters who welcomed me and opened their hearts to share those days of encounter together. In Puerto Rico, after the exercises, I stayed for two weeks in the community, entering into their daily life, their prayers, their community meetings, Pura's apostolate with a group of elderly people in a parish and with the sisters in the community, and also to share Paula's Easter.

It was a summer of growth in my experience of "Cor Unum," of touching and feeling the gift of the life of the Society in our sisters who have devoted their lives. I am deeply grateful to feel a part of this great community, the Society of the Sacred Heart.

Mariluz Borja RSCJ (MEX)



“...the sisters helped me to settle down, to ask myself where I was in my faith, and to be able to talk about various questions I had.”

A shared apartment and shared spirituality in Lyon Boissac

Next to the RSCJ community in Lyon Boissac, six Christian students share their daily lives. Their goal? To live a fraternal life, share their faith, and unify their experiences through spiritual reflection.

Every week, the six students meet with Amélie and Françoise, RSCJ, for a special gathering: to reflect together on the past week, share a meal, and pray. These moments allow them to take stock, encourage each other, and grow in faith.

The students meet regularly with the community: shared meals, Masses open to other young people, and many

other initiatives forge bonds between them. As explained by Anaïs, one of the students:

It was a year that supported me in my studies because I knew that when I got back to the shared apartment, I could share my day with others and laugh together. The Tuesday evenings with the sisters helped me to settle down, to ask myself where I was in my faith, and to be able to talk about various questions I had. You feel a little lonely as a Christian in your studies, so getting together was a real support.

Rachel Guillien RSCJ (BFN)

JPIC

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Update from the JPIC International Team

Responding to the call to be both "artisans" and "pilgrims" of hope, the JPIC International Team sustained efforts this year to "fan the flame of hope."

As One Body, we came together to pray for peace each First Friday of the month. We participated in advocacy initiatives spearheaded by the UN-NGO Office, like the recent International Day of the Girl. We provided resources, like prayer guides and videos, E-nfographics, and Glimpses of Resurrection. We shared stories of Pilgrims of Hope and made known Projects of Hope in different parts of the Society. We offered webinars, covering topics like artificial intelligence and the challenges it poses to education, work experiences in the midst of migration, the wisdom of indigenous cultures, and popular education. We engaged youth through annual competitions, like Move Our World, which showcased exceptional projects that create positive community impact, and the JPIC International Design Contest, where

young artists illustrated themes inspired by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We also made ourselves available as resource persons on topics related to JPIC and our Sacred Heart mission.

In the coming year, we look forward to launching "Artisans of Peace," which weaves together our four apostolic priorities in response to concrete cries of our blessed and broken world. We are also working on a new integrative website. We hope to receive the responses to the JPIC evaluation so that we can better attune our plans and actions to concrete needs and desires that spring from our shared charism and mission.

Joy Luz RSCJ (PHI)
Coordinator of JPIC International



Forming a family with young migrant women in Lyon

This is the second year that we in the Point du Jour community have welcomed four asylum seekers. By forging links with associations that provide administrative support and offer activities (training, etc.), we have been able to offer a roof and friendship and to form a family. The young women come from different backgrounds, and together we share our dinners, moments of conviviality, and prayer for those who wish to participate. The layout of the house (they are on the second floor, we are on the first) also encourages many informal encounters. Little by little, we see

each of them feeling more comfortable and offering their talents. They teach us a lot, and their courage, mutual support, and joy amaze us. They develop something like a sibling relationship, even though they may come from very different cultural or religious backgrounds. For our religious community, it is a beautiful way to refocus on our mission and expand the space of our tent.

Rachel Guillien RSCJ (BFN)



Formation



Life in the ASIANZ Novitiate

At the entrance ceremony on September 15, 2025, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, we welcomed our three new first-year novices: Valentina Anfrida (Aflin) of Indonesia, Roswita Sifa (Wita) of Indonesia, and Teresa Nguyen Thi Le Hang (Hang) of Vietnam. Soon we will welcome two additional first-year novices from NEANZ, Jingye and Sani.

From October to January, our three second-year novices, Nithya Raj (Nithya) of India, Audrey Sihotang (Audrey) of Indonesia, and Novi Manek (Novi) of Indonesia are having their three-month ministry experiences in their home province or district, living in

our RSCJ communities and engaging in apostolic service.

Congratulations to our four outgoing second-year novices who have been approved for First Vows and have returned home for re-integration into their home province or district in preparation for their First Vows: Maria Odis (Odis) of Indonesia, Victoria Hapadgara (Victoria) of India, Kumudini Tirkey (Kumud) of India and Klaudiana Bau Rua (Dina) of Indonesia.

