

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

Ametur

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July - September 2019

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

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Dear Associates,

Winter is with us and for many parts of Australia this brings cold, winds, weak sunshine and rain - which is most welcome! While it also keeps us indoors it also invites us to quiet times and gives us a chance to reflect more on our inner life and our relationship with God. St Augustine, drawing on his own life experiences, wrote this beautiful truth:

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Someone has said that this yearning for God is deeply imprinted in our DNA: we are made with an orientation toward God and we are never really satisfied with what this life offers. We are drawn to God, into a relationship of love, and our heart shows us the way.

***When you pray go into your heart and your Father,
who lives in the secret place, will reward you.*** (Jesus, in Matthew 6:6)

There are many, many definitions and descriptions of prayer. Great libraries could be filled to overflowing with all the volumes that have been penned on this subject during the centuries. Let me share with you just a few quotes about prayer. Maybe one of them will speak to your heart as you go into that "secret place".

***My heart is my whole being.
It is the "secret room" that guards my identity,
where I am truly myself, where my life story unfolds.
Outside of my heart I am lost.
And there in its silent depths,
I can see the face of God ... whom I seek,
for whom my heart is yearning.***

Prayer is the memory of the Beloved. (Joan Chichester)

Prayer is, at root, simply paying attention to God. (Ralph Martin)

Prayer ... grows from the soil of the heart. Prayer is inseparable from living. (Michael Casey p 5).

Father Michael Casey is a Cistercian monk from the Tarrawarra Abbey in Victoria. He has written many books. The previous and the following quotes are from his excellent book on prayer, *Toward God*, (Liguori/Triumph. Liguori, Missouri, USA, 1996).

***The only prayer with any value
is that which rises from the heart in response to the realities of life....***

***Sometimes my prayer is a time of great inner stillness,
and my spirit is possessed by what feels like God's nearness.***

That is good prayer.

***At other times I am tired and disgruntled;
my efforts at prayer simply expose me to the specter of my own weakness,
and I cry out to God from a very great distance.***

That also is good prayer.

***Prayer may be rejoicing in the Spirit or writhing in anguish;
it is good if it is real, and no good if it is delusion or play-acting.
As God's children we can feel free to use words or not. (Pages 90-91)***

Always prayer is about the "heart", the "secret place" where our Loving God, Father, Son and Spirit, lives.

God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer. (St Teresa of Calcutta)

I think, too, of many Christians who believe that praying is to talk to God like a parrot.

No! Praying is done from the heart, from inside.

He does not need anything, our God.

***In prayer he asks only that we keep open a channel of communication with him
to always discover ourselves [to be] his beloved children
and [that] he loves us so much. (Pope Francis)***

And finally prayer, as it is a relationship with our loving Father, should be a homely experience as this prayer/poem describes:

The Heart Cave

***I must remember
to go down to the heart cave
and sweep and clean it;
make it warm with a fire on the hearth,
and candles in their niches,
the pictures on the walls glowing with a quiet light.***

***I must remember
to go down to the heart cave
and make the bed with a quilt from home,
strew rushes on the floor
and hang lavender and sage from the corners.
I must go down to the heart cave
and be there when You come.***

(Geoffrey Brown from Road of the Heart Cave)



Our Heart Spirituality invites us into a deep relationship with Jesus: to explore the wonders of the Heart of Jesus and thus to discover the longings and yearnings in our own heart. Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart knew, as none other, the Heart of her Son. Let us go to her and ask her to show us how to pray. She is the one who “treasured all those things in her heart” and she is our Mother, our sister, our constant daily companion.

This winter may we all grow in appreciation of our place in God’s family as we go into our hearts to meet our loving God.

United in love in the Heart of Jesus, our Brother, and Mary, our Mother

Sr Ancilla White osh

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**A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION
TO CELEBRATE THE
INAUGURATION OF THE
AUSTRALIA NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER
FAMILY**



The Steering Committee, set up just over a year ago, has now finished its important work of responding to the call from the International Gathering of the Chevalier Laity at Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2017, to establish a National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in every country. We thank the members for undertaking this work and for its successful conclusion. Following are details of the celebration of the event and an invitation for you to participate. Let us pray in gratitude for this, and for those who can join in the celebration at Douglas Park. If you can't attend the whole weekend, perhaps you could come to the Mass on Sunday 15th September at 9.30 am.

