

PREPARATION FOR THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF SOPHIE'S CANONISATION.

INVITATION ONE

LISTENING WITH OUR EYES

MAKING SOPHIE VISIBLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES, ROOMS, AND LIVES

As we prepare to celebrate our Foundress Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat in a special way this year, we invite you to stop at the different points of your day or week, to be aware that she is here with us continuing to inspire us, lead us, and bring us closer to the Lord through her writings, her spirit permeating every aspect of our lives. We can see and experience her in all the ministries of the Society of the Sacred Heart throughout the world. In our first step of preparation for our celebration we propose the theme: "Making Sophie visible to us: Listening with our eyes."

THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEING AND MAKING SOMETHING VISIBLE TO US.

When we make people or situations visible to us, they come to life. God gave us the gift of sight so that we can connect with life and join in God's work of creation. When we see a person or situation, it becomes part of us. It can be an image in our minds and evoke feelings in our hearts.

Our eyes allow us to see the beauty of God's physical creation. Jesus tells us to consider the beauty of the lilies and what they teach us about God's care and concern for our lives (Luke 12:27). Our eyes can allow us to see Madeleine Sophie Barat in different and deeper ways. We invite you to listen with your eyes, for the message Sophie has for you.

At this time we suggest that you put her image where you can gaze upon her. We are called to see things from her perspective as our inspiration and guide. Let us open our eyes to contemplate her each day and in this way we also open the eyes of our hearts.

WHAT TO DO:

What we see with our eyes has an impact on us and influences the way we relate to reality. We invite you to make Madeleine Sophie Barat visible in your living room, chapel, place of work, or any place of choice. You may do this by making a special place for Sophie in your community. You may decide to change the place her picture is situated and bring her to the centre or wherever else she is most visible. You may mount the picture differently in some special way. Make her feel surrounded by your affection, attention, and love during this special year.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

- You can put some flowers around her picture.

- As community, you could place a special candle before her and take time to pray by her.
- You may put the picture on a very nice stool or table to make it more visible.
- You could also give the area around the picture a great background.

AT A PERSONAL LEVEL:

We also encourage you to do the same as an individual in your room, office, or any other working and living space you occupy. There are all kinds of ways to make Madeleine Sophie physically visible to us. It will not only help us to make her more alive, but it will equally give us more of a chance to talk about her with our collaborators, guests, friends, and acquaintances.

Reflection Preparation Team

Solome Najjuka RSCJ and Nancy Koke RSCJ