



Announcing the Year of Prayer

November 13, 2017

Dear Heads of School and AMASC Presidents around the world,

As you may have been alerted by RSCJ colleagues and friends, the Bicentennial Year of Prayer in honor of Philippine Duchesne will begin in one week. Every Monday from November 20, 2017 to November 19, 2018 the worldwide family of the Sacred Heart will be united together in prayer and reflection. Thanks to regional editors, Françoise Greffe, RSCJ (France), Kim King, RSCJ (Canada), Elizabeth Nakayiza, RSCJ (Uganda), and Park Jeong Mi, RSCJ (Korea), the collection of reflections represents nearly all the countries where we are located. The subjects of these reflections are as varied as the background of the writers: friendship, suffering, loss, courage, boundaries, perseverance, hope. The styles include prose, poetry and prayer, and each reflection is accompanied by an image.

Sister Barbara Dawson and her Council have invited the whole family of the Sacred Heart to enter the Year of Prayer, to be and to act as one Body, and to create space and silence to listen to the heartbeat of God. What a wonderful way to celebrate Philippine Duchesne, known affectionately as “the woman who prays always.”

Philippine kept a journal, a spiritual practice which helped her become ever more attentive to the inner stirrings of her heart. A week or so before the Year of Prayer begins, a pdf journal will be provided on RSCJ.org for those who wish – either to download or to complete on line. The use of social media will also be encouraged throughout the world so that insights might be shared among us across our geographic frontiers.

Please help us to reach the whole of our Sacred Heart family. Each week, a new reflection will be posted on the rscj.org and rscjinternational.org websites and will also be sent by email to as many Heads of School and AMASC Presidents for whom we can find an email address. We hope it will be possible for you or a member of your staff to resend the reflection to all of your constituencies: board members, faculty, parents, students and alumni/ae. We have made a similar request to the Provincials to reach RSCJ, colleagues in ministry, Associates, Children of Mary, donors, friends, and so on. You are also welcome and encouraged to post the weekly reflection on your own website.

I also urge you to explore the bicentennial website (RSCJ.org/bicentennial2018) for news of coming events and for numerous resources: a short Philippine biography, images, music, lesson plans, pilgrimage options, etc., to enrich your celebration of the Bicentennial Year.

Thank you for helping to make the Year of Prayer a time of grace for all of us.

With gratitude,

Kathleen Hughes RSCJ

In the name of the Bicentennial Committee

The Bicentennial Committee:

Hilda Adams, Linda Behrens, Donna Collins, RSCJ, Jan Dunn, RSCJ, Charla Dziedzic, Maureen Glavin, RSCJ, Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, Bill Hobbs, Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ Catherine Howard, Maggie Kaspura, Michael Pera, Pam Schaeffer