



# NEWSLETTER

TWICE A YEAR NEWS FROM YOUR NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

## EDITO

### Why is the AMASC Newsletter such an important component of our international association?

**T**he AMASC Newsletter is the vibrant link to unite all the thirty-five countries of our Sacred Heart Family across the continents. AMASC WEB provides the forum to communicate with each other weaving a colorful tapestry when describing the work done in each of your associations. This sharing creates a strong bond of community across nations, cultures, and people. This unites us in one heart! Wasn't this our founder's wish?

Your contributions to the AMASC Newsletter will revitalize our spirits as we celebrate all your accomplishments. As we are well aware, not all AMASC Associations count with the same resources as others, but all are ignited by the fiery spirit of our founder which inspires us not only to grow spiritually, but to serve others by our associations' projects, events, and endeavors. Let's the Newsletter be this medium!

Congo, Colombia, Cuba, India, Japan, France, Italy and Cuba/USA submitted their required



Newsletter Report for last year, a time of great duress which unveiled more than ever that we are one human race living in one planet. AMASC encourages all of you in the thirty-five countries to give testimony of what you experienced. May the 2021 Newsletter create a full Sacred Heart Family collage representing all the members of our Sacred Heart Family.

As Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne said, *"We cultivate a very small field for Christ, but we love it, knowing that God does not require great achievements, but a **Heart** that hold back nothing for self."*

Alicia Moreyra,  
AMASC Chairperson for Hospitality  
and Co-coordinator of the Newsletter

# ITALY

## Report 2019-2020



**T**he virus stopped everything. Before that, however, at the beginning of 2020, the former Italian students began their journey of reflection and prayer. Like every year, together with their spiritual directors. Some examples.

In Florence, tackling the understanding of the Bible, trying to discover the purpose of the Holy Book, which is not a history book, nor a science book, but a book about God and the covenant that he establishes with his people, the chosen people, and through them with all humanity.

In Rome, with the help of Father Patrice Terrein, an African father from the Ivory Coast, we

delved into certain parts of the Gospel: "*It has been said,*" says the Lord, "*but I say to you, 'you are the salt of the earth'. 'you are the light of the world' "*, so that the mission of the baptised, our mission, is neither juridical nor formal, but is to make the Father visible through our witness in this generation. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are our means to avoid falling into the idolatry of money, to get us out of the slavery of things, as the pagans do.

In Palermo, where in recent years the apostolic exhortations *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Amoris Laetitia* of Pope Francis Magisterium have been examined and many works of charity have been carried out.

In Genoa, the latest encyclical *Fratelli tutti* was analysed, which is a direct quotation from the admonitions of St Francis. Brotherhood was the first theme the Pope referred to at the start of his pontificate, when he bowed his head before the people gathered in St Peter's Square.

Finally, a reflection: we are all like the disciples of Emmaus, who, discouraged and anxious, return from Jerusalem after the crucifixion of Jesus, the collapse of their hopes, and do not recognise him on the way. Yet the Lord is close to us "*Behold I am with you always, to the close of the age*" (Matthew 28:20).

# FRANCE

## Report of UFASC

Here are some news from France.

**F**acing this unprecedented health crisis which is still going on, UFASC had to mobilize and follow the recommendations of the public authorities.



Each year, the proceeds from a Bridge Tournament go to children in the Philippines. (here, photo by Ma-Béthanie SULLEZA, RSCJ)

Different traditional annual meetings were canceled and postponed, because of the health crisis. « L'Amitié » in March, the UFA European meeting in Tours, the visit of Madeleine-Sophie in Paris, the visit of 80 Japanese students to Paris, our board of directors and our shareholders meeting.

However we have had at the beginning of the year our famous bridge tournament in Paris with the 10 tables that entitled us to make a substantial donation to the Philippines.

Nevertheless, despite this unprecedented period of confinement, we remained mobilized in order to preserve between all our members a close link that is even more essential today.

Numerous appeals have been made by the Amicales and by Ufasc both to our members and to nuns.

Initiatives have been developed by Joigny which, for example, offers individual support on a spiritual journey with the support of the Embroidery of Sainte Madeleine-Sophie Barat.

But the situation did not discourage M-Pascale and she has been able, despite the difficulties you can imagine, to edit two marvelous reviews « Caritas ».