*Ellen Collesano RSCJ (USC)
Director of Novices
ASIANZ Novitiate*

Life in the Chicago Novitiate

The Cor Unum International Novitiate in Chicago opened its year with a liturgy on September 6, 2025. We welcomed one new novice to our community: Gwen Malisani (USC), who joined the two second-year novices, Alba Romero (ESP) and Zsofia Trasy (CEI). Suzanne Cooke, the USC Provincial, was in attendance and offered the call to worship. In hopeful anticipation of the formation of the ANAM province, Gwen received a copy of the Constitutions in both Spanish and English, and a Society pin from the Canadian RSCJs.

The novices live in community with Kathleen Conan (USC), Joanna Mós (POL), Donna Collins (USC), Cecilia Molnár (CEI), and Ruth Cunnings (USC).

The novitiate program consists of Society seminars, an intercommunity novitiate with novices from other congregations, theology classes, prayer, ministry with local organizations and Sacred Heart schools. In October, we bid farewell to Zsofia as she departs Chicago and returns to Hungary for her three-month apostolic ministry.

We are looking forward to a joyful year of learning together and growing in the charism of the Society of the Sacred Heart!

*Kathleen Conan RSCJ (USC)
Director of Novices
Chicago Novitiate*

To the right: The three novices: Alba Romero (ESP), Gwen Malisani (USC), Zsofia Trasy (CEI-Hungary)

Below: The Community: Suzanne Cooke (USC), Joanna Mos (POL), Alba Romero (ESP), Gwen Malisani (USC), Zsofia Trasy (CEI), Donna Collins (USC), Cecilia Molnar (CEI), Ruth Cunnings (USC), Kathleen Conan (USC)



Life in the African Novitiate

At the entrance ceremony on September 8, 2025, the African Novitiate in Kimwenza welcomed eight first-year novices: Elizabeth Ainebyoona of Uganda, Emmalyne Asava of Kenya, Archilene Mbolo Mabila of the Democratic Republic

of Congo, Margaret Monyangi Obiero of Kenya, Sophia Mukhekhe of Kenya, Estrida Ndovanga of Tanzania, Harmonie Nsimba Makengo of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Scholastica Shinda of Kenya.

First Vows in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad

On September 13, 2025, Christine Mvula, Judith Mikwinzi, Marthe Tsana and Solange Mushigo (below) took their first vows in the Democratic Republic of Congo. On September 27, 2025, Majoie Tchaïtouing (to the right) took her first vows in Chad. We welcome them with great joy and ask that the Society accompany them with their prayers.



Probation 2025-2026

The seven probanists of 2025-2026, Mukta Bhengra (IND), Chihiro Yamamoto (NEANZ), Carmen Nsamba-Ngudi-N'sungu (RDC-TCH), Hilda Ayebazibwe (UGK), Elizabeth Kasyoka (UGK), Jeniffer Mbinya Mutiso (UGK), and Jaquelin Salazar (PER), did their probation from September 3, 2025 to January 31, 2026 at the Villa Lante, with their Probation mistresses, María Eugenia (Quena) Valdés Ossa and Gerardette (Gera) Philips.

After a rich and intensive six months, they received their name, "Rooted and grounded in God's Love", and their devise, "Called and sent to live and act as One Body for mission" at the Closing Conference on January 29, 2026.

Read excerpts from the Closing Conference and download photos: <https://rscjinternational.org/rooted-and-grounded-in-gods-love/>

On January 31, 2026, they took their final vows in the Chapel of the Villa Lante. You can watch a slideshow or the event in its entirety here: <https://rscjinternational.org/slideshow-2026-perpetual-profession/>

To learn more about the new sisters, visit: <https://youtu.be/Sz-MaAx3N-c>

We welcome them to the Society and wish them all the best as they embark on their missions.



Sharing Our Life and Mission with Associates

As a Religious of the Sacred Heart of the Province of Mexico, my life and mission are marked by the desire to proclaim the Gospel and to reveal the love of Jesus in the different places where I am sent, accompanying community and mission processes.

One of the services I have been able to support in recent years is to animate the lay movement that we call Shared Identity: RSCJ and lay people sharing life and mission. With great hope, we began the formation and accompaniment of people who resonate with our spirituality and who seek to live

lives of faith inspired by our charism. What began with the commitment of five people has multiplied in seven years to bring together more than fifty associates, with a presence in Mexico City, Guadalajara, León, Monterrey, and San Luis Potosí.