What a wonderful event this will be! How happy Father Chevalier and Mother Marie Louise Hartzler and Hubert Linckens must be to see the vision of the Founder becoming more and more a reality:

**MAY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS BE EVERYWHERE LOVED,
FOREVER!**

A GATHERING OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY



Many Hearts



United as One

Celebrating the Inauguration
of the
Australian National Council

When: 13-15 September 2019
Where: St Mary's Towers
Douglas Park
Contact: Fred Stubenrauch
fstuben@gmail.com
RSVP: 1 September 2019

"To be on earth the Heart of God"

**Lay Gathering and Commissioning of the
Australian National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family
13th – 15th September, 2019 - Bringing the Family Together**

CONTEXT

This is an historical moment in the life of the Australian Chevalier Family as the laity associated with the MSC and OLSH come together with the blessing of the MSC Sisters. This retreat will celebrate our shared history and affirm our shared charism as people of the Sacred Heart. It will be a 'working retreat' flowing out of our prayer and our resolution to move forward, re-creating the vision of Chevalier in this place and in this time. The opportunity to explore our own, personal spirituality will take a back seat to the work of ***Bringing the Family Together***. The image and symbol of a loaf of bread being created will be the thread that ties the retreat together and will become the bread we break and share at Eucharist.

Program Outline

Friday Evening

- 5.00 pm Gather for finger food
7.00 pm Opening of the retreat: Welcome and introductions.
Opening Prayer - Here I am, Lord
9.00 pm Conviviality

Saturday

- 9.00 am **Session One: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains a single grain ...**
Sharing our Spirituality of the Heart charism through prayer and reflection
10.30 am Morning tea
11.00 am **Session Two: Listening to each other – what did I hear?**
11.30 am **Session Three: The development of the lay Chevalier Family**
12.30 Lunch
2.00 pm **Session Four: Leavening the Bread**
A reading of the attached article: *Ministering is at the Heart of Christianity* by Mary Thorne. **Please read the article before arriving at the retreat.**
3.00 pm **Session Five: The Australian National Guidelines**
A very brief overview of the Guidelines for the Australian National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family and the implications of those Guidelines. *How this development might help grow different active ministries and how these different ministries can cross-fertilise, support and collaborate with each other.*
4:00 pm Free time
6.00 pm Dinner
7.30 pm **Introduction of the Council members.**

Sunday

9.30 am Eucharist and blessing and inauguration of the Council members.
Closure of the retreat.
11.00 am First meeting of the National Council

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Booking Form

Accommodation includes finger food on arrival, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, Sunday breakfast.

Ensuite (limited number)	\$200
Single room shared facilities	\$180
Dormitory with shared facilities	\$140

Name:

Preferred accommodation:

Address:
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Phone:

Email:

My connection with OLSH/MSC:

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Next of kin in case of emergency:

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Special Dietary requests

Important medical information:

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Please return form before September 1st to:

Fred Stubenrauch

Email fstuben@gmail.com

"Snail mail" C/o Fred Stubenrauch PO Box 19A Douglas Park 2569 Bank account details for remittance:

BSB: 062 784, Account number: 29785403, Account name: Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, St Mary's Towers, Reference: *Your Surname*.

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The following is an article which has special relevance for all living a Spirituality of the Heart. **It is also required reading for those planning to attend the *Bringing the Family Together* Weekend at Douglas Park in September.** I do hope that you will be one of those. The author, Mary Thorne from New Zealand, says that lay people must claim ministry as a gospel response.

MINISTERING is at the HEART of CHRISTIANITY



We have to take care with language. It is sometimes inadequate to convey the finer nuances of meaning and we can get things wrong. With this in mind, thinking about the lay ministry, I double-checked the definitions of the words I was pondering.

Minister (noun) is a person employed in the execution of some purpose, especially pertaining to the institutions of state or Church. This is a leadership

or governance role. Ministry (noun) is a body of ministers of government or religion.

Minister(verb) is to render aid or service, especially in a situation of sickness or need.

Even in the dictionary, the challenge of that paradoxical servant leadership is there, as it seems to be at the nub of many of our current troubling issues. Could that pernicious dis-order of clericalism have crept into the thinking and language about the work we do?

Structures No Longer Supportive

Years ago, a Dominican Sister helped me view the institutional Church differently. She reminded me that all human organisations have a structure. If I was planting a kiwifruit orchard, my first tasks would be to plan shelter and build the supportive framework that the vines would grow on. The frames are required to ensure sound fruit, but they are not the important thing – the important component is the fruit-bearing vine. All people in the Church are the people of God. We are the branches receiving life from the deep roots of divine energy. Roles undertaken within the liturgical and pastoral realms of Church life are called ministry (recognized and valued) and all healing, caring, sustaining work carried out in the world is classified as service. Our supportive structure is outdated, worm-eaten and falling apart but in the world, God's people, clergy and laity, are needed as never before.

Vatican 11 Vision of People of God

The notion of the laity participating in ministry in the Catholic Church was inconceivable until the late 1960's. In the heady days following Vatican 11 there was great excitement among many lay members of the Church that more equal status would be achieved between clergy and lay people. **The image of the Church as the People of God fired the imaginations of lay women and men and they were eager to participate alongside priests, in meaningful ways. Lay people moved from being passive recipients to active contributors.** Indeed, lay people now fill very many roles at parish, diocesan and national levels. Their work, paid and voluntary, is massive and ensures the ongoing life of the Church.

