

GUIDELINES FOR BECOMING AN ASSOCIATE

from the Associates National Committee 2011

STEPS FOR BECOMING AN ASSOCIATE

With whom does the interested person meet? How often do they meet?

- attends a “Come and See”;
- meets informally with a “welcome/ steering committee” or designated RSCJ and Associates for general information;
- attends several orientation sessions (for one year) depending on their knowledge of the Society;
- comes to monthly gatherings and other functions (for a year);
- meets with the Associate co-coordinator(s) to discern rightness/readiness to join the Associates group; has “a seriousness of purpose” about the call to be an Associate;
- can participate in spiritual direction;
- embarks upon spiritual reading.

What are the essential questions asked?

- Why do you desire to become an Associate of the Sacred Heart?
- What draws you to our group? What are you looking for in an Associate group?
- What is your knowledge of the Society and its charism? Its mission?
- How do you desire to learn or deepen your knowledge of the Society and its charism?
- What has most touched you in the Spirit of the Society? How do you feel it is operative in your life right now?
- Would you be able to participate regularly at meetings for faith sharing?
- What questions do you have about being an Associate of the Sacred Heart?

How is the decision made that there is a “good fit”? With whom?

The coordinators or designated persons review
their responses to the initial questions to assess the appropriateness of the person’s desire to be an Associate of the Sacred Heart,
the quality of the individual’s faith journey --- their prayer experiences, retreats, ongoing formation, comfort in groups and willingness to commit to monthly meetings.

Guiding questions:

Has the person discerned their desire to grow in and understand the spirit of the Society, and through their desire to live call as expressed in the Associate Identity Statement;

Does the person have the time to participate in Associates’ meetings and activities in a way that supports and enhances their lives

Does the person exhibit a call to the charism of the Society?

Does s/he have the appropriate social skills to work in a group?

Does s/he show potential for faith sharing?

LIST OF MATERIALS USED FOR ORIENTATION

FROM THE ASSOCIATES SURVEY-- MATERIALS FOR THOSE NEW TO THE SOCIETY:

Picture overview of the international Society (2000)

Associate Identity Statement

Journey of the Heart

The Wisdom of Jesus by Cynthia Bourgeault

“Virtual Community of Prayer” by Dawn Stringfield

“Ten Evenings with God” by Ilia Delio

The RSCJ formation booklet (Fall 2011)

Orientation to the Society of the Sacred Heart for Religious, Associates and Partners in

Mission (booklet, October 2005)

Associates Weekend Binder (Associate Coordinators’ Meeting, April 2005)

“Formation Resources, Associates of the Society of the Sacred Heart, U.S. Province,” March 2008 (available on the Associates website)

Websites www.rscjassociatesusa.blogspot.com , www.rscj.org , www.rscjinternational.org

ANNOTATED LIST FOR ASSOCIATES IN FORMATION

(Fran Gimber, 2007, Carolyn Osiek, 2011)

Catherine Kinabrew, History of the Associates of the Sacred Heart in the U.S.

Brief overview of the development of the national Associate movement (2011).

Margaret Williams, RSCJ: The Society of the Sacred Heart: History of a Spirit 1800-1975

Readable overview of the Society’s history, identifying all the principal characters in our story with a positive and optimistic analysis of our historical context and the development of the Society within it. Out of print but available from the archives.

Margaret Williams, RSCJ: St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

A life written for the 100th anniversary of Madeleine Sophie’s death in 1965. It is a “family portrait” of Sophie, presenting the facts and circumstances of her life as well as her teaching of our life and on education. There are few copies extant, but may be borrowed from communities.

Catherine Mooney, RSCJ: Philippine Duchesne: a woman with the poor

Short life of Philippine commissioned by the U.S. Province for the canonization; vivid, interesting reading; good for historical context and picture of Philippine as a person. Republished and available.

Maud Monahan, RSCJ: The Life and Letters of Janet Erskine Stuart

Janet Stuart is probably the best known RSCJ; her spiritual teaching is remarkable for its relevance in any age. Consisting largely of excerpts from her letters, this book gives a complete picture of Mother Stuart. Out of print, but many communities have copies, available used online; paperback reprint available online.

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Catherine Collins, Melanie Guste, Anna Thompson, eds., Philippine Duchesne, RSCJ: A Collection

An interior spirit: anthology of writings from the superiors general of the Society..., 2000
An anthology of excerpts from the circular letters of our superiors general; a good overview of the spiritual teaching of the Society's leaders from the beginning to 2000. Available from the archives.

