

# **Ametur**

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## **Newsletter of the Associates of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**

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Dear Associates,

As we enter into this new year, 2023, I would like to share the following for your reflection and prayer. It was written by Anglican Bishop, Phillip Huggins, in a recent meditation on Christmas – *“True love never coerces – a meditation for Christmas 2022”* **Pearls and Irritations**, Dec 22, 2022.



*“Imagine if there was even one day when no one on the planet was killed by someone else.*

*Imagine if we did not need to pray for those who die today, violently and unprepared.*

*Imagine if the United Nations members convened in deep silence for meditation and then resolved to rid the planet of all weapons of mass destruction.*

*Imagine, imagine, imagine.*

*Imagine if the brilliantly conceived Agreements to prevent catastrophic climate change and to protect the beautiful biological diversity of God’s creation*

*(UNCOP27 and UNCOP15), were fully implemented!*

*Imagine if the relentless cruelty being inflicted on the people of Ukraine, mid-winter, was to cease and the young people of both nations were to partner in rebuilding all the homes, hospitals, schools and power plants that have been psychopathically destroyed...*

*Imagine if everyone and every nation actually lived by Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as regards freedom of religion.*

*Imagine if everyone had the freedom to search without loveless coercion.*

*A freedom to either have a religion or not;  
to change religion, even to change back or change again  
in the personal quest for beauty, truth and kindness.*

*Imagine the referendum on the Voice is passed  
by a wonderful majority of the Australian people.*

*Imagine if we all lived the prayer Jesus gives us,  
especially “forgive us... as we forgive,”  
so we can better choose to heal, never to harm.*

*Maybe it is a way of pondering with Mary  
for alternatives in our world at the beginning of this new year.”*

This new year, 2023, is a most important year for our Church in the world. It is the culmination of a journey begun in October 2021 when Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome, invited the “laity and pastors”, to travel with him along a common path to the 16<sup>th</sup> Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in October 2023. Pope Francis has announced that the theme for the 16th Synod of Bishops is:

**"For a Church Journeying Together: Fellowship, Participation and Mission."**

"Synod" is a Greek word meaning "to journey together" and refers to a gathering of bishops who meet at certain times. It was established by Pope Paul VI in 1965 to maintain the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, in which the bishops of the world were to journey with the Pope. Previous Synods have dealt with themes such as the New Evangelization, the family, youth, and the Amazon, but this time the theme is truly **"Synodality"** as a way of the Church journeying together. It is a process of exploring how to be in communion as a **"church that walks a journey,"** how to participate together in the diversity of community, and how to better serve the mission of Jesus, the mission of the Church. Together we are searching for what God is asking of us as Church at this time in history – Thy Kingdom come.



Now for the first time a “decentralised” Synod is being celebrated – we have all been invited to share in the process. Our preparations began at the local, Diocesan level when we were invited to share our thoughts and experiences of fellowship, participation and mission in our Church communities. The second step, the Continental Phase, saw the people of God participating in discussion and discernment of the outcomes of the Diocesan Phase, and a final national document prepared which will be part of the agenda for the third and final stage, the Universal Phase, when the Bishops meet in Rome in October 2023.

Pope Francis describes the Synod:

*The Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God. That word summons us to discernment, and it brings light to that process.*

*It guides the Synod, preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political gathering, a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Spirit.*

*In these days, Jesus calls us, as he did the rich man in the Gospel, to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, including our inward-looking and outworn pastoral models; and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time.*

*And the direction in which he wants to lead us.*

*Dear brothers and sisters, let us have a good journey together!*

*May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.*

*Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment.*

*In the joyful conviction that, even as we seek the Lord, He always comes with his love to meet us first.*

Through our Baptism we are called to continue the mission of Jesus – to bring the Good News of God’s love to our sisters and brothers through our Gospel way of life. So, it is through our Baptism that Jesus invites us to continue walking this special synodal journey with Him and with each other. Our Baptism is our Invitation Card.

The late loved and revered Bishop Geoffrey Robinson wrote this beautiful description of Jesus’ mission and thus our mission, in his book, *Travels in Sacred Places*.

