

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

Ametur

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May-June 2021

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

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Year of St Joseph and of The Family

Dear Associates

Who would have thought this time last year that our world would still be going through the devastation of Covid-19! Here in Australia, we have been saved from much of the suffering that our sisters and brothers in other countries have been and still are experiencing. This world-wide crisis has brought into the spotlight the weaknesses and frailties of our modern world and our way of being in this world. It has also shown up the beauty and generosity of so many people as they give of themselves, even unto death, for the welfare of others. But, where to from here? Certainly, we cannot go back to our old ways of thinking and being. We must rethink our place in God's creation and our responsibility to our brothers and sisters wherever and whoever they may be. It is only by rethinking, reflecting and praying that we will be able, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to BE different people in the post-Covid world.

Pope Francis has written a new book, ***Let us Dream. The Path to a Better Future.*** (Simon & Schuster, London, 2020). It is most readable, and it explains how we can and must make our world safer, fairer and healthier for all people and all of God's wonderful creation. It is available at all good bookshops, including Pauline Book and Media Centre and on the internet. I encourage you to procure a copy for yourself. In the early pages of the book Pope Francis writes:

*We have neglected and mistreated our ties
with our Creator,
with creation, and with our fellow creatures.
But the good news is that an Ark awaits us
to carry us to a new tomorrow.
Covid-19 is our Noah moment,
as long as we can find our way to the Ark of
the ties that unite us:
of love, and of a common belonging.*



*The Noah story in Genesis is not just about how God offered a path out of destruction,
but about all that followed.*

*The regeneration of human society meant a return to respecting limits,
curbing the reckless pursuit of wealth and power,
looking out for the poor and those living on the edges.*

***The introduction of the Sabbath and the Jubilee –
moments of recovery and reparation,
forgiving debts and restoring relationships –were key to that regeneration,
giving time for the earth to bounce back,
for the poor to find fresh hope, for people to find their souls again.***

That is the grace available to us now, the light in the midst of our tribulation.

Let us not throw it away. (Page 14-15)

The biblical idea of **Sabbath** and **Jubilee** is explained in the Book of Leviticus. The Chosen People were a travel-worn exhausted group of wanderers, nearing the end of their forty-year sojourn in the desert, when God spoke to them through Moses:

*When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land
is to keep a **Sabbath's** rest for Yahweh. For six years
you shall sow your field, for six years you shall prune
your vine and gather its produce,
but in the seventh year the land is to have its rest,
a **Sabbath** for Yahweh.*

*You must not sow your field or prune your vine or
harvest your ungathered corn or gather grapes from
your untrimmed vine.*

It is to be a year of rest for the land. (Lev 25:2-6)



Our infinitely tender, infinitely compassionate God was establishing for his Chosen people a foundation of rest and re-creation, a spirituality, a way in which they would relate to their God. From the very beginning of their new life in the Promised Land they were to alternate work and withdrawal from work. Every seventh year was to be an agriculturally fallow year, a year-long Sabbath for the land. During that year they were to step back from the ordinary pursuits of sowing, weeding and harvesting. They were to adopt a reverent attitude towards themselves, their neighbour and the land. Thus, a rhythmic pattern would be established which would increase in momentum with every seven years. It was only when this practice had become habitual that the Great jubilee, the Sabbath of Sabbath, the Year of the Lord's favour, appeared. It was the fiftieth year. God explained its significance and practice to His Chosen Ones:

*You will declare this fiftieth year sacred
and proclaim the **liberation of all the inhabitants of the land.**
This is to be a **Jubilee** for you:*



each of you will return to your ancestral home, each to his own clan.

***You will not sow,
you will not harvest the ungathered corn,
you will not gather from the untrimmed vines.***

*The Jubilee is to be a holy thing for you;
you will eat what comes from the land. (Lev 25:8-12)*

One can only wonder what was going through the minds of the **Chosen People when they heard these strange injunctions!** But Yahweh knew what they were thinking and had the answer ready:

In case you should ask:

What shall we eat in this seventh year if we do not harvest the produce?

