

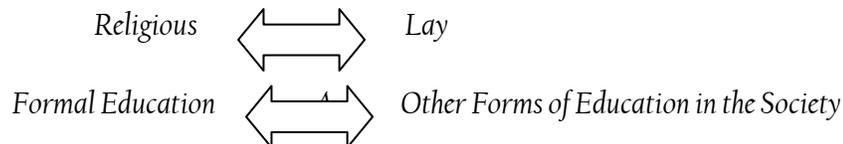
October 24, 2011

Dear Sr. Conan and Members of the General Council,

We thank you for your letter of appreciation and your invitation to hear the heartbeat of God in the reality of our world. The 4th Conference of International Heads of Sacred Heart School in Taipei has been an exceptional moment for union. As you imagined, we have spoken of both God's aching heart and God's joy and hope. Our theme, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, has served to call us forward together. We have exchanged ideas about programs and projects which help students develop habits of mind and heart which lead to decisions based on Gospel values. We have begun to explore ways to specify those competencies we as Sacred Heart Educators believe are essential to the development of critical thinkers and compassionate actors. Throughout our dialogue the common theme has been to continue to manifest God's love. Sophie's vision informs our actions. Inspired by the depth of commitment each one brings to the work of Sacred Heart education, we are filled with hope and gratitude.

It is first about the sacredness of our union with RSCJ that we write to you today. In April of 2000, when the Heads of the International Schools met in Joigny, we wrote to the Superior General and her Council about collaboration. In that letter we spoke of collaboration:

We wish to value and be enriched by the energy produced from the combination of



We expressed our hope that "...the Provinces clarify and design structures that enhance dialogue" because we knew then as we know today that our relationships as leaders of the Schools of the Sacred Heart and RSCJ bear fruit when the relationships are rooted in genuine collaboration. Chapter 2000's call *From Collaboration to Reciprocity* confirms our understanding of collaboration. So, too, Chapter 2008's Letter to Friends and Colleagues reinforced the significance of collaboration as a mutual partnership. As part of the Society, we do agree with you that in all the RSCJ educational endeavors, both formal and popular, "we carry the mission and charism for and with the RSCJ."

In that spirit we ask you to continue to help us be active colleagues and collaborators. We know that each province is unique just as each School of the Sacred Heart is unique, but common to all is the mutual desire to further the Society's mission. To act on this desire as we move into the future, we need continued active collaboration with RSCJ. Experience demonstrates that active collaboration rooted in mutual respect and dialogue inspires both Sacred Heart educators and RSCJ. This mutual animation of mission is a source of hope for the entire Family of the Sacred Heart.

How can and the General Council help us as we move into the future?

- Please help us by facilitating dialogue with the Provincials throughout the Society about the necessity for collaboration in *formation to mission programs* for the school communities. We recognize the need for such programs as being our mutual responsibility and that each brings a unique and significant perspective to such programs.
- We as leaders of the Schools of the Sacred Heart need your help as leaders of the Society in knowing the mind and heart of RSCJ in the face of current realities. Please give us access to the thinking that has led to Chapters and the follow-up to these direction setting moments in the Society's ongoing development. Include us in these processes so that together we can respond to Christ's Heart beating in the reality of our world.
- In our effort to support the International Network of Schools, we hope to create certain structures. The first is a page that will gather information and ways to share among the Schools of the Sacred Heart. We hope you will assist us by allowing us to link the page to RSCJInternational <http://www.rscjinternational.org/> as well as to websites of provinces. We will need guidance in some cases to secure correct data about formal and popular educational endeavors. We long to be in union with the Society in its works.
- As you visit the communities of the Sacred Heart throughout the world and as the provincials visit communities within their provinces, please seek us out. We long to be in dialogue with RSCJ about mission.

Please know of the excitement that we have in our hearts as we work with youth. In them we see great hope and desire for meaningful lives. Please understand that we and our colleague Sacred Heart Educators take great joy in our work as we help young people experience the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within their hearts and respond to Christ's love by becoming God's face in our world. Let us continue to pray for one another. May we be inspired by Mater who knew in the depths of her heart the truth and could with confidence discern the essential.

Sincerely,

The Heads of International Sacred Heart Schools
4th Conference of International Heads of Sacred Heart Schools Taipei