### *The Song of Jesus*

*“ In everything he did and in everything he said, Jesus Christ sang a song.*

*Sometimes, when he cured a sick person, he sang softly and gently, a song full of love.*

*Sometimes, when he told one of his beautiful stories, he sang a*

*haunting melody,*

*the kind of melody that, once heard, is never forgotten,*

*the sort of melody you hum throughout the day*

*without even knowing that you are doing it.*

*Sometimes, when he defended the rights of the poor, his voice*

*grew strong and powerful,*

*until finally, from the cross, he sang so powerfully that his*

*voice filled the universe.*



*The disciples who heard him thought that this was the most*

*beautiful song they had ever heard,*

*and after he had returned to his Father, they began to sing it to others.*

*They didn’t sing as well as Jesus had – they forgot some of the words,*

*their voices lacked force and went flat – but they sang to the best of their ability,*

*and, despite their weaknesses, the people who heard them thought in their turn*

*that this was the most beautiful song they had ever heard.*

*The song gradually spread out from Jerusalem to other lands.*

*Parents sang it to their children,*

*and it began to be passed down through the generations and through the centuries.*

*Sometimes, in the lives of the great saints, the song was sung with exquisite beauty.*

*But at other times and by other people it was sung badly,*

*for the song was so beautiful that there was power in possessing it,*

*and people used the power of the song to march to war*

*and to oppress and dominate others.*

*So, the song was argued about, fought over, treated as a possession,*

*distorted, and covered by many layers of human additions.*

*And yet, despite everything human beings did to it,*

*it was still capable of captivating people*

*whenever its sheer simplicity and aching beauty were allowed to pierce through.*

*One of the last places the song reached was a land that would later be called Australia.*

*At first the song was sung there very badly indeed,*

*for the beauty of the song was drowned*

*by the sound of the lash on the backs of the convicts,  
and the cries of fear of the Aboriginal people.  
But the song was always greater than the singers and,  
in small wooden homes and Churches,  
it began to spread throughout a vast and dry land.*







*At last the song came down to me,  
sung softly, gently and lovingly by my parents.  
Like so many millions of people before me, I, too, was captivated by the song,  
and I wanted to sing and dance it with my whole being.  
The song must not stop with our generation,  
and we in our turn must hand on its beauty to those who come after us.*

*And, as we do so, we should always remember  
that this song has two special characteristics.  
The first is that, while we too sing it badly,  
nevertheless, as long as we sing to the best of our ability,  
others will hear not just our weak voice,  
but behind and through us they will hear a stronger and a surer voice,  
the voice of Jesus himself.  
The second is that we will always sing it better  
whenever we can learn to sing it together  
—not one voice here, another there, singing different words to different melodies—  
but all singing together as one.  
For then at last the whole world will truly know  
that this is still the most beautiful song the world has ever known.”*



*a bird doesn't  
sing  
because it has  
an answer.  
it sings  
because it has  
a song.*

### ***For Your Reflection and Sharing***

-  Who were the people who taught you the Song?
-  How would you describe their Song?
-  What is your Song and how do you sing it?
-  Do you think you are in tune with Jesus' song? Why?
-  Is there something missing in your Song? What?
-  How could you be more attuned to Jesus' Song?

Some of you may have come across that wonderful classic, ***“The Singer”*** by Calvin Miller. Its sub-title is *a Classic retelling of Cosmic Conflict*. Written in 1975 its allegorical and poetic narrative tells the story of Jesus as the Singer, God’s Troubadour, whose Song could not and would not be silenced – the song that we are challenged to continue singing through our Baptism. Here is a short extract which tells of Jesus after his baptism by John in the river, just before he goes into the desert and then begins his public life:



## *The Singer*

*From the river he moved on  
and on in quietness alone.*

*He still talked to Earthmaker  
as he always had but now he  
called him "Father-Spirit."  
He loved the newer name.*

*The Star-Song came upon him  
with a manly joy.*

*At last he sang!  
He threw the song against the  
basalt canyon walls.*

*It ricocheted in splendour,  
and he remembered far before  
that he had sung those very  
canyons into being.*

*"Father-Spirit!" he shouted  
at the desert sky, "I love you.  
Ask of me anything you will  
and I will do it all."*

*The universe gathered up the*

*echoes of his joy and answered back,*

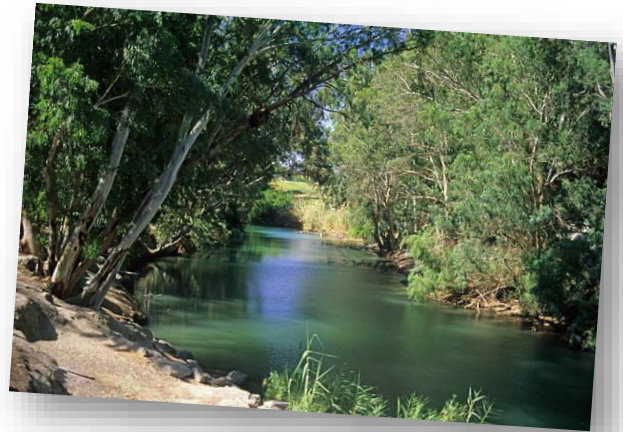
*"I love you, too, my Singer.*

*One thing alone I ask of you:  
Sing my ancient Star-Song to the  
world."*

*"Father-Spirit, I will sing it,  
In every country, will I sing it,  
till all the world you love  
can sing it."*

*In joy he sang and sang until  
he fell asleep upon the desert floor.*

**The Singer**, Calvin Miller, IVP  
Books, Illinois 200, p 22,23



I hope that this small extract will whet your appetite to read more of this wonderful book and encourage you to continue the Song, the Good News, that our God is a loving Father, who loves us so personally, so deeply. Our Invocation, "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved, forever!" is our special song to the world and for the world. Let us pray it with joy and gratitude.