The fact remains, however, that final decision-making authority remains the preserve of the ordained, and the involvement of the lay people often depends on the goodwill of the clergy. Diocesan and parish pastoral councils exist as advisory bodies only and it is not unknown that they receive the response: "I am the parish priest and I won't consider that." The original enthusiasm and energy seem to have diminished and some feel disheartened.

Who Is Ministering?

We can examine our language more closely. The lay people who prayerfully prepare and proclaim the Word and share the bread and wine of Eucharist with reverence and dignity perform ministries. Is the quiet parishioner down the back, who is caring for their spouse on the cancer journey and nearing the end, ministering? Yes, I think so.

The young mum and her team who prepare children and their families to participate in the sacramental life of the community? Yes, definitely ministry.

The woman in whose home the children on the street gather after school because there's always a snack and a listening ear for worries and problems? Yes, surely an important ministry.

The faithful priest who draws on every scrap of creative energy to communicate the depth, power and beauty of this particular piece of Scripture to his congregation? Ministry.

The parishioner who hears, goes home and tries to bring some warmth and kindness to a marriage which has become cold and distant? Ministry? Yes, I think so.

What about the elderly woman who walks with her old dog around the area every morning, always with a bag to collect litter which she recycles and disposes of appropriately?

Or the friend who goes out in the heat of the day to pick flowers from her garden and then travels by train to take them to her elderly friend awaiting a hip operation in hospital? She hoped that with the flowers they could take an imaginary walk around the garden.

The tradesman who gives a youth a chance at employment which may lead to apprenticeship? The environmentalist who pleads with an insatiable society to be aware? All these show the world the love of God.

All Are Called

We the people of God, all of us, were sent out by Jesus, whom we follow, to continue his work across the face of the Earth. It was a reconciling, restoring, justice-bringing work. There are some lovely word pictures that help us understand. We are to be the yeast that causes the dough to rise and be delicious. We are to be the salt in the porridge that makes it edible. We are to be like light in a dark place so we can all see. We are to be people who loved greatly.

Regaining Our Focus

To enable us to carry out this work, to replenish our energy and joy, we must gather and recall the stories that are our story and share the bread that is Life for us. This seems to be where we've got things a bit wrong. Instead of gathering to build up the body and go out and do the work, we've allowed the gathering to become just about building up the body. Building up the

body for its own sake becomes about the magnificence of the body. It becomes a spectacle and the work becomes a secondary or even a forgotten thing.

There seems to me to be no doubt that we need to achieve a healthy balance between the ecclesial and the lay parts of our Church. We have become introverted and the sacred/secular divide has become almost unnavigable. Perhaps I exaggerate, but sometimes who says what, or who sits or stands where, seems to absorb more energy than the fact our Earth is burning.

There is an effective parenting strategy which advises not to buy into the nonsense. The institutional Church will either renew or die. With all my energy I send “aroaha” to Pope Francis and thank God for this voice which gives hope, but there is other work that cries out to be done. There are other lay and ecclesial voices which speak a renewed language to articulate an original vision of God’s people as a community of mutual respect and kindness, with courage to address our own failings, and a commitment to our big work.

In 2019, God’s people are an adult people. We are ready, willing and able to do God’s work in a world beset by crises. For us, MINISTER is a verb. God has no favourites, we are diverse beyond imagining but we are equal, and we know without a shadow of a doubt, that we must minister first to the most broken and vulnerable and distressed, no matter what the cost to status or reputation.

Share your thoughts on this article.
How does it speak to your experience?
Is there anything you would like to do as a result of reading it?

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THE FOUR MOVEMENTS OF A SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART

Father Peter Campbell, MSC, served as Director of the Life's Healing Journey Retreat Ministry for over thirty years before retiring in 2007. This has been adapted from an article written by Father which can be read in full on the MSC website: www.misacor.org.au



In the first movement of a Spirituality of the Heart, one encounters Jesus Christ in many ways:

Through Scripture, in the sacraments, in life situations, in prayer and meditation, through other people. Sometimes people can recognize his presence and sometimes they are not sure if or how he is present.

Prayer: *Jesus, open my heart to You in all the ways and situations of my life.*



In the second movement of a Spirituality of the Heart, people long for a deeper, more intimate encounter with God in Jesus.

Living a spirituality of the heart means learning to live each day with trust in God's love. We have come to recognize and believe the love God has for us. (1 Jn: 4) God's love is already present and will never change. God's love is unconditional; we are loved because God chose to love us. St. Paul tells us that God loved us when we were still sinners. God's love is faithful; we can turn away from God, but God cannot turn away from us because God's nature is faithful. To accept God's love means to accept Jesus' invitation into a relationship with himself and with the Father.

Prayer: *Jesus, open my heart to your invitation of friendship and relationship so that I can respond to this invitation daily.*



The third movement in the Spirituality of the Heart is conversion.