*I have ordered my blessing to be on you every sixth year,
which will therefore provide for you for three years.*

*You will have the old produce to eat while you are sowing in the eighth year
and ever as late as the ninth year;
you will eat the old produce while waiting for the harvest of that year. (Lev 25:20-22)*

These Jubilee instructions were an invitation to be involved in matters of the spirit, in relational matters, in heart connections. **Liberation** – all slaves and prisoners were to be released. **Reunion** - all were to return to their ancestral homes, each to their own clan to reunite with family members, revisit their birthplace and ponder their roots. **Refrain** - from sowing, reaping, gathering crops and fruits and **leave the produce for the poor**, for the ones who had no farms, crops, or herds of their own.

Whether or not the Jews continued this tradition is not a question for us here. The important thing is that it is there in the oldest dreams of Israel, waiting to be dreamed again, waiting to be put into action. These concrete practices are still urgent issues and choosable possibilities for our present times as we attempt to re-imagine the future after Covid. Together we must find ways of translating them from their biblical context into the world of our day.

Pope Francis writes:

*To help us envision this better future,
we can think of those three L's which the Popular Movements promote.
If we put **land** as well as decent **lodging** and **labour** for all at the centre of our actions,
we will be able to create a virtuous cycle
that over time helps us to restore the dignity of our peoples (pages 127-128).*

He concludes:

*By making the restoration of our people's dignity
the central objective of the post-Covid world,
we make everyone's dignity the key to our actions.
To guarantee a world where dignity is valued and respected through concrete actions
is not just a dream but a path to a better future (Page 133).*

The back page of the book jacket gives us more inspiring and challenging words:

To come out of this crisis better, we have to see clearly, choose well and act right.
Let's talk about how. Let us dare to dream.

We must redesign the economy so that it can offer every person access to a dignified existence while protecting and regenerating the natural world.

What is the greatest fruit of a personal crisis? I'd say patience, sprinkled with a healthy sense of humour, which allows us to endure and make space for change to happen.

When I speak of change I mean that those people who are now on the edges become the means of changing society.

We do not possess the truth so much as the truth possesses us, constantly attracting us by means of beauty and goodness.

Sin is a rejection of the limits that love requires.

Our greatest power is not in the respect that others have for us, but the service we can offer others.

I hope that this tiny taste of Pope Francis' book will whet your appetite for more! It is a wonderful book, a pleasure and a challenge to read.

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May is Mary's Month

The celebrated English poet and Jesuit, Gerard Manley Hopkins, reminds us in his beautiful Marian poem, *The May Magnificat*, and wonders why:

*May is Mary's month, and I
Muse at that and wonder why:
Her feasts follow reason,
Dated to season –*

*Candlemas, Lady Day;
But the Lady Month, May,
Why fasten that upon her,
With a feasting in her honour?*

*Ask of her, the mighty mother:
Her reply puts this other
Question: What is Spring?—
Growth in every thing—*



His poem goes on to describe the bursting forth of new life in the English spring.

*All things rising, all things sizing
Mary sees, sympathising
 With that world of good,
 Nature's motherhood.*

*Their magnifying of each its kind
With delight calls to mind
 How she did in her stored
 Magnify the Lord.*

*Well but there is more than this;
Spring's universal bliss
 Much, had much to say
 To offering Mary May.*

*This ecstasy all through mothering earth
Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth
 To remember and exultation
 In God who was her salvation.*



Here in Australia, we are in the season of autumn and the spring is yet to come. However, we are in the spring of Christ's rising from the dead as we celebrate these weeks of post-Resurrection in the Liturgy.

Hopkins has another beautiful poem, *The Blessed Virgin Compared to the Air we Breathe*. The final verse is a prayer that you might like to say during the month of May.

***Be thou then, O thou dear
Mother, my atmosphere;
My happier world, wherein
To wend and meet no sin;

Above me, round me lie
Fronting my froward eye
With sweet and scarless sky;

Stir in my ears, speak there
Of God's love, O live air,
Of patience, penance, prayer:***

*World-mothering air, air wild,
Wound with thee, in thee isled,
Fold home, fold fast thy child.*



Poetry has the power to describe what we feel in our hearts but cannot express in words. As one writer has said:

*Such poetry can't but leave you in prayer:
"Be thou, O dear Mother, my atmosphere."
Let me live and move in the air where I may feel his rays.
Fold me fast in the mothering grace where I may pray.
Wound round with thy "sweet and scarless sky,"
I will "wend and meet no sin."
Whisper then in my ear of the Father
who made me his son, [and his daughter]
and you my mother.*

The words, *stir in my ears, speak there of God's love, O live air*, beautifully describe the role of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in our lives. I invite you to read the whole of these two poems as you live through the month of May with Mary

On Saturday 29th May we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. May we be united in one heart as we thank God for the gift that she is to each one of us, to our Chevalier Family and to the world. Let us pray from her Memorare:

Let us live like you in the love of your Son that his kingdom may come!