Here is a litany that you might like to pray personally or with a group:

**Response: *God who sings through us, we thank you:***

For the talents and the abundance of gifts that are ours ....

For the faith that grows in our hearts.

For the many people who have shared the song with us.

For the moments when we have been most receptive to the song of your presence.

For the times when the song has been strong within us.

For the gift of Mary, who sang the song perfectly.

**Response: *God of goodness, help us to trust in you***

When fear rises in us and we do not believe in our ability to sing the song of Jesus.

When the busyness and schedules of our lives press upon us and create disharmony.

When we doubt your presence in the challenging aspects of our days.

When we lose sight of the truth that we are called to share the song of your love.

When emptiness, loneliness and other struggles keep us from hearing your melody of hope.

**Response: *God of love, sing your song through us:***

As we grow in our self-knowledge and acknowledge our own inner goodness.

As we allow more and more of who we are to be influenced by your presence.

As the call to sing your song of your love becomes clearer to us.

As we struggle to know how and when to share our gifts and goodness with others.

As we go into this day in company with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, committed to being resonant with your song.

***Lord our God, as the song of Jesus resonates with each of us, let us listen intently, sing wholeheartedly and, with our lives of love, spread this message of hope, peace and love.***

During Lent 2023 let us reflect on our lives with each other and our song on the journey.  
May the words of a hymn be our prayer:

*"My song will be for You forever; You the music in my heart."*

With blessings and love in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary

***(Sr) Ancilla White Olsk***

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## ***Pope Francis' Lenten Message 2023***

*Dear brothers and sisters!*

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him. Shortly before, there had been a real clash between the Master and Simon Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected his prediction of the passion and the cross. Jesus had firmly rebuked him: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a

scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!" (Mt 16:23). Following this, "six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother and led them away to a high mountain" (Mt 17:1).

The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – *ascesis* – as God's holy people.

Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.

In his "retreat" on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is "synodal", since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master. For we know that Jesus is himself the Way, and therefore, both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour.

And so we come to its culmination. The Gospel relates that Jesus "was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light" (Mt 17:2). This is the "summit", the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light. That light did not come from without, but radiated from the Lord himself. The divine beauty of this vision was incomparably greater than all the efforts the disciples had made in the ascent of Tabor. During any strenuous mountain trek, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on



the path; yet the panorama that opens up at the end amazes us and rewards us by its grandeur. So too, the synodal process may often seem arduous, and at times we may become discouraged. Yet what awaits us at the end is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God's will and our mission in the service of his kingdom.

The disciples' experience on Mount Tabor was further enriched when, alongside the transfigured Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared, signifying respectively the Law and the Prophets (cf. *Mt 17:3*). The newness of Christ is at the same time the fulfilment of the ancient covenant and promises; it is inseparable from God's history with his people and discloses its deeper meaning. In a similar way, the synodal journey is rooted in the Church's tradition and at the same time open to newness. Tradition is a source of inspiration for seeking new paths and for avoiding the opposed temptations of immobility and improvised experimentation.



The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two "paths" to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus and, with him, to attain the goal.

The first path has to do with the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: "Listen to him" (*Mt 17:5*). The first proposal, then, is very clear: we need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need. Let me say something else, which is quite important for the synodal process: listening to Christ often takes place in listening to our brothers and sisters in the Church. Such mutual listening in some phases is the primary goal, but it remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church.

On hearing the Father's voice, the disciples "fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.' And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone" (*Mt 17:6-8*). Here is the second proposal for this Lent: do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships



and contradictions. The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow “him alone”. Lent leads to Easter: the “retreat” is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord’s passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus to arrive at the resurrection. Also on the synodal journey, when God gives us the grace of certain powerful experiences of communion, we should not imagine that we have arrived – for there too, the Lord repeats to us: “Rise, and do not be afraid”. Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be “artisans of synodality” in the ordinary life of our communities.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul*

FRANCIS



## *Lenten Thoughts*

*“To return to the truth about ourselves and to return to God and to others, we are urged to take three great paths: **almsgiving, prayer and fasting.***

*It is not about mere external rites, these must be actions expressing the renewal of our hearts.*

***Almsgiving** is not a hasty gesture performed to ease our conscience, to compensate for our interior imbalance; rather, it is a way of touching the sufferings of the poor with our own hands and heart.*

***Prayer** is not a ritual, but a truthful and loving dialogue with the Father.*

***Fasting** is not a quaint devotion, but a powerful gesture to remind ourselves what truly matters and what is merely ephemeral.”*

*Pope Francis, Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved!

