**Article for Esprit de Coeur**

My French connection with Sacré Cœur and the RSCJ community began when I was only one week old. In September 1960 I was taken into care by the nuns at St. Paul’s Orphanage in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. This orphanage was founded by four French Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres who arrived from France in 1848 to educate and care for the increasing numbers of orphans at that time. St. Paul’s is no longer an orphanage, however the French Sisters’ legacy lives on as St. Paul’s is now an established Catholic private girls’ school community.

In January 1962 I was fortunate enough to be adopted into the Cassin family who lived in the seaside town of Opunake, New Zealand. My Dad, Phillip Cassin was adamant that all his children be given a good Catholic education and so our journey to Melbourne in 1968 saw my sister Teresa (1975) and I enrolled at Sacré Cœur, Glen Iris.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being Secretary for the Alumnae Association for the past five years and I see my new role as Co-President with Kerry Bergin as a continuation of the spirit and values passed on by the French Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres and the RSCJ. I am proud to be part of the Alumnae Association and look forward to developing with Kerry, the wonderful work left by our past President, Marisa Reid. May the Alumnae Association continue to flourish and encourage both the younger and older Alumnae for many more generations!

Co-President – Marianne Cassin (1977)