Blessings and gratitude in the Loving Heart of Jesus with Mary

(Sr) Ancilla White Osh

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Marie Louise Hartzer (cont)

Sr Juliette Baker FDNsc

Widowhood and War

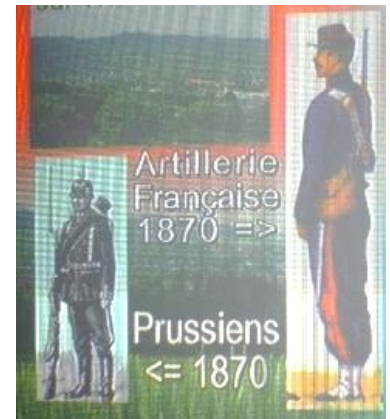
Thirty-two years of age and a widow with two small boys to support and comfort! My lonely heart turned, as ever, to God. But I seemed no longer to be able to collect my ideas to pray; the thought of the future filled me with fear. I took council with a spiritual director, the Abbé Veuillemin of the seminary at Vesoul where we then lived, and I found strength in his kindly and wise guidance.

About this time my beloved youngest sister Marie died and my mother's health suffered another reverse. So, stifling my own sorrow, I set off with my sons to find a home in Strasbourg where we could live together with my mother and other sister, Antoinette. A suitable house was purchased in the Rue St. Louis near the parish church.



It was now early in 1870, the year remembered in history for the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war. Never dreaming that such a catastrophe was imminent I busied myself during the first months at Strasbourg in looking after my mother and sister. The boys needed settling into their new school routine, their home studies had to be supervised (like all boys they were adept at avoiding mental effort, given the chance!) and games, amusements and outings with them were as much a necessity as a pleasure for the three of us. No time now for long hours of prayer, thought the church was close by; but my longing for the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist led me to draw up a programme that allowed for short daily visits.

The in July war with all its attendant terrors broke upon us. Strasbourg lay in the path of the advancing German army. The whole of Alsace, our little country, fast became a battleground. As French troops filed into the city and set up fortifications, I prepared the safest room for a shelter, and set the family to work on lint and bandages for the ambulances and dressing stations. We were very anxious for our relatives, many of whom were French, but many, too, were German and now officially our enemies. Bewildering and tragic thought!



Within a few days our worst fears were realised. Rapidly, one by one, the towns to the north fell to the enemy and refugees poured in by every city gate. On 9th August Strasbourg itself was besieged. All outside communications were cut off. On the night of the 15th the bombardment began in earnest.

Rousing the household, I hurried everyone downstairs to the shelter amid the scream of shells and the din of answering gunfire. We dragged mattresses and furniture against the windows and doors as some protection against flying shrapnel, while the ground shuddered again and again with the shock of explosions. The first night of terror seemed endless, but it was only the beginning of a succession of such nights and days that went on for the six weeks of the siege. All during the bombardments we prayer – how we prayed! – that the French army would come to our relief. But any news that filtered through told of the many French defeats, and finally that the Imperial Government in Paris has fallen, and a republic had been proclaimed. We hoped in vain for an armistice ... the bombardment continued unabated.

Eventually our sufferings evoked a wave of sympathy in nearby Switzerland. Requests were made by the Swiss for the women, children and old men to be given permission by the besiegers to withdraw from the city into the safety of their country. The permission was granted on condition that the names of evacuees be submitted to the German Command. At once I applied for passports for each member of our family since Strasbourg was rapidly becoming an inferno. Our prayers were answered, for among the four thousand names submitted ours were selected to leave in the first convey of five hundred. But when the passports actually arrived, to my consternation, the names of my children were missing!