When people experience God's personal, unconditional and faithful love, they are moved to desire a change of their hearts and minds. This transformation happens in and through life events. Books, retreats, and days of recollection do not change people. Life events change people. Books and retreats may give an awareness of the possibility of change, but real change happens in life. One of the great gifts of the Spirituality of the Heart is that it integrates life and thought; life and Scripture; life and reflection. We can only grow spiritually by becoming immersed in our own life. Prayer prepares; perseverance strengthens; kindness makes us ready to receive. Being patient is the first step to learning about the love that transforms.

Prayer: *Jesus, I need your help to be open to receive whatever gift God wants to give me, and to allow him to touch my heart and transform my life. Help me, too, to know that being patient is the first step in learning about the love that transforms.*



The fourth movement of the Spirituality of the Heart is a desire to share.

When people listen to each other's stories about hurt and loss, about intimacy and change, they affect each other. People experience growth in community. Growing spiritually is a community process. When people are hurt, they go into isolation. Isolation is a symptom of being hurt and of the destructive power of hurt. When people share stories, they are invited out of isolation, into relationship again. Sharing one's story gives the message of Jesus' flesh today. The focus is on Jesus and what he has done in this life, so that people might remember Jesus and be grateful to him. Ultimately people share their faith, hope and love with others in such a way that they, in turn, will share their faith, hope and love with still others.

Prayer: *Jesus, help me to share my faith, my hope and my love with others in such a way that they, in turn, will share their faith, hope and love with others.*

Our On-Going Formation Section

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. Written by Father Hans Kwakman msc.

Part Four: Living a Spirituality of the Heart in Daily Life.

Section 30: A Spirituality of the Heart and the Joy of Love.

We have started this On-Line Program by presenting some brief annotations concerning a widespread need for Spirituality in today's world and the existence of different kinds of spiritualities, including spiritualities of the Heart. (Section 1-3). A second part of the program (Section 4-16) briefly introduced the main aspects of the Charism of Fr. Jules Chevalier. The third part (Section 17-29) referred to the writings of Pope Francis, above all to his letter "*Evangelii Gaudium*" (the Joy of the Gospel), while highlighting the fact that living a Spirituality of the Heart is as relevant to the mission of the Church today as it was in the days of Fr. Chevalier.

In the following sections, we will reflect on a Spirituality of the Heart as a source of inspiration for living our daily life as married or single people in family life, or as religious and priests living in communities. First of all, we will focus on Pope Francis' letter "*Amoris Laetitia*" (the Joy of Love) and discover how he shows us the way of the heart in family life and personal relationships. In one way or another, we all live in families or communities, either as parents or children, as couples or singles, or as members of religious and church communities. The Pope's letter is basically a document showing us the bumpy road towards living joyfully together in family or community, while trying to keep growing in love.

In his reflections on marriage and family life, the Pope departs from the daily challenges, faced by families in today's society. He shows himself to be a good councillor, who, before proposing a way to proceed, first listens to the joy and struggles of people's hearts. Likewise, he shows a deep respect for the small voice of someone's heart. He wants to accompany everyone, not only people leading a harmonious family life, but also those facing big challenges in their relationships, or whose marriage has ended in failure. To everyone he shows the way of the heart.

A Reflective Moment

***"No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed;
families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love.
This is a never-ending vocation***

***Our contemplation of the fulfilment which we have yet to attain
also allows us to stop demanding of our interpersonal relationships a perfection,
which we will only encounter in the Kingdom to Come.
It also keeps us from judging harshly those who live in situations of frailty.
All of us are called to keep striving towards something
greater than ourselves and our families.... Let us keep walking together.
What we have been promised is greater than we can imagine.
May we never lose heart because of our limitations,
or ever stop seeking that fulness of love and communion
which God holds out before us.”***
(Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* n. 325).

Section 31 “The Joy of Love,” the Way of Compassion

“The Joy of Love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church.” (*Amoris Laetitia* 1).

This opening phrase of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation ‘the Joy of Love’ reminds us of the first sentence of “*Gaudium et Spes*”, (‘Joy and Hope’), a famous document of the Second Vatican Council (1965). This document opens by saying:

***“The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women of this age,
especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted,
these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.
Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts.”***

(*Gaudium et Spes* 1).

These words are quite after the heart of people, who want to follow the way of the heart in daily life. In his reflections on family life in today’s society, Pope Francis also totally sympathizes with people’s happiness, struggles and suffering. In fact, the Pope puts into practice a Spirituality of the Heart.

The Pope is fully aware of the fact that in real-life families go through a mixture of joy, hope, grief and anxiety. All these human experiences resonate in his heart and evoke a response of mercy and compassion. According to the Pope, the way of the Church should be the way of mercy and compassion. For Pope Francis ‘mercy’ and ‘compassion’ are not just sentiments of feeling sorry for someone’s pain. ‘Mercy’ and ‘compassion’ show itself by being attentive to people’s sorrow and distress, as well as by practising solidarity, accompaniment and care, as far as possible and needed.

