

WHAT'S NEW IN 2005

ABOUT THE CONTEXT . . .

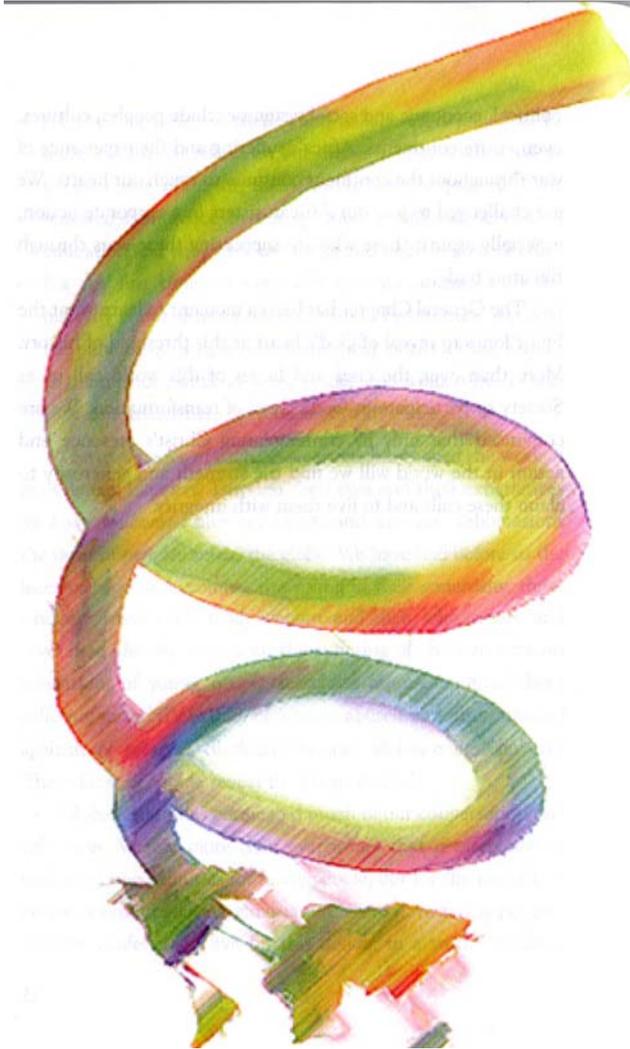
INTRODUCTION . . .

In 2000 the Society of the Sacred Heart held a General Chapter, an international meeting of delegates of its members. Its purpose was to examine **the context today for the Society's mission**. Through the eyes and experiences of the delegates, the Chapter

- *...welcomed into our hearts and into our deliberations **the faces of peoples across the globe**. We have had before us the faces of hope and promise, the young in their generosity, those who are restless for God, women and men who create and reverence life. We have seen the **suffering of children** without education, of young people searching for meaning, of those suffering from HIV/AIDS, **of women** abused and discriminated against, **of refugees** displaced by **war, violence and poverty**. These faces of people reveal the Heart of God.[\[1\]](#)*

[\[1\]](#) Society of the Sacred Heart *General Chapter 2000* Introduction, (Amiens, France, August 2000) p.14.

Society's General Chapter 2000



CALLS

An Education That Transforms

We are called

- to participate in God's work of transformation of persons and societies; we renew our commitment to the service of education which is confided to us by the Church
- to live our service of education with a strong corporate sense.

From Collaboration to Reciprocity

We are called

- to collaborate in reciprocity with all the people with whom we share life and mission.

From Meeting to Dialogue of Cultures

We are called

- to respond to God present in the heart of the world
- to expand our understanding of what it means to belong to a multicultural community
- to learn to live interculturality among ourselves, with others and in all that we do.

. . . CONTEXT . . .

- September 11, 2001 forever changed our context. The threat of **terrorism** in our world, the **corporate greed and scandals** in our country and a **sense of entitlement** in its citizens can drain us of hope.
- At times honesty and integrity in daily life seem to be **forgotten virtues**.
- The innovations of **technology** have connected persons in newer, faster ways, but this instant networking can depersonalize communication.
- **Environmental concerns** seem not to get the attention they should be demanding of our governments.
- Globalization does not always clarify our interdependence; **globalization** too often brings new burdens for the poor of the world.
- **The Roman Catholic Church** finds itself profoundly challenged by internal and external factors. **The meaning of faithful membership** can sometimes be lost in rhetorical arguments rather than in being firmly rooted in one's relationship with God. The **shortage of ordained ministers** endangers sacramental life.
- We recognize we have much to learn about **the spiritualities other faith traditions** offer.

ABOUT THE CONTENTS . . .

The “foundational principles” contained in this document are **non-negotiable elements** for being a Sacred Heart school. It is the expectation that these foundational principles be a part of a school community’s reflection when it evaluates its life during the SHCOG process.