There was only one thing to do: go to the office of the authorities myself and get the matter rectified. I set out alone across the city and returned victorious some hours later with the boys' names on the passports. It had been a gruelling ordeal in the midst of shot and shell but, all through it, I felt within me that calm that trust in God brings.

Refugees

When the evacuation took place the next morning, my family formed a little group in the sad procession of refugees. It was an exercise in detachment from worldly goods, since we were not only forced to leave home and country but were forbidden to carry any luggage whatsoever. Armed soldiers accompanied our ranks as we travelled through Germany. The towns through which we passed on our despondent and weary way were bedecked with flags and bunting to celebrate that country's victory.

Shortly after our arrival in Switzerland I chose to take the family to Einsiedeln, a peaceful little town in the Alps where we could recover from the nerve shattering experiences of war. Another reason for this choice was that there was a famous shrine called Our Lady of the Hermits. Every day together with our other compatriots, we entrusted to Mary the anxieties of the present and the future.

When the theatre of war moved away from Alsace, we returned to Strasbourg to find a devastated city. Later, when Germany had annexed Alsace, we moved yet again, this time to Ornans in France, in order to retain French citizenship. Here I placed the boys in boarding school. It was here, too, at the Visitation Convent, that I learnt to deepen my love for Jesus by a more intimate knowledge of his Sacred heart and to understand more about Mary, under the title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, a title for which I felt a great attraction, since it indicated the beautiful relationship that exists between Mother and Son in heaven and on earth.



Our On-Going Formation

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.



Section 54:

Spirituality of the Heart and God's Creation in Evolution.

(Hans Kwakman msc)

*"The whole material universe is an expression of God's love,
of His immeasurable goodness to us" (Laudato Si 84).*

The universe with its vast variety of creatures comes from God's loving heart. God is love and everything that is created, from the very beginning, billions of years ago, to the present moment - the furthest distant galaxy and our planet Earth; the smallest insect and every individual human being - everything is a gift of God's creative love.

Every creature owes every moment of his or her existence to God and God allows every creature to develop according to natural laws, his or her own. Pope Francis writes:

*"God is intimately present to each being,
without impinging on the autonomy of his creature,
and this gives rise to the rightful autonomy of earthly affairs.
His divine presence,
which ensures the subsistence and growth of each being,
continues the work of creation" (LS 80).*

That is why we can meet God in all things. God fills the universe completely with His presence and the universe develops in God. *"We can discover the mystery of God's presence in every leaf, mountain path, dewdrop, or the face of a poor person,"* declares the Pope (LS 233). All the beauty that we experience in nature and in art, but also every expression of love and forgiveness, fidelity and solidarity, peace and justice, shows us the beauty and attractiveness of God. *"The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge,"* states the Pope (LS 80) The Pope continues: *"Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God's art, impressed upon things, whereby those things are moved to a determinate end"* (LS 80).



He compares God's Spirit to a mysterious shipbuilder, who is able to give timber the strength to take the shape of a ship itself (LS 80). Where the natural sciences speak of evolution, we see with the eyes of faith the driving force of God's Spirit at work.

REFLECTION

*"The Church clearly teaches that the scientific evolution theory,
when properly understood,
is fully compatible with faith in God as the creator.*

*The Catechism states: "The question on the origins of the world and of humankind is the subject
of many scientific studies.*

*Our knowledge of the age and the dimensions of the cosmos,
as well as of the development of life forms and the appearance of humankind,
they have highly enriched.*

These discoveries invite us to even more admiration for the greatness of the Creator."
(The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 283)

*"But the question of the meaning of the origin of creation,
whether the universe is governed by chance or by God,
the question why there is evil and so on...,
these are not questions that science can answer anyway.
Science can tell us HOW things come to exist in the universe,
but not WHY."*

(David Cloutier, *Reading, Praying, Living Pope Francis's Laudato Sí*. Liturgical Press. Kindle Edition).

