

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART
UNITED STATES PROVINCE

4389 West Pine Boulevard
St. Louis, MO
Phone (314) 652-1500
Fax (314) 534-6800

Press Release

Contact: Sister Paula Toner
Phone: (314) 412-4591

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8 A.M. CDT, August 11, 2008

PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR OF U.S. ELECTED SUPERIOR GENERAL

ST. LOUIS, MO - Sister Kathleen Conan, provincial superior of the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States Province, was elected superior general of the international Society of the Sacred Heart in Lima, Peru. In her new role, Sister Conan will oversee the communities and work of her religious order in 44 countries on six continents from the Society's international headquarters in Rome.

Sister Conan succeeds Sister Clare Pratt, also from the United States, and becomes the second superior general from the U.S. in the Society's 208-year history. She will serve a term of eight years beginning this fall.

Sister Conan, a native of DeWitt, N.Y., has been provincial of the U.S. Province for the past three years following years of work in the formation program for new members of the congregation, both in the United States and for five years in Rome. She is fluent in French and Spanish.

~ MORE ~

U.S. Provincial elected Superior General

Prior to working in formation and provincial leadership, Sister Conan served as a teacher and administrator in Sacred Heart schools in New York, Michigan and Connecticut.

Sister Conan was raised in DeWitt, outside of Syracuse, where she attended Jamesville-DeWitt High School. She received her B.A. from Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York, which was operated by the Society of the Sacred Heart at that time, an M.A. in theology from Boston College and an M.S. in administration from the University of Notre Dame.

The Society of the Sacred Heart is a Catholic congregation of women who are known as Religious of the Sacred Heart. The Society was founded in France in 1800 by St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. Its service in the Church is education. Alumnae/i of Sacred Heart schools and colleges worldwide include some 50,000 in the United States.

Internationally, the Society has approximately 2,750 members, in 32 Provinces, in 44 countries and on six continents. The superior general governs with at least three general council members who will be appointed by Sister Conan in the coming days. The General Chapter, which elected her, is composed of delegates from every province and is the highest governing body of the congregation. It meets every eight years in a different part of the world, and among its primary functions is the

~ MORE ~

U.S. Provincial elected Superior General

election of a new leader. It also nominates a number of candidates to the general council; from these nominees the superior general chooses her councilors.

The 2008 General Chapter in Lima, Peru, concludes August 20, after which Sister Conan will return to the United States before assuming her new work in Rome in the fall. The members of the United States Province will now begin the process of nominating a new provincial superior to succeed Sister Conan.

-End-