



Josephinum Academy Becomes the Twenty-Second Full Member of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools

“On behalf of the whole Provincial Team of the Society of the Sacred Heart, we are delighted and honored to affirm Josephinum Academy as a Sacred Heart school.”

-Sr. Paula Toner, RSCJ, Provincial, Society of the Sacred Heart, US Province in her letter to the Josephinum Community.

On April 11, 2011, the membership of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools voted unanimously to promote Josephinum Academy to full membership within the network. Over the past three years the Josephinum community has engaged in a rigorous process of preparation and reflection, culminating in a five day visit from the Sacred Heart Commission on Goals in November.

In 1990, the Religious of the Sacred Heart answered the call of the Sisters of Christian Charity to assume the educational direction for Josephinum Academy, a struggling inner city school with a rich history of serving young women of Chicago. Since then, the school has been revitalized under the leadership of three RSCJ principals and the strong support of the Sacred Heart community in Chicago.

The results of Sacred Heart education at Josephinum are inspiring. Since 2007, 100 percent of Josephinum’s graduates have been accepted into college, most of them being the first generation in their families to attend. This year’s senior class of thirty students has already been awarded more than \$1.5 million dollars in college scholarships.

More inspiring, the values of Sacred Heart education are finding a home in the hearts of the students. When asked what Sacred Heart education means to her, senior Corina Perez answered with a word, “Everything,” then explained, “It has meant my life, my friends, my teachers, my values, who I am as woman and who I am called to be.”



“We are thrilled by Josephinum’s recognition as a full member of the Sacred Heart Network of Schools. We are proud to join a community that is respected for its academic excellence and shared commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education. We are especially grateful for the Sisters of Christian Charity, the Society of the Sacred Heart, and all the members of the Josephinum community, past and present, who have made this exciting opportunity possible.”

Michael Dougherty, President
Josephinum Academy



Josephinum's Journey to Becoming a Sacred Heart School: A Shared History Leads to a Renewed Collaboration

Founded by the Sisters of Christian Charity (SCC), Josephinum Academy has educated young women of Chicago for over 120 years. While the collaboration between the SCC and Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) is relatively recent at Josephinum, there is a rich history of relationship between the two religious communities, dating back to their founders.

The founder of the Sisters of Christian Charity, Pauline Von Mallinckrodt opened a school for blind children in her hometown Paderborn, Germany when she was then just a lay volunteer. In 1846, she traveled to France to visit and witness the work of Mother Madeleine Sophie Barat and her recently founded order, the Society of the Sacred Heart. During her time with the RSCJ, Pauline was deeply inspired. She wrote, "Madame Barat is a most prudently saintly woman, and manifold are the virtues of her spiritual daughters. Everything I saw tended to my instruction and edification."

Madeleine Sophie welcomed Pauline and agreed to send some of her religious to

help with the school. However, the German government would not allow a French order to take over a German institution. Under the counsel of her local bishop, Pauline ultimately resolved to form her own religious congregation. What she learned from her time with Mother Barat and her Society helped guide Pauline in the formation of the Sisters of Christian Charity in 1849.

In the 1980s in Chicago, many Catholic schools, especially those in the inner city, were struggling to survive. Sr. Andre Blanchard, then the Provincial of the SCC, was determined that Josephinum would thrive and was resolute in her belief that the mission of the school would remain strong for future young women. She was very proactive in creating the first lay board of directors for a high school in the Archdiocese of Chicago, which would assume fiscal and governing responsibilities for the school.

In 1987, after almost 100 years of stewardship at Josephinum, the Sisters

of Christian Charity no longer had one of their own religious who was available to act as Principal. After a long search, Bonnie Kearney, RSCJ agreed to take on this responsibility. Those who had recruited Sister Bonnie reminded her that she would be making good on a promise to help made by her order's foundress in 1846.