*Letter to the members of the Chevalier Family:*

*MSC, MSC Sisters, FDNsc, Laity of the  
Chevalier Family*

**On March 15, 2024, we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of our founder, Fr Jules Chevalier, MSC.** We are happy to inform you that in December of 2022, a Commission was created to help us prepare and celebrate this most significant event in a meaningful and creative way. We are grateful to the four members of this Commission for accepting this responsibility. Thank you...

- Fr Humberto Henrique da Silva (from Brazil, tri-generalate liaison/coordinator),
- Fr. Yongki Wawo MSC (from Indonesia, member of the International Community of Issoudun),
- Mr. Javier Trapero (Lay man, member of the MSC General Commission on Communication, also works in Communications for the Province of Spain),
- Sr Merle Salazar FDNsc (Philippines, member of the FDNsc Jubilee Year Commission), and
- Sr Cecilia Kim MSC ( from Korea, member of Cor Vitae).

The members of this Chevalier Year Commission, right after their appointment, met and shared ideas and plans. Expect that they will be regularly communicating with us. May this one year of preparation be a time of grace, a time of journeying together as brothers and sisters, as collaborators, as being in mission together. May this be a year of deepening our knowledge of and love for our founder and for what he lived and died for –

*May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved! Forever!*

And as we get to know Jules Chevalier more deeply, may the gift he received from the Spirit – love, compassion, kindness, tenderness, audacity for mission – live on in us. As we see and realize the link between his story and our story, between his call and our call, may we know... why we are here...who called us here...and fall in love again. We entrust this Chevalier Year to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, who “not only committed herself utterly to the service of God, but gives herself, her whole being to him...The will of her Lord and her God will be forever the guiding force of her life...she will remain faithful to the end.” (Jules Chevalier MSC, 1893 – Meditations II, 692ff).

*Fr Abzalón Alvarado msc, Sr Marife Mendoza fdnsc, Sr Bonaventura Kim msc, Alison McKenzie lcf*



*May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Everywhere Loved*

## *Eulogy for Sr Theresa Coleman*

*22/01/1930 – 8/11/2022*

*‘This is my beloved in whom I am well  
pleased’*

These words from the Gospel of Matthew capture well the driving force behind Sr Theresa’s life. She had an absolute trust and deep faith in God. On Tuesday, 8th of November she came face to face with her God whom she had so lovingly and faithfully served as a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for over seven decades.

To Theresa’s brother Phillip, sister Kathleen, brother-in-law Ben, nieces and nephews and all Theresa’s friends, who loved her so much and are deeply saddened by her death, we offer our deep sympathy and love. You know well her deep love for you, her pride and joy in you, and her gratitude to you.

Theresa was born in Mascot, NSW, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1930, to George and Lillian Coleman, the sixth of eight children. Her life encompassed the Depression, the pre-war years and the Second World War. Theresa’s father was a Carpenter, building many homes in the Mascot area. During the Depression it was very hard as he experienced long periods without work. Because Theresa’s mother was a good manager the family never went without the necessities of life. Theresa said she grew up in a happy family, sound in the practice of the Catholic faith; after the difficult years of the Depression she recalled enjoying picnics with the family.

Theresa began her schooling at St Bernard’s Mascot and completed her studies at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Kensington. I think it is true to say that Theresa was always an OLSH girl at heart, having a great love for her alma mater. It delighted her that in her final years her room at St Joseph’s overlooked Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, where she still felt a deep connection.

After some years working as a finance assistant in an office in Sydney Theresa felt called to religious life. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1948 she entered the novitiate in time to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, with whom she shared a deep spiritual relationship. She was professed as a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1950. During the next two years she studied to become a teacher and in subsequent years completed a degree in Science, at Sydney University. This was at a time where the study of the Sciences had been predominately reserved for males.

To say that Theresa was a passionate educator is an understatement; Theresa devoted herself to the ministry of education for nearly forty years. She taught at St Paul’s Bentleigh and our OLSH Colleges in Bentleigh and Kensington, and St John’s College in Darwin. Theresa worked tirelessly to advance education for girls, especially in the areas of maths and science.

Theresa was a very gifted educator who was respected and appreciated by her pupils, their parents, and staff members. She had empathy, understanding and skill when students found maths and science challenging and so enabled them to learn more effectively. She was, however, also a teacher who extended the abilities of those more interested in scientific subjects and was able to transmit some of her own enthusiasm for these disciplines.

When contacted about her death the immediate response from her former students was one of praise, saying: 'Sr Theresa was an excellent teacher, kind, well prepared, she made us laugh, we loved her'. She is remembered for her ability to relate so beautifully to her students, always showing a genuine interest in them and was ready to listen to any difficulties or concerns they had.

