**REPORT OF**

**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SACRED HEART SCHOOLS**

**CORE TEAM MEETING**

**MARCH 24th -25th NEWCASTLE, UK**

**Introduction**

The Core Team of the European Network of Sacred Heart Schools met in Newcastle 24th-25th March 2017.

The current members of the Core Team are Reinhard Hallwirth, Headteacher of Sacré Coeur Gymnasium, Vienna, (President); Christophe Corda, Headteacher of Nantes (Vice President); Hilary Thompson, Coordinator for England and Wales (Secretary); Mary Shiel RSCJ, representative of Ireland, Scotland and Malta Network; Dorothy MacGinty, Headmistress, Kilgraston, Scotland (Vice Secretary), Javier Usoz, Member of Coordination Team for Spain (Vic**e Treasurer**); Birgit Gmeindl-Oser, Coordinator for Central Europe (Treasurer); Mariolina Cervelli, Network Coordinator,Istituto Sacro Cuore della Trinità, Rome. Gail MacFadden, Head of Pastoral and Boarding, Kilgraston, Scotland. Lorena Cantero Portilla, Exchange Coordinator, Istituto Sacro Cuore, Trinità, Rome joined the group for this session

## Ann Miller of San Francisco acted as Facilitator.

## Apologies were received from Maria Luisa Campa, Headteacher of Istituto Sacro Cuore della Trinità dei Monti, Rome; Christophe Blanchard, Head of the French Tutelle.

**European Heads Meeting – Placeres – October 5-8, 2017**

Most of the meeting was taken up again with discussion of the European Heads Meeting which is scheduled to take place in Placeres October 5-8, 2017, with the main meeting times on October 6th & 7th.

Javier reported that invitations had gone out and replies were coming in. He encouraged all present to ask colleagues to send in confirmations promptly. He also promoted the option of staying at the school as so much will be happening there. There were discussions about the possibility of inviting delegates from further afield. The host team’s plans for the logistics and timetable of the Conference were outlined.

The theme of the session, Heart and Mission, has been announced. Javier confirmed that Mariola Lopez RSCJ and Paloma Fernandez de la Hoz RSCJ will be the main speakers. Sister Mariola’s topic will be Educating from the Heart – Interiority and Every Day Life. Sister Paloma’s topic will focus on Mission, particularly: our educational mission in the light of Laudato Si – reflecting on our common home as a Gift and a Task.

The workshops to be offered were discussed again: Erasmus, Social Media, and Identity as a Sacred Heart School after the RSCJ, Interiority, St Philippine Duchesne. Various suggestions were made about who might lead these and what their focus might be. All the workshops will be bilingual, English/French or English/Spanish. Javier will follow these up.

**The Coreteam are most grateful for all the Host team, Javier and the Spanish Network Team are doing to prepare our conference.**

**Networks of Sacred Heart Europe**

Each member of the group gave updates on current activities in their networks/schools.

**Spain**: the new united network continues to develop, with its Network Team comprised of 2 RSCJ and 3 lay people working across the 15 schools. A Goal is that in each school there is a strong team sharing leadership. Javier advised us that he will retire at the end of this year. We will miss his kindness, wisdom and leadership

**France:** Christophe reported on behalf of the Head of the Tutelle, who was involved in Headteacher appointments. He also spoke of the success of the Faces of the Heart Summer Camp in 2016: <http://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/news> and Erasmus project on immigration between Nantes, Armagh, Dublin and Saragossa. The final meeting was to be in May in Armagh. <http://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/european> The school in Nantes is to be renovated, with completion due in September 2018.

**Italy:** Repeated its appreciation of the connections with the Sacred Heart Schools across Europe and the benefits to Sacred Heart Rome arising out of such connections, such as exchange of ideas, resources, students and being involved in the Joigny sessions. There is a new community managing the property at Trinità dei Monti and it is happy for the Istituto Sacro Cuore to keep their identity as a school of the Sacred Heart. The Comunità Dell’Emmanuele is an international Catholic community of laity and priests, founded in France.

**Central European Network:** The CEU Sacré Coeur curriculum development programme continues without the involvement, as in the past, of the RSCJ. The network is going to mark the 10th anniversary of the initiation of the programme. Coinciding with an exchange visit from Chicago, the CEU’s most recent meeting benefitted from a visiting teacher’s presentation of the Goals as implemented in the US. In Vienna a school founded by another congregation has asked to be considered for the CEU Sacred Heart network. Reinhard has initiated a programme of introduction and consideration of that request in collaboration with the RSCJ.

**Ireland/Scotland/Malta:** Mary Shiel reported on the Irish, Scottish, and Malta Network, mentioning the focus this year on the use of social media to promote both the Sacred Heart Goals and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Gail McFadden mentioned the Kilgraston trip to Rome and a future expedition to India, as well as their exchange programme with Marmoutier, France. She mentioned the school will miss the presence of the RSCJ when a project near the school closes.

**England and Wales:** Highlights have been the Headteachers’ meeting/retreat in Joigny, launching our new Goals Statement and Logo, the Newcastle visit to the RSCJ led school in Kibera, Kenya, and the third gathering of the schools for Heartfest 3; in 2017-2018 Woldingham in particular will be marking the 175th anniversary of their foundation when the RSCJ first came to England.

**Activities across the European Network and beyond**

**Exchanges** Please remember the possibility of exchange across the network. <http://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/exchange>

<http://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/#!teacher-exchange/c1w9s>

**Website of European Network** sacrecoeur-europe.net

Please send us articles about your Sacred Heart projects and exchanges

We updated the contacts on our website. Please let us know of any changes

It is always good to have someone other than the Headteacher to contact, for example a network and/or an exchange coordinator, and, if you have not already, we would appreciate it if you would be so kind as to advise us who might serve in that position in your school.

New email addresses

Please use our new email addresses:

[coreteam@sacrecoeur-europe.net](mailto:coreteam@sacrecoeur-europe.net)

[network@sacrecoeur-europe.net](mailto:network@sacrecoeur-europe.net)

**Joigny**

The next Joigny session, Une rencontre avec Madeleine Sophie, for European Sacred Heart Educators will take place from **Wednesday 15th-18th November 2017.** If you are interested registration comes through Headteachers to your own Network Coordinators. The cost will be 210€ Contact [network@sacrecoeur-europe.net](mailto:network@sacrecoeur-europe.net%20)  for any further information.

Scroll down for **October 2016 session** at this link <http://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/european>

**Philippine Duchesne Celebrations and our International Prayer Project**

The USC Province are planning many events to celebrate Philippine Duchesne coming to the United States, to which all will be welcome. See this link <https://rscj.org/bicentennial2018>

Of most interest to schools in Europe will be the Global Day of Service on September 15th 2018. More details will follow. Our next European Philippine Prayer Project will be linked to the bicentenary in some way.

**European Network Finances**

The current Balance of the European Network fund is 4269.76 Euros. We acknowledge warmly the support of AMASC Europe and Austria for their generous support of our work. The money will be used primarily to support the website.

**Gratitude**

The European Coreteam are most grateful for the generosity, guidance and leadership of our facilitator Ann Miller, who has worked with us since 2010, stepped down from being the facilitator at our meeting in Newcastle but remains a close, great friend and supporter of each of us and the Network.