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Chevalier Family News



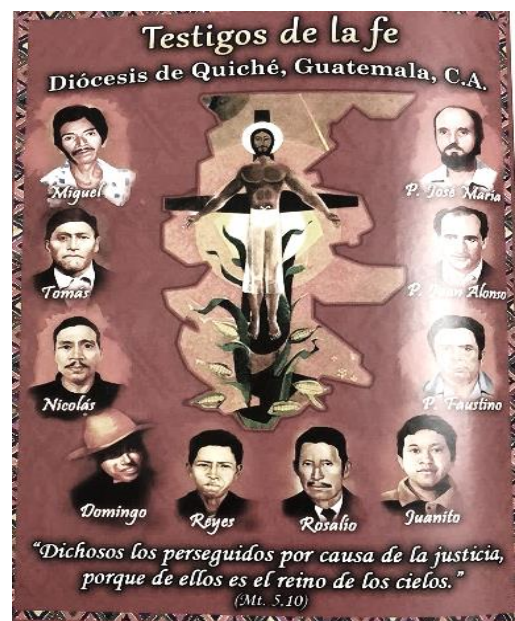
The Beatification of the Ten Martyrs of Guatemala

Friday 23 April 2021 - Today the rite.

Blessed are the martyrs of Guatemala.

Faith is the answer to injustice.

*Ten on the altars: among them missionaries,
priests, catechists,
pastoral workers and even a 12-year-old.*



The commitment against violence during the civil war

It was a day in August 1995. The farmer was working in his field, as usual. The hoe inadvertently moved a stone, driven into the dark earth. It was then that he noticed the strange object: a book closed in a plastic bag. With difficulty, on the thick black cover, one could still read the golden inscription: "Holy Bible". The photo of its ruined pages, displayed in the Human Rights Office of the Archbishopric of Guatemala City (Odha), is the most authentic memory of the civil war that bloodied the nation between 1960 and 1996.

In the Quiché highlands a genocide took place: tens of thousands of civilians were massacred. Women, men, children, and the elderly, overwhelmingly poor and indigenous: a tragically "normal" combination in a country where poverty has the Mayan colour and features. A people, however, deeply believing, capable - in the wake of the teachings of the Council, the Conferences of the Latin American Bishops and the work of evangelization carried out by Catholic Action - of reconciling the Gospel and daily commitment to building the Kingdom.

From this was born the prophecy that prompted priests, bishops, laity, catechists, pastoral workers to denounce the system of ferocious exclusion maintained with blood by the small landowner elite and their representatives in military governments. It was enough to have a Bible in the house to be tortured and killed. Violence did not extinguish faith. Books and sacred symbols were buried but they continued to be read and prayed in secret.

"They buried the Bible, placed flowers and candles on it" - says Fernando Bermúdez, a missionary for thirty years in Guatemala together with his wife, theologian and author of *Religión digital*. "At night, the community gathered at that point to remember some passages, resurrecting the Word. Witnesses to the end."

Like the Spanish priests and **Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, José María Gran Cirera and Juan Alonso Fernández and Faustino Villanueva**, the sacristan Tomás Ramírez Caba, the catechists Rosalío Benito Ixchop, Reyes Us Hernández, Domingo Del Barrio Batz, Nicolás Castro, Miguel Tiu Imul and Juan Imul Barrera Méndez, just 12 years old: all murdered in hatred of the faith between 1980 and 1991, as acknowledged by the decree which Pope Francis authorized in the promulgation on January 24 last. And as such today they will be beatified at the Rosary Institute of Santa Cruz de El Quiché. The Mass will be presided over by Cardinal Álvaro Leonel Ramazzini Imeri, Bishop of Huehuetenango.

The town has been decorated with flowers and murals for this great celebration that not even the pandemic can erase. "It is a recognition of the faith of the people of God who pilgrim in Quiché. There the Church was persecuted, paradoxically, by 'fellow countrymen'. The military and paramilitaries who massacred civilians and tortured priests and catechists professed to be Catholics. To justify themselves, they accused the victims of being subversive and communist. Nothing more false. Their nonviolent defence for the dignity of the oppressed was rooted in the Gospel," says Nery Rodenas, director of Odha. It was this last office - created by Juan Gerardi, bishop of Quiché and also a victim of death squads - that uncovered the "official lie" in the Nunca Más report.

A careful work of reconstruction of historical memory through the collection of testimonies in the field: 6 thousand arrived from Quiché alone. "I accompanied the future blessed Nicolás Castro and Reyes Us. One day they asked me to help them hide the consecrated hosts in a container where there were some corn flats. It was the only safe way to take them to their villages, a day's walk away. They knew they were risking a horrible death if they found them. But they told me that neither they nor their communities could renounce the Body of Christ", Bermúdez recalls. They killed Nicolás on the night of September 29, 1980: a commando broke into his home and tried to kidnap him. He opposed and they hit him with three bullets in front of his wife, mother and children. He was 35 years old. Less than two months later it was Reyes 'turn'.