Later Theresa was responsible for school administration as deputy principal. In this position she took great interest in the education and welfare of the girls in the schools and cared for the staff, who have said they appreciated the time, support and interest she showed them.

Theresa's contribution has not been confined to the school scene. In her later years she was involved with our Associates and is well known for her wonderful hospitality, leadership and organization of retreats, spirituality days and Pilgrimages to Issoudun. Our Associates remember her with fondness and are grateful for her wisdom and her interest in them and their families. Theresa was a deeply spiritual woman; she had a deep and personal love for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart which was inspiring for others. Her passion for our Charism and love of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart led her to work tirelessly at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick where she was able to spread this devotion through her witness. She imported from Issoudun, Rome and the Philippines all kinds of items relating to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, statues, medals, key rings and pictures. Theresa loved opening the piety store and selling her many and varied religious items.

Those of us who lived, worked and shared community with her, were enriched by her genuine care for others, her compassion and positive attitude. She was courteous to all, spoke ill of no one and rejoiced in the successes and achievements of others. Theresa drew her strength from her deep desire to love as Jesus loved, excluding no one.

When it was becoming apparent that Theresa's health was failing and she was asked to transfer to St Joseph's Aged Care Facility, she accepted the decision with her typical graciousness. Her lovely smile reflected the joy she experienced whenever you visited her at St Joseph's where she was beautifully cared for until her death.

Theresa was a people's person, she loved being with and talking to people on any level. She loved life, she saw beauty in people, nature and in her work. She was totally committed to everything, her prayer life, her apostolate and especially helping others come to know Jesus and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Theresa was just a lovely, lovely person, a woman of integrity, she lived her entire religious life as a whole-hearted gift to God and God's people, in quiet fidelity and without fanfare. Her legacy to us is the faith-filled and gracious acceptance of one who had come to terms with life and what it asks of us. She was simply a beautiful Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.



We will be ever grateful to George, Lilian and the Coleman family for the gift of Theresa to our Congregation! And how good of God to leave her with us all these years, and what a gift God gave us in her! Go in peace dear Theresa, united with your Beloved who loved you into life and says, *'This is my beloved in whom I am well pleased'*.

Thank you for your joyful, prayerful presence, your kindness, graciousness, good humour; and for your beautiful smile that lit up our hearts.

Sr Philippa Murphy    **Provincial Leader**    **17<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

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## *Communication in Our Lay Chevalier Family*



Since the last International Meeting of the Lay Chevalier Family in Brazil in 2017 things have been moving rapidly and particularly here in Australia.

Following on from the directives of the International Meeting our National Council was set up and is now operational. In fact it is now preparing for the next International Meeting to be held in the Philippines in January 2024.

Our OLSH Associates main forms of communication are through our group meetings and the Ametur newsletter. Many of you receive the Ametur by "snail" mail and many more receive it by email. The choice is yours and either way is acceptable. Many of us like to have the paper in our hands, and many don't have printers to copy the Newsletter, so, in these cases, it is better to receive it by ordinary mail.

So much comes through the internet these days and our Chevalier Family is making good use of this speedy instrument. **I would like to suggest that those of you who have access to a computer and would like to receive up-to-date information about the various happenings in our National and International Family, would send me your email and I will forward these articles etc to you.** Some of them you can access yourself and here are some sources.

## *Helpful Addresses*

Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia – Website

<https://chevalierlaity.com.au>

This is a website to nourish and connect people living Spirituality of the Heart. The website is evolving.

Laity of the Chevalier Family – Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com>LaityoftheChevalierFamily>

Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com>channel>



Australian Laity of the Chevalier Family email address

[aus.lcf@gmail.com](mailto:aus.lcf@gmail.com)

Here you can view “Heartbeat” – a Quick Update from the Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia. I encourage you to subscribe to this free news sheet.

Australian OLSH Associates

[associates@olshaustralia.org.au](mailto:associates@olshaustralia.org.au)

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart - Australia

[www.olshaustralia.org.au](http://www.olshaustralia.org.au)

As well as finding Province News here you will also have access to OLSH Overseas Aid news and the Ametur.

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – Rome

[www.olshgen.org](http://www.olshgen.org)

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart -Australia

[www.misacor.org.au](http://www.misacor.org.au)

## *Our Stamp Project*



Many thanks for your contributions, large and small – all are most welcome. Please keep them coming in. Thanks also to Fr Roger Purcell msc, Director of MSC Overseas Aid, who shares his donations of used stamps with us. Since we started selling the stamps at auction in February 2021 we have netted over \$4, 400. This has been sent to OLSH Overseas Aid.

