Dear Carrollton Community,

In August we opened the year with a focus on the concepts of Stewardship and Hope. At the time, my intention was to prepare our community to host the International Heads of Sacred Heart Schools Conference in April, scheduled to begin on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day with a theme of Caring for our Common Home. Who could have predicted that those same words would be a solid focus for our response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic? Although the conference is deferred, the intention remains important and relevant, as evidenced in two emails I received at the end of last week.

A letter from Barbara Dawson, RSCJ and the General Council in Rome shared an invitation from Pope Francis to join together with him and people of faith and hope everywhere to participate in Laudato Si Week from May 16 – 24. In her letter Sr. Dawson suggests that participating in this opportunity could be a way of preparing ourselves for the Feast of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat on May 25. She writes: "Right now we starkly recognize that our common home is threatened on so many levels and the message of Laudato Si is even more prophetic. As we prepare to celebrate Sophie’s day, we might remember that Our charism and mission, to discover and make known the love of Jesus Christ, surged out of a moment of societal crisis. Let’s ask ourselves how this present moment is calling us to live this charism and mission, to contribute in our small way to our common home, with new depth and energy. May Sophie and Francis accompany us.”

To listen to Pope Francis and join the experience of Laudato Si Week, [click here](#).

A letter from Sister Cooke and the members of the Conference of Sacred Heart Education offers this prayer video ([English](#)) ([French](#)) ([Spanish](#)) “in the hope that Sophie’s example may support all of us in our desire to deepen our own capacity for silence and contemplation. We encourage each person to view the video and consider the words of Sophie often in these days leading up to her feast day.”

Although Sophie's Feast Day falls on May 25, we will celebrate it with a live streamed Mass on Thursday May 21st at 11 am, as originally scheduled on our school calendar. You can join us at this [link](#).

As always, I thank you for your continued patience and support of your daughters and the efforts of our faculty and staff. I know that you do this facing the challenge of working from home while taking care of your families and loved ones. We are an exceptional community. Guided by the Goals and Criteria, we faced the beginning of this pandemic with unity of purpose and faith, and we will continue to address the challenges and uncertainties of the middle and end of this pandemic guided by the same. Guided by St. Madeleine Sophie’s example and vision, we will get through this, and we will return to a stronger normal as we make improvements based on lessons learned.

With courage, confidence, and compassion,

Olen

*Let us be kind without weakness, humble without groveling.* – St. Madeleine Sophie Barat