Laurence Galinowski  
UFASC President

# J A P A N

## Report of JASH 2019-2020

**T**he visit of Pope Francisco Japan in November 2019 brought a tremendous amount of blessings to us.

The Olympic and Para-Olympic Games were scheduled to be held in summer 2020. Since the great earthquake in 2011, we in Japan have been faced with many hardships and the two events signified “renewal” for Japan in many ways. However, at present the entire world is fighting a battle with an invisible enemy called Covid-19.



The activities of JASH – JASH Day, charity bazaar, charity concert and lectures – have all been cancelled. The same is true with the activities of individual JASH alumnae associations in Japan. In the midst of such difficulties, the messages sent by the Society of the Sacred Heart in Rome and the President of AMASC to the Sacred Heart

family to “pray together” have given us much courage. It is because we are in such a time of

difficulty that we feel more than ever the strong bond we share as members of the Sacred Heart family and the importance of supporting each other through our prayers.

From October, we are asking the sisters to send messages on the JASH website. These messages provide us with opportunities to ponder on our circumstances and look forward at a time when so many of our activities are restricted by the Corona virus.

In December in Japan, Beethoven's Symphony; The Symphony No.9 in D minor, Op.125 is a choral symphony, which is popularly performed. Although this is the 250's year of the composer's birth, this year it will not probably heard because of Covid-19. We hope that next year we will be able to enjoy the performance of this work, the theme of

which is to celebrate joy that will certainly follow this affliction.

Let's just all get on with our lives. Do What You Can! Thank you.

Itsuko E Nakagome (vice-président)

# INDIA

## Report of SCESA

### ACTIVITIES 2019 -2020

#### Cultural Programme

On 6th July 2019, SCESA organized and supported an event in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Govt. Of India. Padma Shri Dr Soma Ghosh held a folk music recital on Bhartiya Lok Sangeet at the A.V. Hall, Sophia College.

#### Coffee and Cake

SCESA organized Coffee and Cake for the Teaching Staff of the College on 9th August 2019. The special guest on the occasion was Prof. Sushama Deo.

#### The Spirit of Sophia Awards

In 2016, SCESA instituted The Spirit of Sophia Awards to honour the teaching and non-teaching staff of the College who have completed long years of service to Sophia College. This year twelve staff members received the awards.

### SCESA OUTREACH

#### E-Teach Program in Nareshwadi, Dahanu

SCESA has been supporting a rural education project that involves teaching English to students of Grades I to IV of vernacular schools. SCESA sponsors the services of a facilitator who works with 22 schools in the Talasari district in the state of Maharashtra and an additional cluster of 15 schools at Ambeshwari.

#### Annual General Meeting

The SCESA Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the year 2019 was held on 23rd November 2019. The AGM was followed by a talk by Ms. Apurva Purohit, President of "Jagran Group". She is the author of the national best seller "Lady You're Not a Man!" and recently launched "Lady, You're the Boss »

#### Sugar and Spice

Sugar and Spice, an initiative on wellness conducted five sessions between 3rd February to 17th February 2020, in Sophia College. The sessions were on Emotional Well Being, Dancing, Physiotherapy and Phone Technology.

#### Donation of Bedsheets

Sr. Ancy from Shanti Avedna Sadan, a home for the terminally ill cancer patients needed bedsheets for patients that have oozing wounds. SCESA organized a « donate your bedsheets » drive.

#### SCESA Bazaar

Yearly, at least four SCESA Bazaars are held. Nearly fifteen N.G.O's are given an opportunity to participate and promote their activities. The staff and students have an opportunity to shop for a cause.

Contact : E-mail: [scesa.sophia@gmail.com](mailto:scesa.sophia@gmail.com)

Tel no: 022-23510903

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SCESA.SOPHIA](https://www.facebook.com/SCESA.SOPHIA)



Coffee and cake 2019



Annual General Meeting 2019



SCESA Bazaar

# CUBA - USA

## Report of AASCJ



« Mater Day » at Carrollton on october 2017  
with alumni of Puerto Rico

**T**he planned activities for the month of March, our Day of Reflection, Mater's Feast in May, and our "Hojas de Otono Reunion" where generally about 200 alumnae attend were cancelled due to the pandemic.