The Pope cares about the entire humankind. He sees humankind as one big family, in which God expects us to treat our “*fellow human beings as brothers and sisters*” (*Amoris Laetitia* 183). In this worldwide family, the Church is sent to be “*a mother who always welcomes (her children),*

takes care of them with affection and encourages them along the path of life and the Gospel" (Amoris Laetitia 299), "even if in the process, her shoes get soiled by the mud of the street" (Amoris Laetitia 308). "It is a matter of reaching out to everyone," the Pope insists, "helping each person to find his or her proper way of participating in the ecclesial community." By doing so, we let people experience, "being touched by an unmerited, unconditional and gratuitous mercy" (Amoris Laetitia 297).

A Reflective Moment

***"In the variety of situations affecting families
the Church is commissioned to proclaim the mercy of God,
the beating heart of the Gospel,
which in its own way must penetrate the mind and heart of every person.
She knows that Jesus himself is the shepherd of the hundred,
not just of the ninety-nine. He loves them all.
We cannot forget that mercy is not only the working of the Father;
it becomes a norm for knowing who his true children are.
In a word, we are called to show mercy because mercy was first shown to us.
... For mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life....
The Church is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone,
with all their problems."***
(Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* 309).

ENCOUNTER OF HEARTS

Another wonderful initiative! We now have an International Newsletter, "***Encounter of Hearts***", which contains reports and activities from lay members of the Chevalier Family across the world. Many thanks to the International Council for this welcome edition to our communications. If you would like a copy please send me your email address. The following is the Editorial.

This first issue of the International Newsletter, "Encounter of Hearts" is published in several languages. It demonstrates that Father Chevalier's dream about the worldwide spreading of the lay branch of his Spiritual Family is increasingly becoming a reality. For Father Chevalier, the involvement of lay people in the mission of the Society that he had in mind, was certainly as important as the participation of religious. After all, he considered the Devotion to the Sacred Heart to be the best cure for the evils of his time, in particular, the remedy for widespread religious indifference and social selfishness. The spiritual healing process had to take place, first of all, in family and public life, these being the particular domain of the laity.

In Chevalier's time, the many challenges the laity had to face in secular society, made it necessary to unite themselves. Chevalier pointed to, "the powerlessness of individuals when left to their own forces." He also worried about, "Christians, running the risk of seeing the torch of faith being darkened, or even dying out in the hearts of those who are dear to them." In particular, he encouraged Christian women, "to preserve the spirit of faith and religion in family and society". These were for Chevalier, reasons that urged people, living in secular society, to participate in what he called, "the movement of the Heart," and to join the communities that belonged to his Spiritual Family.

Today Pope Francis thinks along the same lines as Fr. Chevalier. In his letter "The Joy of the Gospel", he calls small communities and associations, "a source of enrichment for the Church, raised up by the Spirit to evangelize all areas. Frequently, they bring a new evangelizing fervor and a new capacity for dialogue with the world" (EG 29). And he underlines, "if something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life" (EG 49). Chevalier would have totally agreed with the Pope, who declares that, "the full meaning of human life that the Gospel proposes is the best remedy for the ills" of society (EG 75).

We are all sent to bear witness to our faith, through our way of life, and if possible, through words as well. You don't have to be expressly trained to do that, the Pope says, because you may follow the voices of your heart. So, in accordance with a Spirituality of the Heart, he states: "Your heart knows that life is not the same without Him. So, what you have come to realize, what helps you to live and gives you hope, is also what you have to communicate to others" (EG 121).

Hans Kwakman msc, Spiritual Counselor
International Lay Council

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A Letter from the International Council for the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in the Chevalier Family
from Alison McKenzie, on behalf of the International Council of the Laity
of the Chevalier Family

I am confident that you have all heard of the International Council for
the Laity of the Chevalier Family and you have recently received an
electronic copy of our first international Newsletter, that showcases
Reports from as many groups as we could contact around the world. If
you did not receive a copy by email, please contact me and I will forward you a copy.



One of the tasks of the International Council is to create national and regional structures that will facilitate and encourage the ongoing formation of these groups, many of whom, particularly in the Asia/Pacific region and in the African continent are very isolated. Europe and Central and Southern America are already very well organized and are able to communicate freely and they gather together periodically. This is not the case in the Asia/Pacific region, and I have been given the task of working with groups in this region.

In that capacity, I am hoping to organize the first regional gathering of members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in Fiji from 23RD November to 2nd December, 2020. This gathering will occur at the same time as the MSC APIA meeting. Fiji can accommodate no more than 14 members of the laity and we are preferencing people from the remote regions. That means there is one place per country.

What are we asking?

1. For MSC, OLSH and MSC Sisters to communicate about potential participants and to choose together, a person with commitment and leadership capacity to create or further develop national structures within each country. Ideally, the person could speak English, or alternatively, a professed person could accompany the participant as translator.
2. As far as possible, for each country to pay the costs of the lay participant and assist in organizing appropriate Visas. An application is being made to the Australian Mission Office for a grant to subsidise those countries who are unable to pay travel and accommodation expenses. The Australian MSC have offered to cover the medical insurance for participants.
3. Following the gathering, we ask that Provincials, or their delegate assist the participant to begin the work of creating national structures and connecting isolated groups in each country.