And so the SCC-RSCJ bond was renewed when they formally agreed to collaborate at Josephinum. The shared history between the two religious orders provided for a natural and seamless integration of Sacred Heart Goals and Criteria with the traditions and values of the SCC, who remain vital supporters and an integral part of the school. Sister Bonnie Kearney was succeeded by Sister Donna Collins, RSCJ, who was essential in the long campaign for the school to be part of the Network – she ensured that Josephinum became an associate member of the Network in 2002, and passed on her mission to Martha Roughan, RSCJ, who succeeded her at Josephinum in 2003.



"At this joyful juncture I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude to see all of those many individuals past and present who cared deeply, worked so very hard, and gave so generously – all led by dear Sister Andre in a rousing 'Alleluia Chorus.'"

Helen Bruns Ryan is an alumna of the Sacred Heart Network (Woodlands Academy.) She became a member of the original board of directors at Josephinum at the request of then SCC Provincial Sr. Andre Blanchard. Her unceasing dedication to Josephinum continues to inspire all of those involved with the school.

"We are grateful for the collaboration of the board, the RSCJ and the SCC to continue the mission of the Josephinum. The Goals and Criteria, which binds the schools together, are wonderful Catholic values to educate the whole person. The opportunities for the staff and students to build and to belong to a community of schools is enriching to all."

Sr. Janice Boyer, SCC was on the Josephinum Board of Directors and is the Provincial of the SCC Western Province in Wilmette, Illinois.

"My years here were some of the best of my teaching life. I was amazed by students who had no idea they were really gifted, who found themselves and learned to believe in themselves here."

Sr. Pam Hickey, RSCJ was the first RSCJ to arrive at Josephinum along with Bonnie Kearney in 1990 and retired just a few years ago. She spent most of her time at the school as a student counselor but was also a teacher and a personal tutor. An alumna of Sacred Heart Schools in Chicago, she is also the 2011 recipient of the Sr. Catherine I. Seiker, RSCJ Award.

"I believe Josephinum is a rounding out and completion of the mission of the Sacred Heart Network. I saw coming to work at Josephinum as being true to our roots and educational principles, with the belief that everyone has a right to a good education, regardless of ability to pay."

Sr. Martha Roughan, RSCJ was principal of Josephinum from 2003-2008. She helped introduce many of the Sacred Heart traditions Josephinum students know and love today. She now works at the Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton, California.



1846
Pauline von Mallinckrodt travels from Germany to stay with a friend at the Sacred Heart convent in France. She is inspired by Mother Barat's work there, writing, "Madame Barat is a most prudently saintly woman... Everything I saw tended to my instruction and edification. All this was a special favor from God; I learned things which were to be of great use to me later on." She asks Mother Barat for assistance with her work with the blind, but due to laws at the time, the RSCJ are not permitted to work at the German school. Nevertheless, Mother Barat and the RSCJ serve as a guide and inspiration for Pauline to start her own order.



1849
After her visit with Madeleine Sophie Barat and through the encouragement of her local bishop, Pauline starts her own order in Germany: **The Sisters of Christian Charity (SCC).**

1884
The SCC arrive in Chicago to serve at St. Aloysius Parish.

1873
The SCC leave Germany due to new laws restricting religious education. They arrive in the United States to continue their mission to serve and educate the poor and disadvantaged.

1886
Mother Philomena Schittiel, American Superior of the SCC, buries a small statue of St. Joseph across from St. Aloysius Church signifying their intention to build Josephinum Academy.

1890
Josephinum's doors open to educate 76 young women. Josephinum serves as the Midwest headquarters for the SCC until 1915 when they move to Wilmette.

1923
Josephinum Academy's name is changed to Josephinum High School at the request of Archbishop George Mundelein to reflect its new mission to serve as a regional day school.



Photo from 1958 of Josephinum's "Old" and "New" buildings side by side.

