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## LIFE AT THE SACRED HEART FOR ADULTS

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Life in a Sacred Heart school is rooted in Christian love. The spirit is one of courage and generosity. The educational philosophy of the Sacred Heart is rooted in the message of Jesus Christ and the vision of Saint Madeleine Sophie.

Being a Sacred Heart educator is a way of life which calls you to change, and like Jesus, grow in "wisdom, age, and grace." Wherever you go, whatever road you may travel, you will always find a home at the Sacred Heart. Your relationships will endure and transcend all confines of time and space because they are founded on faith, hope and love. As an "educator of the Sacred Heart", by living in the mystery of your name, you make known to others the love of God as shown forth in the heart of Christ. "By the love you have for one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."

Centered in God, your response will be to act in justice and love.

Genuine love always takes the form of service. In a world plagued by injustice, torn by violence and fear, you must stand by the most wounded and needy. At a school of the Sacred Heart, you will learn to take little steps and big steps in order to set God's kingdom right. You will learn to extend to all you meet in our multicultural society the respect and sensitive kindness you have received yourself.

Social justice issues are studied at every level as part of the curriculum. Your studies will help you to attain knowledge about social and moral issues. But knowledge of injustices is not enough.

You will be given opportunities to reach out directly to the needy - collecting food for the hungry, working with the elderly, tutoring the young, comforting the sick.

Sacred Heart education aspires to make you open-eyed, alert to the needs of others, generous and courageous in service. "If anyone asks you to walk a mile, walk two," Jesus told his disciples. This attitude of generosity is the aim of your education.

You are an educator of the Sacred Heart. Some of you are here for the first time, some have been so for many years. The duration does not matter. What is important is that you are an "educator of the Sacred Heart", and will always thus be known by God.

This name reminds you that you are a part of a Network of schools and are linked to Sacred Heart educators on all continents.

St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, Foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart, once said, "for the sake of one child, I would have founded the Society, In a true sense, that one child is in your hands.

Coming to a Sacred Heart school, you have entered into a family and have come to a home. Jesus often used the image of home. "Make your home in me," he told his followers, "As I make mine in you." By coming to a school of the Sacred Heart, you have become a part of a family. Accept with gratitude all those in your school community. From them and with them, you can learn what love is. Through giving and receiving, you will foster the caring atmosphere that permeates your Sacred Heart home.

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Be grateful for all faculty, staff, students, parents and alumnae/i. Be thankful and show your gratitude by being attentive to all with whom you share life daily. Let God speak to you in people and in events.



### A Prayer St. Madeleine Sophie Recited Every Day

Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
give me a heart that is one with your own;  
a humble heart  
that knows and loves its nothingness;  
a gentle heart  
that holds and calms its own anxieties;  
a loving heart  
that has compassion for the suffering of others;  
a pure heart  
that recoils even at the appearance of evil;  
a detached heart

that longs for nothing other than the goodness of heaven;  
a heart detached from self-love and embraced by the love of God,  
its attention focused on God,  
its goodness is its only treasure  
in time and in eternity.

Amen