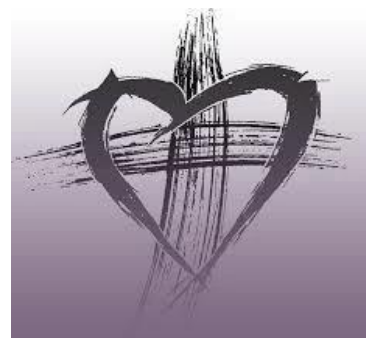
## *Our On-Going Formation Program Spirituality of the Heart*

in accordance with FR. JULES CHEVALIER'S CHARISM.

An on-line program for members of the Chevalier Family  
and for everyone interested in a Spirituality of the Heart.

Fr Hans Kwakman msc

### **Section 60: A Spirituality that sustains our care for the environment.**



In chapter 4 of *‘Laudato Si’* Pope Francis speaks about, “*some elements of an integral ecology, one which clearly respects its human and social dimensions*” (LS 137). ‘Integral ecology’ refers to the fact that “*everything is connected*” (LS 16; 70; 91; 117; 240). For example, care for the environment is linked to our way of life, that is, our way of consuming natural resources and products, our cultural customs as well as our habits of clothing and eating. In everything we do or not do, we have to take into consideration the common good of all people, including the milieu in which they live (Cf. LS 156). The Pope adds that:

*“A commitment this noble cannot be sustained...  
without a spirituality capable of inspiring us,  
without an interior impulse which encourages, motivates, nourishes  
and gives meaning to our individual and communal activity”* (LS 216).

Consequently, he states:

*“An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation,  
reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals,  
and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us,  
whose presence must not be created but found, uncovered”* (LS 225).

In chapter 6, entitled “*Ecological Education and Spirituality,*” the Pope points out that,

*“An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures  
which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.”*  
(See also the *Reflection* of Section 58, *Ametur* 346 March 2022) )

He often refers to Saint Francis of Assisi as

*“... the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology,  
lived out joyfully and authentically....  
He was particularly concerned for God’s creation and for the poor and outcast....  
He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature,  
justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace”* (LS 10).

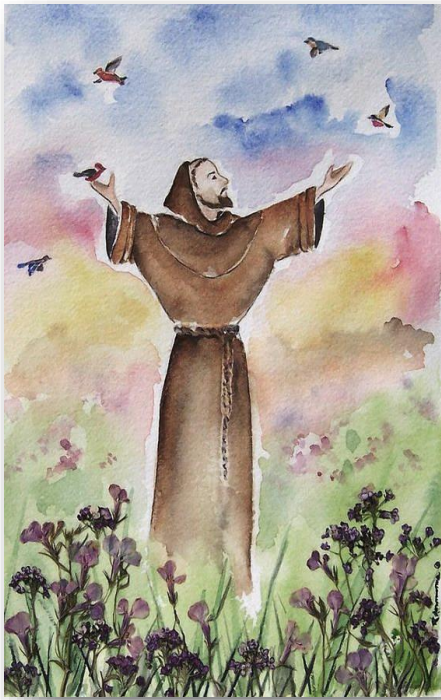
Saint Francis helps us

*“... to see that an integral ecology takes us to the heart of what it is to be human....  
He conversed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers,  
inviting them to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason”* (LS 11).

## *Reflection*

Franciscan Sister and scientist, Ilia Delio, writes:

*(Saint Francis) did not consider himself  
superior to the non-human creation.  
Rather, Francis saw himself as part of creation.*



*His spirituality  
(was) a spirituality of descending solidarity  
between humanity and all of creation . . .*

*He found God in all creatures  
and identified with them as brother and sister . . .  
because he knew they shared with him the same  
beginning.*

*By surrendering himself  
and daring everything for love's sake,  
the earth became his home  
and all creatures his brothers and sisters.*

*That led him to love and respect the world around  
him  
and made him truly a man of peace.*

*Only prayer {inspired by}  
the Spirit of God breathing in us,  
dwelling in our hearts and joining us to Christ,  
can lead us, like Francis,*

*to the contemplative vision of God's goodness  
in every creature and in every living thing. . . .*

*The God within us is the God who permeates  
every aspect of our world —  
the One who is the source and goal of creation."*

Quoted by Richard Rohr OFM Daily Meditation, From the Center for Action and Contemplation,  
*Cultivation Not Domination* - Tuesday, May 19, 2020

## *Pope Francis' visit to South Sudan from Rita Grunke Olsk*

Sr Rita Grunke is an Australian Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart working in Mapuordit, South Sudan. She has written to tell of her experience of Pope Francis' visit to the young nation in early February this year.

