**Testimonial Report Teachers Exchange Sacred Heart Schools**

**(Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, Washington, USA**

**Sacred Heart Grammar School Vienna, Austria)**

When we first heard about the possibility of a teacher exchange program in History between our two schools, we were very open to this experiment. Now after the first mutual exchange we are even more enthusiastic about this project. We also see it as a chance for us to bear witness to the value of such programs, and to promote further steps in the global exchange program of the Sacred Heart Schools around the world.

Our aim is to report and outline the importance of our professional development to other colleagues. It gave us enormous enrichment in the different perspectives of how the Five Goals of Sared Heart Education are implemented in the daily life of the different schools. We widened our perspective on how to implement the Sacred Heart goals in our daily work and were able to gather new ideas about how we could adapt the goals in our teaching. For both of us, the universal and ubiquitous presence of the Five Goals was impressive and gave us new motivation and insight as Sacred Heart educators.

It enriched us as teachers, because we both benefitted from learning and adjusting to a variety of logistical and pedagogical approaches in two different school systems. The positive outcome is that we both are much more open to change, to new technologies and teaching styles and can adapt these in the development processes of our own schools.

For both of us, it was also beneficial and challenging to introduce material and content with which we were familiar to the audience in the host countries. Therefore we could expand our horizon and observe the different awareness of history on both continents. Our students also benefitted greatly from the new viewpoints that their own teacher and curriculum might never have otherwise provided.

The exchange of experiences brought, for us, the technical terms “global education and learning” and “global exchange” into a practical field. We continue our work and still exchange materials and also teach each others’ classes via Skype.

The Washington-Vienna exchange has gotten off to a wonderful start, and we hope our colleagues in the Sacred Heart Network will consider widening their professional, intellectual and spiritual relationships around the world.

But we have one important message to all Sacred Heart decision-makers: Through the exchange we found new friends and families in different schools and became more motivated and convinced SC- Educators.

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