A great majority of our senior alumnae are not familiarized with the new technology, therefore, with great enthusiasm our publication, "La Hojita de Mater" was published and mailed to around 700 Cuban alumnae around the world. La Hojita is a vehicle of unity for all of us and a labor of love of the editor because we share news about our families, inspiring essays such as a tender anecdote from one of our sisters in the community that they serve in Cuba. EMPATHY IN ACTION

During these very difficult moments of solitude we have been united by phone calls, emails and a FACEBOOK PAGE dedicated to our Association. In the midst of many sad news due to many recent deaths of our alumni, we have celebrated births, weddings, anniversaries and good deeds

The maximum of our donations have been sent to help our sisters in Cuba where there are 5 rscj in Santi Espiritu offering spiritual retreats, catechism to children and adults, after school support, mental health seminars and summer camps as well as assistance to the elderly. Our sisters in Cuba and a very reduced number of alumni who remain are a torch of inspiration due to their dedication and work with such scarcity.

Today more than ever we have realized the importance of love not only in our immediate families but also encompassing our Miami community, the one in Cuba, in the United States (AASH) and in the world (AMASC). The global union of all of us as alumni of the Sacred Heart keeps God's light and the fire of love that our founder, Saint Magdalene Sofie Barat instilled in her girls.

Always in One Heart

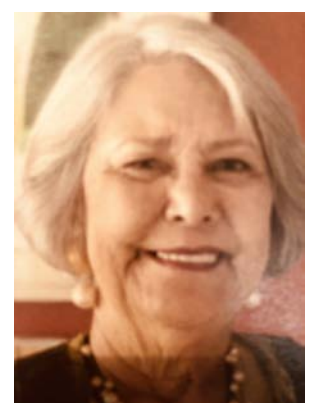
Alicia Moreyra  
AMASC Chairperson for Hospitality  
and Coordinator of the Newsletter

\*\*\*

### Deceased 2020



Lourdes Norat, the Soul  
of « The Hojita de Mater »  
AASCJ Publication



Cecilia La Villa  
past AASCJ President

# COLOMBIA

## Report of UNASC



We also have suffered this isolation and pandemic having to avoid the contact with people, limiting it to the family at home. In this situation, we have reinvented our Association to continue with our meetings and have started doing virtually via Zoom. This is a new situation, but very positive because we are able to meet with alumni

In Colombia we were able to meet for our XVIII UNASC 2020, national encounter, before we were isolated due to the pandemic. The theme was: "The Earth: Home to All, Challenges and Responsibilities." We counted with the participation of the Sacred Heart Sisters, Bogota Alumni, Cali, Manizales and Medellin, in the city of Cali the past month of march from the 10 to the 14.

We analyzed how to take care of our home which is a responsibility of all; to be conscious and act urgently due to the deterioration of the ecosystems; the increase in gas emissions caused by climate warming (GEI) created by human actions such as the burning of fossils- oil, gas and carbon plus the destruction of the forests. These emissions impacting global climate change which is causing negative effects on the survival on the planet. We, as the Sacred Heart Family, have in the center of our mission to be "Guardians" of the citizens, the Earth and our world.

from different cities. We are utilizing FACEBOOK to have conferences. It has been a new learning for each one, but creating a fraternal unity.

Our WEB <http://www.Unasc.org> have been a marvelous medium to collaborate with our alumni during this virtual time.

Our WEB <http://www.Unasc.org> have been a marvelous medium to collaborate with our alumni during this virtual time.

Cordially,



Ana Lucia  
Ulloa de Vélez.  
National  
President  
of Colombia

## CUBA Report of AASCJ

**T**he Cuban Association had not submitted a report due to the fact that we almost had not had any meetings due to the Corona Virus' situation. The restrictions are very severe including very high fines for meetings even with few people.

The churches have been closed until recently which have prevented the celebration of Saint Magdalene Sophie's Feast on May 25 as well as Mater's Day on October 20 of this year. All of us gather spiritually in our homes to pray for our Association's general intentions, national as well as international. For the first time this year on December 2, 2020, we had a reunion with our rscj which I sent a review and pictures.

Our AASCJ Country classmate, Carola Yaque who lives in Manzanillo has recuperated from surgery and as soon as she felt better she started again her very active apostolate work in the city.

We hope that next year with the vaccine in every country we may eradicate the virus and the world could return to a normal life in health and peace. These are our wishes for 2021."

On the afternoon of the 2nd we met the Alumnae of Havana, Ada Casal, Mari Dania Villafuerte and Piedad Subirats and Margarita Madan, graduated from the Cerro, with three of our nuns, presided over by Ada Martinez and two other religious, and the group of Associates of our Sacred Heart group.