*I'm sending off to you just a few snippets and some poignant quotes relating to Pope Francis' visit to Juba along with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt. Rev. Ian Greenshields.*

*Friday 3rd February was a hot day with the weather bureau recording 36.5 degrees Cel. Sr Bernadette and I joined the many lining the streets and it seemed quite hotter than 36.5 degrees. The women on the streets from the airport to the presidential palace were marvellous; you can imagine the joy*





*of thousands of women ululating all roads from the airport to the President's palace. A truly wonderful experience. Made more wonderful because the visitors formed an ecumenical group. All citizens felt/became important and honoured. All the church visitors called for the country's political leadership to forget their differences and to work together to implement peace. I liked Pope Francis' use of imagery for the Nile River.*

*"For just as the River Nile leaves its course, so the course of history leave behind the enemies of peace and bring renown to those who are peacemakers."*

*His statement regarding the frustration of all regarding our efforts to implement the peace agreement , "Basra!" "Enough!" Enough bloodshed! Enough violence! Enough corruption!" Further, he called for respect for women and deplored violence against them citing clearly that the future of South Sudan depends on the way the women of South Sudan are treated. He planted many seeds of HOPE and at this morning's Eucharist asked us to hold and live the word HOPE. To the women he called them "trees " since they absorb the pollution of the past years of fighting and will restore the Oxygen of fraternity!*

*Our politicians are calling this Ecumenical visit the most impactful event in the country's history. I'm delighted to have had the opportunity of being here and participating in the main events.*

*Blessings from Rita*

The youth group with Bishop Christian and Sr Orla and a Comboni Sister who made the pilgrimage on foot from Rumbek to Juba. Vehicles supported the walk but for each of the 9 days they walked 20 Kms. You can see Rita standing on the right side of the front row.



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## *Thank You*

Many thanks to those who have contributed to the National Council of the Chevalier Lay Family to help defray costs for those attending the international Meeting in the Philippines in 2024. It is not too late to donate. All contributions are most welcome. Please send them to me, and I will ensure that they reach the right bank account!

## Meeting Reports

**BENTLEIGH:** 14 of the Associates met on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022, at the Convent. Firstly, we remembered the OLSH Sisters and OLSH Associates who had died in the past year. This weekend is the first week of Advent and we celebrate the Theme of Hope. We read the Gospel about not knowing when God will return and to be awake and ready for Him. Be awake and not alarmed and live in hope, looking forward to His return.

We talked about what Advent means to us. Some saw it as a time to take stock of our lives and to sort out our priorities. It can also be a time to work out what people are important to us at the moment and to make sure we keep in touch.

We then celebrated Aileen Gallagher's 100 birthday with prayer in the chapel and birthday wishes and cake at afternoon tea.

**Patricia Mirabile**

13 Associates met at the Convent on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023. It was great to be back together after the break. Lent has just started so we were asked what Lent meant to us. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the Church's directives for Lent. "Lent" means "Spring" which is new life. This means that we can renew our relationship with Jesus in this time leading up to Easter. We can get to know Jesus through family and other people, through prayer and bible readings during Lent. This will help us to arrive at the Resurrection with a deeper understanding and love of Jesus. We concluded with some quiet Adoration in the Chapel.

**Patricia Mirabile**

**CANBERRA:** Our first meeting for this year was on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Sr Dain gave us a most beautiful meditation for the start of 2023. God is offering us a New year of His Life, Love and Light. How will we respond?

*God of all time help us to enter the New year quietly  
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,  
mindful that our steps make an impact, and our words carry power.*

We then renewed our Associate Commitment for the New year. For the original group of Canberra Associates this marks 44 years since we first made our Commitment to make the Sacred Heart of Jesus everywhere loved. Forever.

**Christine Casey**

**HARTZER PARK:** Our final meeting for the year on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022, commenced with a Reflective thought to lead us into Advent ... *Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude.*

In taking time to be attentive and grateful to God for our lives and surroundings this little prayer could open our hearts to God's gifts, bringing us closer into the peace and joy that we wish for each other, and that we, as a group, also wish for all Associates and the Chevalier Family.

Calm me Lord, as you stilled the storm.

Still me, Lord, keep me from harm.

Let all the tumult within me cease.

Enfold me, Lord, in your peace.

Happy Christmas and may the New Year be blessed in every way.

**Hartzer Park Associates per Jan Clark.**

We met at Hartzer Park on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023.

This being the first meeting for the year, as usual, we renewed our Commitment under the patronage of Mother Marie Louise Hartzer to whom we feel a special bond as we gather in the Centre bearing her name. Singing "Woman of the Sacred Heart" always inspires us further and we, too, "Pray we may hear the call of God, and come to meet Emmanuel." In prayer we reflected on the beginning weeks, "Ordinary Time" leading us into a time of growth and renewal and how we

may live wisely, deeply, freely, justly, mindfully and gratefully with our “Faithful Companion” as the year progresses.