"The example of these martyrs" - concludes Rodenas – "inspires us to work with even more enthusiasm for the truth and justice of the Kingdom, for which they lived. And they are dead ". At the same time as Guatemala, the diocese of Crema, which for years has maintained relations with the diocese of Quiché, also thanks the numerous missionaries from Cremasco. Bishop Daniele Gianotti will celebrate a Mass at 6 pm in the Basilica of Saint Mary of The Cross.

Congratulations to our Newest OLSH Associates

Nancy Gabaeur, Marnie Niland, Pat and Laurie Gillespie

who made their Commitment on Sunday, 28th February. at OLSH Convent Chapel,
Corinda, Queensland.

Welcome to the Chevalier Family,
dear Nancy, Marnie, Pat and Laurie.

May you be richly blessed as you live out our Charism
to be on earth the Heart of Jesus.

News from South Sudan

Prayers for South Sudan

After receiving the following news from Fr Carl Trantar, the Irish MSC Provincial, our Congregational Leader, Sr Marife Mendoza, has written to us asking for prayers for South Sudan. Our Australia Sisters, Rita and Wendy, are ministering in Marpourt, in the Diocese of Rumbek, with Srs Rita and Suwarti from Indonesia. We have since heard that they are well away from Rumbek and that the attack was a personal one on the Bishop elect.

Dear Sisters

I received this alarming news from Fr Carl Tranter this morning regarding the attack on the newly appointed Bishop of Rumbek - Bishop Christian Carlassare. Below is the email from Fr Alan Neville msc and the link to the news.

I have been trying to contact our sisters -Rita and Wendy - to assure them of our prayers and to find out how they are...

Let us ask Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for this particular intention - peace in South Sudan and safety of our missionaries.

Marife

Dear Brothers,

This morning I have received news from Alan Neville that the Bishop Elect in Rumbek, South Sudan, Mgr Christian Carlassare, was last night attacked by armed men who shot him in both legs. He is in hospital awaiting evacuation to Nairobi.

Bishop-elect Christian (43 years old, an Italian Comboni Missionary who has worked in South Sudan since 2005) was appointed by Pope Francis in March to take over the pastoral leadership of the diocese which has been without a bishop for ten years. His Episcopal ordination had been set for 23rd May.

Please keep Bishop-elect, Christian, in your prayers, along with the whole diocese and a country that is still riven with violent conflict between different political and ethnic groups.

<https://www.aciafrica.org/news/3320/bishop-elect-in-south-sudan-shot-evacuation-plans-for-specialized-treatment-underway>

We also keep Alan, our OLSH sisters, the Loreto sisters and all the students and staff in Loreto School, Rumbek, in our prayers at this time.

Carl



Thank you from Sr Rita olsh

OLSH Sisters Mapuordit
Diocese of Rumbeck
Nairobi, Kenya.
11th April 2021

Dear All,

The writing of this letter coincides with the Eight Days of international mourning for the late Prince Phillip; with the rest of the world, we hail the late Prince as a steadfast Christian who for more than seven decades stood by Queen Elizabeth throughout her good times and not so good times. Within the Mapuordit context, the late Prince Philip is somewhat of an unknown; additionally, as a polygamous society, it is unknown for a marriage such as

we've witnessed to be possible.

The purpose of this letter is once again to express our deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the recent funding received from Overseas Aid. In the few years, Australia has come through severe drought, through fires so severe that smoke circumnavigated the globe; then along came the dreaded Corona Virus, and most recently flooding bringing heartbreak to thousands. Sr Wendy follows the Australia news daily; I follow the BBC world news; Pauline reads the headlines of both; so, between us we fairly much are able to keep abreast with what is going on.

