



## Request for Help!

We are seeking family sponsors to host an Italian High School student for one or two weeks starting July 25th this summer. The students will be coming to the United States as part of a new program offered by the Institute of the Sacred Heart in Florence, Italy whereby Students will be able to receive both an Italian and a U.S. High School diploma upon graduation.

**Background:** The Institute of the Sacred Heart (Istituto del Sacro Cuore <http://www.SacroCuore.com>) was founded in Paris, in 1800, by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, and subsequently opened a boarding school for girls in Florence, in 1881. Today, in addition to the female boarding students, the Institute offers a co-ed day school for the local Florence area. The school is operated by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Florence and continues the tradition of excellence in education established by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat so many years ago.

Our daughter, Therese Elizabeth Dodge, a graduate of Seton School (2002) and Christendom College (2006), was introduced to the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Florence while attending Christendom's Rome program during her junior year of college. Following her graduation, she accepted a position with the Institute as the Dorm Mother for the boarding students and in the spring of 2007, she formally joined the Order of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Florence.

The Institute is starting a new elective program in connection with Seton Home Study whereby students may take strenuous series of additional courses in English, U.S. Government, U.S. History, and U.S. Constitution along with two summer educational trips to the United States and earn a US High School diploma along with their Italian High School diploma. This year will be the first year they will be coming to the U.S. Madre Therese now teaches several of the courses offered in the new program.

The students, (ages 14-16 yrs old) will be making their first trip to the U.S. and attending a structured program from July 11th – through July 25<sup>th</sup>. However, several of the students and their parents have expressed the desire for some of the students to stay in USA for another week or two after the program being that they are already here and they want to really improve their English and see a little more of America. It is for these students that we seek sponsor hosts. Madre Therese reports that all the students interested in this additional stay are all good students and will benefit from the additional exposure to the U.S. and American family life.

This offers a wonderful opportunity to interact with and establish a friendship with an Italian student. If you will be willing to host a student, please let us know if you prefer a male or female student.

**General Guidelines:** There are no specific requirements for host families except that during the hosting



period, one parent should be home and the hosting family should take or arrange for the student to get safely to the airport for their return flight to Italy. Other activities will depend upon the hosting families' capabilities, interest and the interest of the student. If possible, providing additional touring opportunities for the student consistent with their interest is desirable.

In the Sacred Hearts,  
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