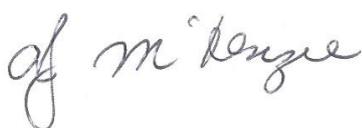
The gathering in Fiji will be planned and facilitated by myself, with assistance from others. It is anticipated that we can join the APIA Conference for liturgies, meals and some social and formative activities.

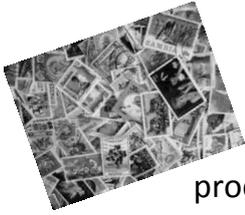
I will be most grateful to hear from you in the near future, initially simply to say you have received this communication and that you are willing to engage in the process.

I can be contacted on Mobile and Whatsapp: +61 418664952 &

Email: alisonmckenzie@chevaliercentre.org

Alison McKenzie (General Secretary International Committee), 25th June 2019





Stamp Collecting

Thank you to those who have sent stamps recently. We have almost processed the 10kgs that we need before we can go to auction. The proceeds will go to our overseas missions and charitable works. Please send them here to Sr Ancilla at OLSH Convent, 2 Kensington Rd Kensington 2033.

Please don't remove the stamps from the paper but cut around them leaving a wide edge. All contributions will be most welcome, no matter how small or how large!

MEETING REPORTS

ALICE SPRINGS: On the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart we celebrated Mass together and then prayed the Rosary with readings from Father Chevalier msc. With each Reading there was time for reflection on the life of our Mother, Mary. Afterwards we had lunch together.

On June 8th we had our Retreat day with Sister Gerardine olsh. The morning began with a cuppa and Fr Alex SVD joined us. Sr Gerardine invited us to share how we have become a part of the Chevalier Family. It was interesting that from our diverse backgrounds we have found ourselves living in Alice Springs and are now part of the OLSH Associates.

Earlier this year, to prepare for our retreat, Sr Kathleen gave us Sr Gerardine's book, *In the Company of Marie Louise Hartzler*. Throughout the day we learnt about Marie Louise Hartzler and her journey. The powerpoint presentation was a great tool for getting a perspective of her life story. There were photos and maps of France showing where Marie Louise lived and moved during her married life. Sr Gerardine explained that it was unusual for people to move so often during those days. Her life as a wife, mother, daughter and sister showed her strength of character to cope with all that life dealt her. We enjoyed the day and thank Sr Gerardine for sharing her in-depth knowledge of Marie Louise Hartzler's life story. Marie Louise Hartzler is truly inspirational. After lunch an informal discussion was held covering various topics relevant to current concerns of Associate members and this was a great way to conclude the Retreat.

Paula Thornton

BENTLEIGH: 12 Associates met at OLSH Convent, Bentleigh, on 29th June. As the day before had been the feast of the Sacred Heart we talked about how the Gospel speaks to us of the Heart of Jesus. A number of examples, such as Jesus the good Shepherd, and quotes such as, "*Do not be afraid*", illustrates Jesus' sensitivity to all types of people. He also responds to their needs by forgiving them for sinning and healing their spiritual and physical weaknesses. We then talked about Jesus' Heart in our world, and we saw wonderful examples in our Church's health care and education, both here and in the missionary field. Sr Elaine then distributed a wonderful publication, *Encounter of Hearts*, a new newsletter about the Laity of the Chevalier Family throughout the world.

Patricia Mirabile

CANBERRA: There was only a small number of us at our May meeting and we looked at the question, "What can we do as a Chevalier Family?", from Fr Andre Claessens' *Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation* article (pages 6-8, Ametur No 332). At first glance the task looks enormous as we are just one cog in our world. Then, after discussing what each of us does, we

learnt from each other a number of small things that we can do to help our environment. Most of us will now connect to Facebook to learn more about our Chevalier Family. It all sounds good!

At our June Meeting, on 8th, we reflected on the article, *One Person's Love for the Church*, written by Francis Sullivan. Each one of us could identify with this article and find something in it that rang true for them. It made us all realise that we had to step up and not shy away from questions and statements from others.

We then attended a Celebration Mass to mark 40 years since our Commitment as Associates. Sisters Ancilla and Mary Ruth joined us from Sydney, and Sr Dain Mary from Hartzler Park, Bowral. It was a very beautiful Mass and Father's homily was so appropriate. As it was the day before Pentecost Sunday Father spoke of the Holy Spirit and of being "*sent people*", sent to proclaim the love of God revealed in the Heart of Jesus. Afterwards we went out to lunch together. A truly lovely day celebrating with friends, a day to cherish for a very long time. Many thanks to the Sisters for making the journey to celebrate with us. It was so special to have them there.