As with the Criteria, their **order** in the list does **not** signify **importance**; each foundational principle and each criterion is **as important as any other one**.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

1. In the *Goals and Criteria*, the Society of the Sacred Heart defines **the mission of the school** as part of the Society's educational mission in the Catholic Church.
2. Each school is **accountable to the Society** through the Sacred Heart Commission on Goals for adherence to the *Goals and Criteria*.
3. The school's Board of Trustees and Administration establish and uphold **policies that are consistent with the *Goals and Criteria***.
4. The school allocates its **resources to support each Goal and its *Criteria***.
5. The school is in compliance with **professional standards as stated by accrediting agencies**.

GOAL ONE

Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to a personal and active faith in God.

1. Rooted in the love of Jesus Christ, the school promotes a personal [relationship with God](#) and [fosters the spiritual lives of its members](#). [1.](#)
2. The school seeks to form its students in the attitudes of the heart of Jesus expressed in respect, compassion, forgiveness and generosity. [new](#)
3. The [entire school program](#) explores one's relationship to God, to self, to others, and to all creation. [4](#)
4. [Opening themselves](#) to the [transforming power of the Spirit of God](#), members of the school community engage in personal and communal prayer, reflection and action. [1.](#)
5. The entire school program affirms that there is meaning and value in life and fosters a sense of hope in the individual and in the school community. [2.](#)
6. The school fosters inter-religious acceptance and dialogue by educating to an understanding of and deep respect for the religions of the world. [5.](#)
7. The school presents itself to the wider community as a Christ-centered institution and as [an expression of the mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart](#). [6.](#)

GOAL TWO

Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to a deep respect for intellectual values.

1. The school develops and implements a curriculum based on the *Goals and Criteria*, educational research and ongoing evaluation. 2.
2. The school provides a rigorous education that incorporates **all forms of critical thinking** and inspires a life-long love of learning. 1,5
3. The school program develops aesthetic values and the creative use of the imagination. 4.
4. The faculty utilizes a variety of teaching and learning strategies that recognizes the individual needs of the students. 6.
5. The school provides ongoing professional development for faculty and staff. 7.
6. Members of the school community **model and teach ethical and respectful** use of technology. 3, new

GOAL THREE

Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to a social awareness which impels to action.

1. The school educates to a critical consciousness that leads its total community to analyze and reflect on the values of society and to **act for justice**. 1.
2. The school offers all its members opportunities for **direct service** and **advocacy** and instills a life-long commitment to service. 5.
3. The school is linked in a reciprocal manner with ministries among **people who are** poor, marginalized and **suffering from injustice**.3,6
4. In our multicultural world, the school prepares and **inspires students to be active**, informed, and responsible citizens locally, nationally, and globally. 2,3
5. The school teaches respect for creation and prepares students to be stewards of the earth's resources. 4

7. Foundational Principle #4

GOAL FOUR

Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to the building of community as a Christian value.

1. The school implements **an ongoing plan for educating** both adults and students in the heritage and mission of Sacred Heart education. **6**
2. **The school promotes a safe and welcoming environment in which each person is valued, cared for and respected.** *new*
3. Adult members of the school model and teach skills needed to build community and practice clear, direct and open communication. **1.**
4. **The school has programs that teach the principles of nonviolence, conflict resolution and peacemaking.** *new*
5. The school makes a deliberate effort to **recruit** students and employ faculty and staff of diverse races, ethnicities and backgrounds. **4,5**
6. The financial aid program effectively supports socioeconomic diversity. **4**
7. The school participates actively in the national and international networks of Sacred Heart schools. **7.**

2. obsolete

3. Foundational Principle

8. Goal Three, criterion 4.

GOAL FIVE

Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom.

1. All members of the school community show respect, acceptance and concern **for themselves** and for others. **1.**
2. School policies and practices promote self-discipline, responsible decision-making, and **accountability**. **4.**
3. Students grow in **self-knowledge** and develop self-confidence as they learn to deal realistically with their gifts and limitations. **2.**
4. School programs provide for recognizing, nurturing and exercising leadership **in its many forms**. **5.**
5. The school provides opportunities for all members of the community to share their knowledge and gifts with others. **3.**
6. All members of the school community take personal responsibility for **balance in their lives** and for their health and well-being. **6, new**

END OF INTRODUCTION

Let us accept the invitation
to **probe the depths** of the *Goals and Criteria*
that they might be prophetic orientations leading
us to **hope**,

- a hope that believes in the goodness of each individual,
- a hope that believes in the goodness of humanity,
- **a hope that believes in and trusts the love of the Heart of God.**

Independent but never isolated, every Sacred Heart school needs to feel the strength of belonging to a larger whole, sharing principles and values, broad purposes, hopes and ambitions. (*Preamble to The Goals and Criteria, 1975*)