The life shared in these groups has been a source of growth and greater awareness of belonging to a larger family, which today extends beyond our borders. With the redefinition of the Provinces and the creation of ANAM, associates in Mexico and the United States-Canada have begun to take steps to embrace this experience as well. We have held virtual meetings via Zoom, shared common initiatives, and cultivated bonds that strengthen our shared mission.

The most recent opportunity for encounter was the annual meeting of associates from the United States-Canada, in which a group from Mexico was invited to participate. These simple but significant steps are helping us see ourselves as One Body in the diversity and richness of our cultures, histories, and endeavors, in communion and with a shared mission.

As Angélica Luna, an associate from the Monterrey group who participated in the United States-Canada-Mexico meeting, put it:

Participating in this meeting of associates of the Society of the Sacred Heart in Florissant, Missouri, was a deeply enriching experience. The place itself, steeped in history and meaning, allowed me to get closer to the life of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, whose presence and inspiration were palpable throughout the four days we shared together.

Sharing with sisters from different realities helped me experience the richness of diversity, but also the strength of unity that the Holy Spirit gives us, which was so present throughout the meeting.

Each presentation was an opportunity to deepen our identity as associates, remembering that this journey is not a personal one, but rather a communal one, and that we are called to support and encourage one another.

The moments when we met in small groups were especially meaningful. Listening to stories of service, hope, and commitment in such different contexts allowed me to discover how our charism is embodied in different ways, though always with the same center: the Heart of Christ who loves without measure.

I returned with a grateful and renewed heart, with the certainty that being an associate does not only mean belonging to a group, but living each day from the spirituality of the Heart of Jesus, allowing myself to be transformed and called to transform my environment with His love.

Mariela Peña Kipper RSCJ (MEX)
(photo to left)

At the Service of the Mission

Cherishing our History at the General Archives

The past year's work can be summed up with one word: collaboration. We worked with the archivist of the Province of Italy for the preparation and presentation of the brochure "Sophie in Rome" for the renewal group. We went to Lyon to visit the archives of BFN and the communities there, and held meetings both via Zoom and in Rome with the archivists of the former provinces of IRS and ENW. We assisted the ad hoc team studying the Special Chapter of 1967, and with the General Secretariat, we transferred documents regarding provincial affairs from the General Secretariat to the General Archives.

We continue to digitize Madeleine Sophie Barat's collection, improving the documents to support the correction of transcriptions, a project coordinated by Margaret Phelan and Mari Luz Galván. We are also working on the detailed digital inventory of the first Circular Letters and we have completed the collection related to the foundation of Lemberg.

For the centenary of the canonization of Madeleine Sophie Barat, the Archives

contributed to the creation of a graphic novel on the life of Madeleine Sophie, by carrying out the coloring, lettering and layout, and by coordinating its production and distribution to all of the provinces with International Communications.

The audio-visual and museum department has digitized a number of movie reels and very old films, as well as photos of different provinces, including Korea. The museum was updated with new artifacts and the Villa Lante Museum was presented at the Archivissima event on June 6, 2025.

Finally, the department helped the Villa Lante organize a series of video tutorials for guests and virtual tours of the villa, specifically designed for RSCJs that are unable to travel to Rome.

*Federica Palumbo, Alice Usai
and Sara Giannetti
General Archives*

Collage of stills from archival movie reels



International Communications

2025 was an exciting year for the Society's international communications, with a new General Superior, a new General Council, two new provinces, a new Pope, a Jubilee, and the centennial of Saint Madeleine Sophie's canonization!

The RSCJ International website was updated to include the calls of the 2024 General Chapter, the creation of the new provinces, and to better reflect the Apostolic Priorities in the service of the mission. We have created a new section on Formation and updated the Education section with a searchable map and database of schools around the world. There is a new section featuring the news published on provincial websites, which can be accessed here: <https://rscjinternational.org/rscj-news-from-around-the-world/>

In addition, we put together a section detailing all of the

canonization celebrations and resources from around the Society: <https://rscjinternational.org/centennial-canonization-msb/> Linked from that section is an interactive timeline of Madeleine Sophie's life and influence, which can be freely republished. Finally, we have created an interactive map and database of all the Sacred Heart schools around the world, which can be accessed through the Education section.

On April 14, a training session on using AI tools was held for the provincial tech/comm links, led by Rajani Khandagale RSCJ and Adba Musharrafie.

Finally, we are always looking for help with the proofreading of articles and materials in French. If anyone, RSCJ or layperson, would like to collaborate, please contact Margaret at comms@rscjroma.org.



Edited by:

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