Christine Casey

Only a small number of us attended the meeting on 6th July because of sickness. Sr Dain bought with her a few copies of "Encounter of Hearts" booklet just published. We decided to read it together and only got as far as the Editorial written by Father Hans Kwakman msc. This started a great discussion amongst all. If only people thought as Pope Francis does: "It is a fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life". This spurred us to organize ourselves to visit and keep in touch with other Associates in our group more often.

Christine Casey

CALLALA: Our small group met at Anna Zanin's home in April We prayed the Rosary and the Divine Chaplet of Mercy and read the *Spirituality of the Heart* from the *Ametur*. We shared how we each were affected by Father Chevalier's words, "*God is wholly love. God is love himself, essentially love.*" The words of Pope Francis also resonated with us, "*The Holy Spirit knows well what is needed in every time and place.*"

Anne Collier

At our June meeting we welcomed Sr Merrilyn Lee who came from Hartzler Park and will be attending our meetings. We had many questions about the Australian National Council for the Laity of the Chevalier Family and Sister will explain more about this at our next meeting.

We continued reading from *Spirituality of the Heart* from the *Ametur*, regarding the poor in our society and how, even if we can't contribute much financially, we can keep them in our prayers.

Ann Collier

ELMORE: On a very chilly Wednesday at the end of May 13 Associates and friends gathered in the Convent Chapel to celebrate Mass with Fr Caldwell PP as celebrant. We received an Anointing and Father was available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We then prayed the Rosary together.

Our two residents OLSH Sisters, Shirley and Lee, made us very welcome as usual and we were treated to delicious pumpkin soup followed by an array of home cooking. Although we are small

in number it is wonderful to have the time to get together and catch up on the local news from our small country community.

As Norma Holmberg has retired from her role as leader of the group she was presented with a beautiful cyclamen and card in appreciation of the many years she has been part of the Associate group. We thank Norma and her husband John, and we know that our Blessed Mother will watch over them both as they continue their journey together. Norma responded by telling us about the wonderful OLSH Sisters she has met over the many years. We concluded with the usual chore ... "The Washing Up!"

Irene Nihill

ENFIELD: Sr Pat Irvin led our April meeting and it was a joy to have Sr Marlene Dewar with us from Kensington, Sydney. (Marlene attended OLSH College Enfield, Adelaide, with most of the Enfield Associates). Our reflection centred on Luke 6:27-37, where we meet the compassionate Jesus challenging us to follow his example. After some time sitting with this passage, we were given some ideas to ponder. One of the thoughts suggested by Sr Pat was, "*To follow Jesus is not once and for all, but a daily choice*".

Our meeting closed as usual with a shared supper and over 50 years of catching up with Sr Marlene. Her niece, who brought her to the meeting, may have found this amusing!

On 25th May we met at St Brigid's Church Kilburn for our feast day Mass of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart followed by morning tea at the Convent.

Margaret Baker

HARTZER PARK: Meeting 16th June. Our reflection was on the theme of *Opening the Door of our Heart to our Triune God*: inspired by Joyce Rupp's book, *Open the Door*. All our inner doors need oiling at times to be able to swing freely and be wide open so we can indeed be "*on earth the Heart of God*". From the *Ametur* we followed the Formation presented in Section 28 with a lively discussion comparing the "*needs of the time*," as seen by Father Chevalier, and the needs of our time in the light of practical relationships with "hands on" involvement: isolation and insularity; the poor; care of the environment and climate change; and compassion vs guilt... "*with our commitment not consisting exclusively in activities or programs ... but above all an attentiveness ... and a preferential option for the poor*" (From *A Reflection Moment*)

Jan Clark

KILBURN: We met on 16th March and had a brief introduction to the Plenary Council followed by a very lively discussion. This was a prelude to a short period of prayer during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

On the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart we met for 9am Mass in our parish church of St Brigid's and joined the Enfield Associates and parishioners for this special Mass. Morning Tea followed at the Convent, and was attended by all the Associates, the Sisters and many parishioners. A big crown and a lovely spread ... most enjoyable!

8 Associates attended our meeting on 15th June and there were several apologies. We revisited extracts from Hans Kwakman's book, *The Identity of the Laity of the Chevalier Family*.

Several ladies had recently lost a family member: Mary McKay's only sibling, Les Tapping; Carmen's brother-in-law, Romero Lanzon. We then spent some time in praying for the people of Sri Lanka, Priscilla Pereira's native home. A lovely afternoon tea followed.

Sr Pat Smith

NOTRE DAME (Kensington): As it was the month of May and the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was approaching, we began our meeting on 11th May reflecting on Our Lady. We used Br James Maher's hymn, *Woman of the Sacred Heart*, as a "backdrop" for our prayer. We looked at Mary as carrying life for the world as she fled threats of death. She became a refugee, alien, immigrant, homeless and then settled in a foreign land. Then she watched her boy, Jesus, causing havoc in public, critiquing and condemning the status quo, breaking rule after rule and with every amazing deed her dreams of peace and liberation evaporated, but her faith in a loving God stood firm.