**Jan Clark**

**KILBURN:** on 19<sup>th</sup> November we met at the Parish Church for our Retreat Morning, beginning with Mass. This was followed by morning tea at the convent. We then gathered in the community room for a talk which followed on from our Martha and Mary story from our last meeting. This time we reflected on the words:

*Mary sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying.*

How do we listen to the Lord? How does He speak to us now? Some inspiring discussion followed. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament allowed us private prayer time. This was preceded by the hymn, “A Quiet Heart.” After an hour’s silent prayer, we prayed together and finished with the hymn, “Gaze Upon the Lord.” Our Retreat morning ended with lunch together in the dining room.

**Sr Patricia**

**NOTRE DAME:** Our first meeting for the year was on 18<sup>th</sup> February, and we began with a prayerful remembrance of our dear friend and loyal Associate, Annette Thornton, who died on 17<sup>th</sup> January. As part of the ceremony, we had a special sharing of memories, recalling the beautiful person Annette was to us and to all with whom she came into contact. During this time we cried and laughed but reverently and beautifully brought her to mind and offered prayers to our loving Lord for her.

Sr Ancilla then gave us information about the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in October. Together we explored the meaning of the word, “synod,” and the Pope’s invitation to us all to make this special journey with the Bishops for the good of our Church. We then read and discussed a homily for 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

It was wonderful to have our meeting back at the Convent again after such a long break due to Covid. It was good to be home again! We shared a “reunion” afternoon tea which was lovely.

**Maureen Maher**

**RANDWICK:** Our small group of three met on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November and began with our prayer to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Due to the inclement weather we did not meet in October, but as that month had so much to offer we decided to use it as our theme. Being the month of the Rosary it was also a celebration of Our Lady of Victories which was established by Pope St Pius V in 1571 to celebrate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on 7<sup>th</sup> October that year. The Catholic Weekly also had an article in the October issue that all over the world men gather on 7<sup>th</sup> October to honour Our Lady by reciting the Rosary in public – Croatia, Ireland, England, Poland, Australia. We then read the 15 promises of Our Lady that were given to Alan De La Roche, a Catholic theologian. We then prayed the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, each of us offering a special prayer to our Blessed Lady. Our meeting ended with our Associates’ Prayer.

**Margaret Butler**

**CORINDA:** A very happy meeting took place at Marnie’s home on 26<sup>th</sup> February with 9 Associates and the welcome presence of Sr Marilyn. We reflected on the season of Lent and shared some thoughts. We contemplated a list, in the words of Pope Francis: *Do you want to fast this Lent?* We thought this was a wonderful way of looking at “fasting” in a different light- fasting from hurtful words, anger, pessimism and bitterness instead using kind words, and having patience, hope and joy.

It was exciting to hear about the plans to celebrate 200 years since Father Chevalier was born on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1824. We read a short article on Fr Chevalier’s life, marvelling at what had been accomplished by someone from such humble beginnings. His sense of mission led to workers in the field in so many parts of the world. We will be celebrating the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart with Mass on Saturday, 27 May, and will have a meeting of Associates on Sunday, 28 May. Sr Marilyn is planning to join us for this weekend.

**Mary McMahon**

## *We Remember Our Beloved Deceased*

### ***Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart***

Sr Catherine Mary Crocker (St Joseph's)

Sr Marie Madeleine Striebig (Alsace)

### ***Missionaries of the Sacred Heart***

Fr Anthony Bolt (St Joseph's)

Br Gerry Bourke (St Joseph's)

Fr Anthony Young (PNG)

### ***Associates***

Josephine Carnovale (Indented Heads)

Lois Kerwick (Brisbane)

Annette Thornton (Mascot)

Flora Seddon (Elmore)

Ellen Baker (Melbourne)



### ***Loved Ones***

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Cardinal George Pell, Brian Wall, John Fabri, Carmen Chetcuti, Carolyne Canavan, Peter Bird, Michael Moir-Bussy, Mr Selva (India), Joe Turner, Marion Brown, Faye, John Rolls, Betty Pattison, Steve Finkelstein.

## *We Remember Those Who Are Sick or in Any Need*

Gordon and Neil McCormack, Patricia Krausgrille, Justine Holland, Canavan Family, Thornton Family, Turner Family, Bird Family, Maureen Maher, Peter Vidot, Kathleen, Clare Hickey, Monica and Adam Morrison, Jack McLaughlan, Christine Harris, Jesse Vescove, Alan, John, Maree, Kara and Helen Selinger, Fred Hardy, David Goodrich, Laurie Jordon, Ros Furber, Errol Chase, Allen Munn, Mrs Walsh, Christine and John Bulters, Judy Balston, Jeanette Butler, Baby Benjamin Collins, Arlene Banzon, Christine Baker, Rayma Weaver, Ted Mosley, a special intention, the people of Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, Russia and New Zealand.

### *We pray in Thanksgiving for:*

*the many blessings that each of us has received  
from our loving God,*

*in so many ways and through so many people in our lives.*

*May we never forget how blessed we are.*