



Sacred Heart Education

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Volume: 1 Issue: 3

Monday, September 24, 2018

Greetings from the Conference of Sacred Heart Education. In our third edition of *Trustee Topics*, the bi-monthly education to mission resource for Sacred Heart trustees, we explore the implications of two important documents presented to the chairs, heads and provincial team last year: *Sacred Heart School Identity* and *Structural Implications of Sacred Heart Identity*.

We recognize that trustees and heads lead at a critical moment when the moral authority of the Church has been fractured by scandal and when many of the faithful are disheartened. We are not writing this edition because we have answers. Rather we offer these thoughts and resources to you as leaders in the hope of strengthening mission effectiveness by creating opportunities for the trustees, heads and the provincial team to engage in thoughtful dialogue and discernment about the future of Sacred Heart education. In moments of crisis, discernment necessitates engaging with one another in dialogue that is rooted in listening, listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit within our school communities, within the realities of our world and within ourselves.

HOLDING IN TRUST

Holding in trust the mission of Sacred Heart education is an audacious and essential

act of hope in a moment of crisis. Sacred Heart education was born during the crisis caused by war and revolution. In that historic moment of complexity, change and uncertainty, Sophie responded from the depths of her relationship with Jesus Christ whose image and love were so deeply a reality to her that the Spirit remained infused in all she did. It is from this love and spirit that Sophie received and developed her vision of education. She believed the service of education was the primary means by which the Society would carry on its mission of communicating the love of the Heart of Jesus. For her education was never the end. Rather it served as the means for educators and students to come to know and experience God's love. This vision of education is articulated in the [Goals and Criteria](#).

What does it mean today to hold in trust the mission of Sacred Heart education with integrity in the face of these scandals?

What is our role as leaders within the Sacred Heart Family in the face of severely diminished moral authority of the Church as an institution?

What does it mean to hold in trust Catholic education today?

The starting point for Sacred Heart Boards of Trustees is to engage these questions in a prayerful reflection on the *Goals and Criteria*. Grappling with the questions we face at this moment necessitates taking the time to re-read and re-claim our vision of education. Informed understanding of the principles of the *Goals and Criteria* will strengthen trustees' and heads' appreciation that Sacred Heart education is framed by the assumption that education is transformational because students and educators are engaged in learning for the purpose of coming to self-understanding as those loved by God. Such self-understanding is not possible without intentional formation in critical thinking. Within the culture of Sacred Heart Schools, students developed essential capacities:

- Openness to Mystery

- Intellectual Competence
- Commitment to Personal Growth and Maturity
- Compassion
- Comprehension of Justice as Action

These capacities create the foundation for students to become mature adults, thoughtful decision makers and effective people of faith. Discussion by boards and heads about mission will be enhanced by reviewing two recent important documents: [*Sacred Heart School Identity*](#) and [*Structural Implications of Identity*](#).

SACRED HEART SCHOOL IDENTITY

This document answers the question: What does it mean to be a Catholic – Independent – Sacred Heart School? The paper intends to give all engaged in Sacred Heart education clarification on the richness of each school's three-dimensional identity. For trustees and heads of schools the document calls out essential principles of Catholic education by clarifying the nature of Sacred Heart education:

- We focus on the development of each child in the context of community.
- We draw our inspiration from Jesus Christ as the source of all wisdom and from the conviction that in Him all things can be brought to their full potential.
- Inspired by an understanding of Jesus Christ, His Gospel and the Holy Spirit, we participate in God's grace.
- God's grace initiates our actions and assists us in becoming people of service grounded in love, mirroring the attitudes of Christ's Heart such as respect, compassion, forgiveness and generosity.
- God works through persons, events, and physical things. Through invoking our spirit, mind and imagination, we discover the intelligibility and coherence of all reality.
- As participants in God's grace, we experience the love of Jesus Christ and the

gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- God comes to us as communion, through the communities in which we live.
- The emphasis on community in Catholicism is the source of Sacred Heart's commitment to relationships and the building of community as an essential value.

Effective stewardship of the mission of Sacred Heart education necessitates a deep understanding of [Sacred Heart School Identity](#). Setting aside a board time for a thoughtful discussion of the paper will enhance members' comprehension of the values of Catholic education; thereby strengthening their self-understanding as stewards of this vital mission.

STRUCTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF IDENTITY

This document outlines the structural implications of schools' being concurrently Catholic, independent and Sacred Heart. As Catholic – independent – Sacred Heart Schools, each school participates in structural relationships with both the United States – Canada Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart and the Catholic Church. The responsibility to ensure Catholic identity belongs to the leadership of the Society of Sacred Heart United States – Canada Province, the boards of trustees, and to the diocesan bishop of the diocese/archdiocese. Each school is accountable to the provincial for carrying out the *Goals and Criteria* including the Foundational Principles and to the diocesan bishop for maintaining communion with the Church. As independent schools, Schools of the Sacred Heart also participate in structural relationships with local accrediting bodies. Boards and heads of schools need to understand the obligations of each of these relationships.

Reflecting on this document will help the boards and heads comprehend the essential

impact accountability and structures have in stewardship of mission. Of particular value to boards and heads given the current climate in the Church is the discussion of communion, dialogue and discernment in [Structural Implications of Identity](#).

Dialogue and communion are sacred practices within the culture of our schools and the

Society of the Sacred Heart. So, too, communion is a fundamental strength of the Church.

Recognizing that there is an efficacious value to dialogue and collaboration, Sacred Heart

school leaders are committed to engaging in relationships with both the leaders of the Society

and of the local diocese. This foundation of mutual respectful relationships provides a sound

context to search for the common good.

SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

How do trustees and heads respond to questions about “authority”?

At a time when the moral authority of the Church is being questioned, how do trustees and heads respond to questions about “authority”?

With so many being angry and disillusioned, how do Sacred Heart boards and heads move forward in providing Catholic education?

A beginning might be for trustees and heads to explore the sources of their “authority” as leaders. Drawing upon the French roots of the word *authority*, boards and heads might want to consider who gives them the right to influence? What is the source of the authority to govern as trustees of the Sacred Heart and to lead as heads of

school?

The Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada Province gives boards the authority to govern the schools in light of the *Goals and Criteria*; heads receive their authority from the appointment to their office by boards and by the province's delegation to school leaders to administer schools focused on the mission of Sacred Heart education.

In being faithful to our Sacred Heart legacy, leaders need to consider that authority is grace-filled. Effective Sacred Heart leaders be they heads, trustees or provincial teams, draw on their personal relationship with Mystery and find the right to influence and lead communities of the Sacred Heart being inspired by the Spirit dwelling within their hearts. The first and primary source of “authority” to govern and lead in the context of Sacred Heart schools comes from one's relationship with God, with Christ, with the Holy Spirit, with Mystery. One cannot hold in trust the values of the *Goals and Criteria* and lead in the spirit of Sophie without a sense of inner life, of prayer, of interiority.

ROLE OF HEAD OF CONFERENCE

In moments of difficulties, the province and its leaders remain responsible to assist the schools in living mission. The province provides this support through the Conference of Sacred Heart Education and its work in the areas education to mission, accountability for mission and governance in support of mission. As the delegate of the Provincial, the Head of Conference facilitates this collaboration and serves as the primary liaison for school leaders with regard to the relationship with the Society for Sacred Heart. It is important that boards and heads call upon the Head of Conference with any questions which may arise in the midst of these confusing, complex times.

THE CONFERENCE SUPPORTS HEADS OF SCHOOL AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

To support boards and heads, the Conference of Sacred Heart Education offers resources like *Trustee Topics* and *At The Core*, an electronic monthly magazine focused on education to mission. Today trustees and heads hold in trust Sophie's desire to help people become ever more aware of truth, love and freedom as they discover the significance of their lives and devote themselves to others ([1982 Constitutions of the Society of the Sacred Heart](#)). Together heads and boards accept the invitation to probe the depths of the *Goals and Criteria* ... "so that they might be prophetic orientations leading us to hope, a hope that believes in the goodness of each person, a hope that believe in the goodness of humanity, a hope that believes in and trusts the love of the Heart of God" (Prologue, 2005 *Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Education*).

RESOURCES

Documents Essential to Mission Integrity

There are three essential documents which all trustees, chairs and heads must know in order to support their full understanding of mission, identity and accountability structures. These documents are:

[*Sacred Heart School Identity*](#)

[*Structural Implications of Identity*](#)

[*Goals and Criteria*](#)

Theological Navigation Webinar Series!