We then shared on the Sunday's Gospel of the Good Shepherd. St John describes Jesus as the Shepherd who gathers us into the flock of his community, aware of our weaknesses and strengths, and our tendency to wander away from Him, yet calling us by name and to life.

Our thoughts then turned to the first page of the Ametur where we discussed Jesus's words, "*Peace be with you*", and reflected on some of the fruits of inner peace, one being a loss of ability to worry. We then shared afternoon tea with the Sisters.

Maureen Maher

Our July meeting was small in number as a great number of our Associates were attending a special international event for the Legion of Mary of which they are members. Sr Ancilla led us in a reflection on the Holy Spirit by using a poem by Jessica Powers, "*To Live with the Spirit*". The poem offered insights into how to live, day by day, responsive to the Spirit. We then moved onto the Sunday Gospel, *The Good Samaritan*, using Judith's unraveled explanation of the parable. It challenged us to look at each of the characters and ask ourselves: "Who is my neighbor?" and "Am I prepared to **do compassion** in an unexpected, unplanned-for moment?"

We also discussed what we might think if we were the wounded person, and asked the question, "How would I feel about being helped by someone whose sexual, political or racial status I would find extremely distasteful?" We were happy to receive the first publication of *Encounter of Hearts* and looked through it together.

Therese Poulton

RANDWICK: Our May and June took place at *Ventnor*, the parish meeting place at Randwick. At our May meeting we reviewed the recent Retreat at Hartzler Park, where Sr Dain Mary led us in a moving and very appropriate consideration of the *Ordinariness of Jesus*.

Sister also spoke of the work of Jean Vanier who has recently died.

At our June meeting Sr Terie entertained and inspired us with a description of the lives of three recently deceased Australian Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred heart who had spent most of their religious lives in Papua New Guinea. This opened to us the extraordinary difficult but happy lives of religious in the Missions. We could have listened to Sister for much longer. Sr Terie also prepared a beautiful paraliturgy on the Holy Spirit, which we will use for our own meditations. Thank you, Sister.

Margaret Krijnen

ROSELANDS: Our group was very small when we met on 8th July at Anna Tomc's home where we always receive such a warm welcome. We began our meeting with a reflection on the Sacred Heart and Father Chevalier – two hearts with a Vision, as Brother James Maher's beautiful hymn states. We were then given a copy of the Laity of the Chevalier Family's first Newsletter of Reports and Activities from across the world, *Encounter of Hearts*. It was a beautiful surprise and we really enjoyed looking through the publication and reading the various articles. What a blessing it is to belong to this International Chevalier Family!

Sr Ancilla

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Joseph Mary Murray, Sr Rita Torpey, Sr Damien Mary George (St Joseph's)
Sr Valentine Steen (Tilburg), Sr M Julita Seger (Sao Paulo),
Sr Philiberta Verkleij (Holland)

MSC

Br John Ehlefeldt, Father Gregory McCann

OLSH Associates

Kate Baxter (Bowral)



Relatives and Friends

Joan Clarke, Paul Hancock, Ross Meyer, John Keen, Dal Hanrahan, Marcelle Daniels, Theresa Sullivan, John Perks, Aileen Langdon, Janese Walls, Les Tapping, Romero Lanzon, Angela Miranda, Neil (Isle of Wight),

The Sick and Those Needing our Prayers

Dorothy and David Thomas, Sr Christine Martin, Sr Kateia, Sr Jane, Margaret Breen, Zack, Esme Elefante, Elsie Heiss, Rita Moore, Margaret Zucker, Fr John Rate msc, Mrs Rate, Greg Baker, Peter Butler, Ruth Miranda, Rosa Martinez, Pamela Tipanan, Gemmabel Gracia, Mario Bentancort, Rayma Weaver, Ray O'Neil, Lachlan Bird, Claire Small, Charlie Bailey, Margaret & John Toye, Petra O'Donnell, Hazel Bailey, Lorraine Conolly, Barbara Brown, Barbara McLean, Katie Casey, Helen Stark, Fr Hilton Roberts, Paul Casey, Collier Family, Grant Hanrahan, Paul & Lesley Cheeseman, Ailne Eyles, Grace Corbitt, Guy McBride, Betty Wetzler, the Sale of a Home, Rain for our Farmers.

Thanksgiving for Favours Received

New homes for Andrew and Pat, Majella, Josie
Little Audrey (aged 2), successful brain tumour operation – keep praying.



Associates' Retreats at Hartzler Park

Sr Dain Mary olsh will be giving a retreat at Hartzler Park in October for members of the Chevalier Family:
Friday evening 18th October – After Lunch Sunday 20th October.
The cost: \$200 for the weekend. \$100 per night. \$60 per day.
Those living locally may wish to return home in the evening. The

Saturday is the main content of the Retreat and some may wish to attend only on that day. Please ring Sr Ancilla on 0296621777 or email her ancilla.white@olshaustralia.org.au, or associates@olshaustralia.org.au for more details and an enrolment form.

Please have your forms back by 10th October