1958
The "New Building" at Josephinum is built to replace the structure built in 1890. The Jo's original building was beautiful and ornate, but fell into disrepair and couldn't hold all of its 600 students. At a time when most Catholic schools were migrating out of the inner city neighborhoods, the SCC choose stay in Wicker Park even as the population is changing. The "Old Building" is eventually torn down in 1967.

1985
Pauline von Mallinckrodt is beatified by Pope John Paul II.
Josephinum's leadership is turned over to an independent Board of Directors.

Josephinum is named an Associate Member of the Sacred Heart Network of Schools.

2002
2004
Josephinum's Board of Directors votes to change the school name back to Josephinum Academy to reflect a renewed emphasis on academics and college prep.



1818
Rose Phillippine Duchesne brings the Society of the Sacred Heart to the United States.



Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat (1779-1865)

1858
The first RSCJ arrive in Chicago. Mother Margaret Galwey founds what is now Woodlands Academy.

1876
Sacred Heart Schools (Sheridan Road) founded by RSCJ in Chicago.

One of Saint Rose Phillippine Duchesne's goals was to open free schools for the Native Americans alongside the "Academies" for the children of European settlers. Josephinum is a fulfillment of her wish to provide a quality education to all.

1925
Madeleine Sophie Barat is canonized as a Saint by Pope Pius XI.



Saint Rose Phillippine Duchesne (1769-1852)

1988

Bonnie Kearney, RSCJ is appointed as the Principal of Josephinum and is the first RSCJ to arrive there. She is succeeded as principal by Donna Collins, RSCJ (1996) and Martha Roughan, RSCJ (2003).

1990

Josephinum Academy is declared an official member of the Sacred Heart Network of Schools, becoming the 22nd official member in the United States.

2011

1801

SCC
RSCJ

Quick Facts About Josephinum:

Founded in **1890**, Josephinum is an urban Catholic college preparatory school that educates young women through the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Education.

Josephinum's full tuition for the 2011-2012 school year is **\$4,500** and **95%** of students receive financial assistance and scholarships.

Students demonstrate their commitment to education by commuting to school from **37** different ZIP Codes.

85% of the cost of education is funded through the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporations.

Josephinum students are **47%** African American, **46%** Latina, **5%** white, and **2%** multiracial.

All graduates complete a minimum of **26.5** credits, a 10 page senior capstone paper, and **60** hours of community service as part of their curriculum.

Students are challenged by a rigorous college preparatory curriculum and have the opportunity to take college level (AP) courses in Biology, English, Spanish and Calculus.

The student to teacher ratio is **8:1**. Small class sizes (average **18**) enable teachers to give personal attention to every student.

Students learn the value of service through participation in school-wide community service days.

Since 2007, **100%** of Josephinum's graduates have been accepted into college.

Josephinum's Class of 2011 was awarded more than **\$1.5 million** in college scholarships. Recent graduates have been awarded full scholarships to University of Chicago, Loyola University, Pomona College and Carleton College.

Support Sacred Heart Education at Josephinum:

Donate

Josephinum accepts donations at any level and all gifts are appreciated. Donate online at www.josephinum.org. You can also mail a contribution made payable to Josephinum Academy in support of scholarships or other programs. Remember to check with your employer if they are a matching gift company.

Remember

Remember Josephinum Academy in your will or estate plans. Consider naming Josephinum as a beneficiary of your insurance policies.

Lead

Josephinum is governed by an independent board of volunteer trustees and depends upon members of the advisory committee for professional guidance.

Spread the Word

Tell people you know about the great things happening at Josephinum. Become a fan of Josephinum Academy on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. Tell your friends to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter through the Josephinum website.

Volunteer

Josephinum depends on volunteers. Offer your help with a range of opportunities including tutoring, substitute teaching, nursing, coaching, gardening, maintenance projects, and much more.

For more information on how you can get involved, visit www.josephinum.org, email morgan.henington@josephinum.org or call (773) 292-3964 ext. 232.