Heart speaking to heart, an anthology of homilies given by RSCJ during the bicentennial year of prayer, 1999-2000

Shorter biographical works for beginners:

Ruth Cunningham's works for beginners, available from the archives:

First American Daughter: Aloysia Hardey, RSCJ
The Untold Story: Eugenie Aude, RSCJ
Anna Shannon, RSCJ

Manhattanville pamphlet series: these are old, but the facts are there and they give a good picture of the person.

St. Madeleine Sophie by Agnes Barry
Blessed Philippine Duchesne by Marion Bascom
Janet Stuart by Angela Cave
Mother Hardey by Margaret Williams
Mother du Rousier by Margaret Williams

Prayers Resources, available from the archives:

Dolores Aleixandre: In the Shadow of the Word
A Spiritual Journey, readings and reflections for the year of prayer for preparation for the bicentenary in 2000
Ahimsa: A Collection of Poetry and Photographs by Religious of the Sacred Heart

Orientation: series of DVDs --- Associate Coordinators' Meeting, April 2005

For Associates who have completed their initial orientation:

Phil Kilroy: Madeleine Sophie Barat: A Life
Louise Callan: The Society of the Sacred Heart in North America
Louise Callan: Philippine Duchesne, Frontier Missionary of the Sacred Heart
Mary H. Quinlan: Mabel Digby, Janet Erskine Stuart, Superiors General of the Society of the Sacred Heart
Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, Saint Philippine Duchesne: Correspondence, 4 vols.
Letters of St. Madeleine Sophie, selections, 2 vols.
Joseph Varin, S.J.: Letters to Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat

Circular letters of our Superiors General, especially those of Concepcion Comacho, Helen McLaughlin, Patricia Garcia de Quevedo

General Chapter documents, 2000 and 2008

Others according to the person's interest:

Janet Erskine Stuart: The Education of Catholic Girls

Spirit and Plan of Studies of the Society of the Sacred Heart

Education: a Commitment

SUGGESTIONS FOR RESOURCES: THE SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART AFTER 1967

(Fran Gimber, 2007; Carolyn Osiek, 2011)

Recent biographical and historical publications

Phil Kilroy: Madeleine Sophie Barat: a life

Catherine Mooney: Philippine Duchesne: a woman with the poor

Mary H. Quinlan: Ursula Benziger, RSCJ

Monique Luridard: Sabine de Valon, tr. D. Hewlett

Frances Gimber: Woman of the Word: A Life of Marie Louise Schroen

Margaret Williams: The Society of the Sacred Heart: History of a Spirit (1800-1975)

Mary H. Quinlan: Mabel Digby, Janet Erskine Stuart, Superiors General of the Society of the Sacred Heart

Mary H. Quinlan: The Society of the Sacred Heart 1914-1964

Frances Makower: Towards Tomorrow: The Society of the Sacred Heart

Catherine Kinabrew, History of the Associates of the Sacred Heart in the U.S.

Marie-Louise Martinez [editor]: Southward Ho!

Prudence Wilson: My father took me to the circus

Carolyn Osiek: Kathryn Sullivan (1905-2006): Teacher of the Word

Older but essential biographies and histories

Louise Callan: The Society of the Sacred Heart in North America

Louise Callan: Philippine Duchesne, Frontier Missionary of the Sacred Heart

Margaret Williams: Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat

Margaret Williams: Second Sowing, the life of Aloysia Hardey

Prayer and Spirituality

Circular letters of our Superiors General, especially those of Concepcion Camacho, Helen McLaughlin, Patricia Garcia de Quevedo

Dolores Aleixandre: In the shadow of the Word

A spiritual journey, 20 October 1999-21 November 2000

An interior spirit: anthology of writings of the superiors general of the Society...2000

Heart speaking to heart, an anthology of homilies given by RSCJ during the bicentennial year of prayer, 1999-2000

Ahimsa: A Collection of Poetry and Photographs by Religious of the Sacred Heart

Government documents

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Special Chapter, 1967

General Chapters of 1970, 1976, 1982, 1988, 1994, 2000, 2008

Revised Constitutions of the Society of the Sacred Heart, 1982

Act of Hope, Priorities of the United States Province, 1992

International publications

Education: a commitment, International Education Commission Working Paper, 1988

Connections: “The world of migrant peoples,” 1991, 1992, ‘993

____ “Politics behind the utopia,” 1992

____ “Inculturation,” 1993