Are there terms in the Sacred Heart School Identity paper which you don't fully understand? If you're interested in exploring the theological concepts foundational to our identity as Catholic – independent – Sacred Heart Schools, watch our Theological Navigation Webinar series given by Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ, Associate Professor of Church

History at Aquinas Seminary. Sr. Mousseau guides us in understanding how to approach questions such as: How do we know about God? Who is Jesus? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in community? Where and how do we find hope?



[Part 1: The Human Person](#)

[Part 2: Knowing about God, The Incarnation](#)

[Part 3: Holy Spirit, Community, Hope](#)

[Part 4: Who is Jesus?](#)

*Each webinar is ~ 20 minutes

Going Going Gone: Our Challenge Webinar Series!

How is the religious landscape of the United States changing with the rise of millennials and “nones”? Why are millennials choosing to disaffiliate from Catholicism?

How do we distinguish between spirituality and religion? What are the implications of these shifting religious dynamics for us?

Explore these questions and many more in our webinar series, Going Going Gone: Our Challenge, given by Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ and Claire Lorentzen.

[Part 1: Millennials & Changing Religious Landscape of US](#)

[Part 2: Dynamics of Catholic Disaffiliation](#)

[Part 3: Spirituality vs. Religion](#)

*Each webinar is ~ 20 minutes

[View all Videos on our Sacred Education Vimeo Channel](#)

Remarks by Catherine Karrels, Head of School, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Wanting to engage the students in a dialogue about the challenges the Church is currently facing, Catherine Karrels offered the [following remarks](#) to the Upper School at an assembly.

REGISTER NOW! Fall Trustee Education to Mission Conference and Membership Meeting

As the stewards of mission, Sacred Heart boards of trustees work in partnership with school leadership to ensure the continuity of the Sacred Heart educational mission, the best educational climate for today's students, and the sustainability of the schools for future generations. To this end, trustees gather every October in St. Charles for the Trustee Conference. This essential training equips trustees, heads, and chairs with the skills, information, and knowledge needed to be effective stewards of mission. The structure of the training includes an annual theme and specific education to Sacred Heart Trusteeship.

[REGISTER by CLICKING HERE!](#)

Annual Theme:

How Do We Form Conscience and Build Character in Our Students?

When:**Trustee Education to Mission Conference**

October 25, Thursday evening, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. — Opening Reception and Presentations

October 26, Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. — Trustee Training

Membership Meeting

October 26, Friday, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. — Reception, Dinner, and Review of Strategic Plan (Heads, Chairs, and the Provincial Team)

October 27, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. — Training Session (Heads, Chairs, and the Provincial Team)

October 27, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. — Fall Membership Meeting. Attendance is essential.

Where:

Embassy Suites Hotel | St. Charles, Missouri

Who Must Attend?

Any Trustee who has not been to this Conference

Any Trustee who wishes a refresher

All Heads of School and All Board Chairs

The Provincial Team, Network Board and Conference of Sacred Heart Education

REGISTER by CLICKING HERE!

NEW ON THE WEB

How to Access Your Account

Each trustee has her or his own personal account to log-in to the trustee portal of our site sacredheartusc.education. Here you can view resources, including all former

issues of *Trustee Topics* and engage with other trustees. To get started, all you need to do is log-in! We've created a short video with step by step instructions showing you how you can engage with all that our new site has to offer.

The screenshot displays a website interface for the Trustee Resource Board. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Groups (1 Groups), Resources, News, Calendar, and Directories (2 Directories). Below the navigation bar, the main content area is organized into several colored tiles:

- Documents Essential to Mission Integrity** (Green tile): Links to download: Sacred Heart School Identity, Structural Implications of Identity, Goals and Criteria.
- Trustee Topics** (Red tile): Our bi-monthly newsletter for trustees. View and read all past issues.
- AT THE CORE** (Red tile): ANIMATING THE MISSION OF SACRED HEART EDUCATION. Includes a section "Welcome to our monthly e-magazine!" and a list of "IN THIS ISSUE" topics: Why Education is Essential, The Holy Spirit, Christian Faith, Sacred Heart Identity, The Education of the Sacred Heart, Faith, Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Religious Education.
- Principles and Practices for Governance and Leadership in Sacred Heart Schools** (Red tile): Conference of Sacred Heart Education, First Edition. Selections Now Online!
- Spring 2018 Membership Meeting** (Blue tile): Resources, Reports & Presentations. Resources for the Spring 2018 Membership Meeting.
- Holding in Trust** (Blue tile): Resources from September 2018 Trustee Topics.
- Education to Mission Resources** (Green tile): A large green tile with the text "Education to Mission Resources".
- Head - Board Partnership** (Red tile): Resources on the partnership of the Board of Trustees and Head of School and the impact of this partnership on planning for the School's effectiveness.