It was a beautiful and fruitful evening of prayer and singing where we shared the surveys conducted by Sister Ada, and we comment experiences of each one during this year that is ending.

Piedad Subirats





# R D - C O N G O

## Report of ANASC-RDC

### THE CENTER MERCEDES EGUILIOR *"Hand in hand, let's help !"*

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, we have adopted the liturgical calendar. The year begins in October and ends in July.

Our activities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year were as follows: Our general assemblies and recollections for Christmas and Easter; the celebration of the feasts of Ste Madeleine-Sophie and the Sacred Heart.

Generally, during the feast of St. Magdalene-Sophie, we offer something to the nuns of the Sacred Heart (we call this gift the "Basket of the sisters"), and, for the feast of the Sacred Heart, we give them what we call the "Cry of the Heart": goods intended for the poor.

We also organize visits to schools of the Sacred Heart, to educate students on the merits of remaining with the spirit of the Sacred Heart.

This year, COVID has not allowed us to carry out all of our activities, as the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been confined since March. However, we were able to continue to manage our social works, and in particular our training and remedial center for unemployed young girls and a primary school: the Mercedes Eguilior Center.

We hope that 2020-2021 will be a better year.

For ANASC-RDC  
Marie-Jeanne Nkela

In this center created and managed by the National Association of Ancients and Elders of the Sacred Heart of the Democratic Republic of Congo (ANASC) in 1997, literacy and cutting and sewing classes are offered to unemployed young girls or illiterate. The goal is to enable them to gain autonomy at the end of a training course which also includes an apprenticeship in entrepreneurship, savings and credit as well as the formation of cooperatives ...

The two-year training culminates in the granting of a patent and the award of a sewing machine to the laureates. The acquisition of this machine will allow them to open a workshop, have a professional activity and take charge of themselves.



Cutting and sewing course



Literacy course

# AGENDA of the Sacred Heart Family



## Another COVID year ?

Due to COVID pandemic, many of the 2020 meetings have been cancelled and, in some cases, postponed for another year.

As the year 2021 opens up with uncertain prospects, several of the major meetings we are pointing out to you will be held by Zoom, or are still uncertain.

But, let's keep our hearts high. Life goes on and so do the ties that unite us.

## RSCJ

**November 2021, in Malaga (Spain)**

### **SPECIAL CHAPTER OF THE SACRED HEART SOCIETY**

Originally planned for February 2021, this important chapter, on the organisation of the Society of the Sacred Heart in the future, was postponed to November to allow for the physical presence of the capitulants.

Cf. the site : [www.rscjinternational.org](http://www.rscjinternational.org)

*We recommend it to your prayers..*

## CONTINENTAL MEETINGS

### **Xth "ELASC" MEETING**

The event bringing together Latin American associations that was planned for May 2020 could not take place. There is talk of it being organised by zoom during the year 2021.

**Information from Rosa Cristina Jaramillo**  
[latam@amasc-sacrecoeur.net](mailto:latam@amasc-sacrecoeur.net)

**From 6 to 9 October 2021 in Tours (France)**

### **IIIrd EUROPEAN MEETING**

on the theme of *Discovering the Châteaux de la Loire*. Cancelled in 2020, let's hope it can be maintained this year.

**Information from Pilar Grassa :**  
[eu@amasc-sacrecoeur.net](mailto:eu@amasc-sacrecoeur.net)

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

**From April 22 to 25, in Detroit (Michigan)**

### **43RD NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AASH**

during which the next board of the USA association, which has more than 40,000 members, will be elected for a 2-year term. Except for the members of the board, this will take place by zoom.

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

### **End of october 2021**

The National Presidents are kindly reminded that their contribution to the AMASC Newsletter, by sending an annual report on their activities, is not an option, but a statutory obligation, as it is the only way for our associations to feel united with each other, enabling them to get to know each other's lives.

As a reminder, here are the main guidelines:  
a report of no more than 300 words describing the work done by each national association, such as activities, events and/or projects taken place during the year, with an inclusion of two or three pictures to enhance the content of it.

**deadline for submission of texts :**

**1 October 2021 to:**

Alicia Moreyra : [hosp@amasc-sacrecoeur.net](mailto:hosp@amasc-sacrecoeur.net)