[Watch "Trustee Tour" video](#)

[Log-in to site](#)

Trustee Resource Board

We hope you will visit our new Trustee Resource Board to view and use an array of materials curated solely for trustees. For example, we've posted education to mission resources, materials from past trustee conferences, prayers, videos and much more!

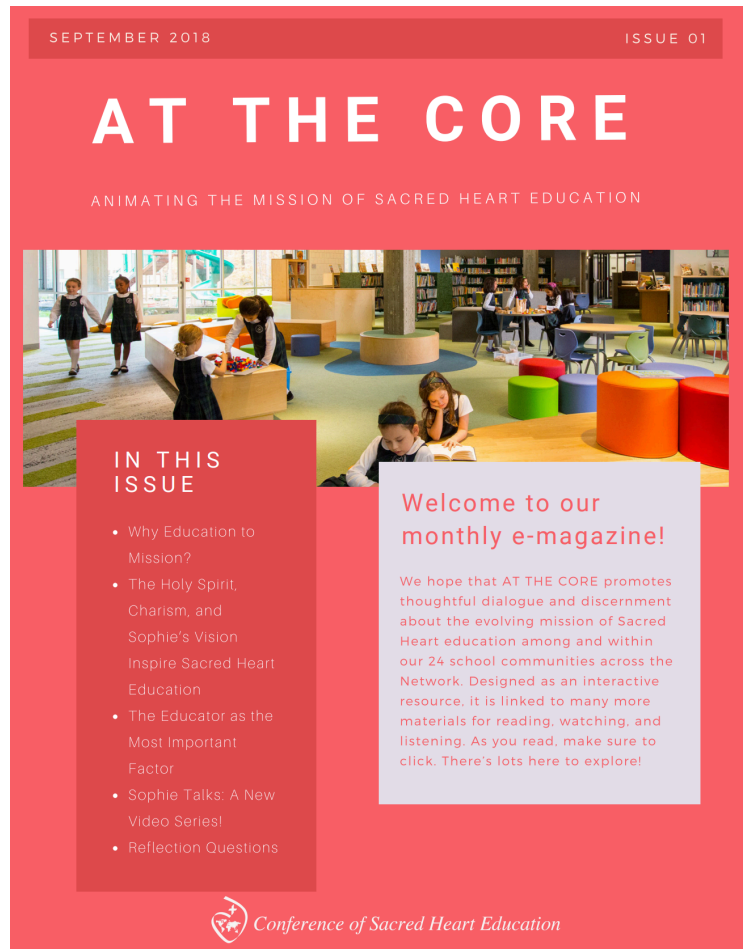
[Visit Trustee Resource Board](#)

At the Core

Our new monthly Education to Mission e-magazine! We hope that *At The Core* promotes thoughtful dialogue and discernment about the evolving mission of Sacred Heart education among and within our 24 school communities across the Network. Our first issue is focused on how the Holy Spirit, charism, and the vision of Saint Madeleine Sophie inspire Sacred Heart education. Designed as an interactive resource, it is linked to many more materials for reading, watching, and listening. As you read, make sure to click. There's lots here to explore! We will post each current issue on the trustee portal. If you prefer to receive a copy in your in-box, sign-up for our mailing list.

[Sign-up to receive *At the Core*](#)

[View September Issue](#)



UPDATES FROM THE PROVINCE

Meet Our Provincial Team

Our provincial team looks forward to working with the boards of trustees and heads of schools. For those of you who have not yet had a chance to meet the team, learn more about them [here](#).

Our next Trustee Topics will be sent to you in November. If there are topics you'd like us to cover in our newsletters, we welcome them.

Conference of Sacred Heart Education

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