In view of so much widespread devastation within Australia we were considering possibilities of lessening rations etc. But your generosity enables us to continue a food support program for the many destitute living in and around Mapuordit. From the 15 house-bound elderly widows

benefiting from your support, thank you. From blind Abraham Macok and family, and his many blind confreres and their families, thank you. From the lepers and their families, thank you; from the small children, often isolated in hospital and visited by Sr Wendy, thank you. When Wendy pulls a lollypop from her hospital bag in the children's ward, many otherwise sick eyes glitter with joy. Thank you. When worthy students merit on-going training in either agriculture or University studies but can't afford all expenses themselves, thank you. Deserted HIV widows and small children greatly benefit from your kindness. The litany of beneficiaries is inexhaustible.

Until very recently Mapuordit seemed totally free of Covid-19. However, several positive cases were identified after the arrival of the testing kits! Most positive cases surprised everyone because no symptoms had been detected. Even now most cases are asymptomatic. Thankfully, the strain testing position is very mild. As elsewhere, those who have died had pre-existing conditions and presented very late for treatment. Till now our schools unfortunately remain closed.

Recent developments include our three trainees in Agriculture in Uganda returning to school. Our gardens flourished while they were home on leave. Their many newly gained skills were generously shared among the local population. An ex-student formerly working in Nursery School is now attending the Rumbeck Branch of the Juba Catholic university. Thank you for your support.

The news of our newly appointed Bishop Elect has brought great happiness throughout our Diocese of Rumbeck. Bishop-Elect Christian Casselare mccj, is an Italian Comboni missionary priest. Meanwhile we appeal for prayerful support for worrying instability amongst the politicians of South Sudan. The whole population yearns and prays for PEACE.

Sincerely grateful and in admiration of the generosity of all Australians

Sr Rita Grunke osh



Congratulations:

This year is the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Wadeye (Port Keats), Northern Territory. A quiet but meaningful celebration was held at the Old Convent on Sat 17th April. Here is Camilla, who was with us as a Sister for a short time, with Sr Tess and a friend, telling of her memories of first meeting the Sisters.

Stamps

Thank you so much for your contributions, great and small. They have been coming in at a great rate and we are eagerly awaiting our first cheque from a recent Auction. Please keep them coming.



Associates' Annual Retreat 2021

Because of Covid we were unable to have a retreat last year and this year our two favourite retreat centres, Hartzer Park and Douglas Park, are fully booked. However, all is not lost! We have secured a booking for **Friday October 15th - Sunday 17th October at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Varraville**. Father Ed Travers msc has kindly agreed to be our Retreat Master.

The location is rural, just outside of Minto. There are 29 rooms available, all on the ground floor. There are no ensuites, but three communal bathrooms. The cost is \$210. I am sure that you will



find this new venue very conducive to reflection and prayer. Please fill in the form below and return it to Sr Ancilla as soon as possible, or ring on 96621777, or email associates@olshaustralia.org.au if you intend making this retreat so that we can have some idea of the numbers. There is no need to send any money yet.

Name: Phone:

Address:

I would like, at this stage, to make this retreat. Sign:

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Webinar on the Spirituality of the Heart

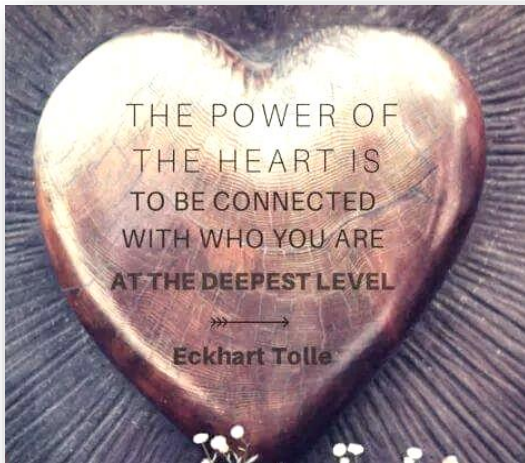
Sr Cathie Olsh, Director of Cor Vitae writes:

"I would like to bring to your awareness courses which Cor Vitae (an inter- Congregational initiative between members of the Chevalier Family from Asia, Australia and the Pacific) has planned for this year. One is specifically for the Laity for 3 days and it is on the 25,26,27 of May "A Mission Shared With the Laity".

This is an exciting initiative for members of the Chevalier Family and a wonderful opportunity to grow in knowledge and understanding of our Spirituality. For those who are familiar with or would like to become familiar with the wonders of Webinar, what a good way to begin. All you need is internet on your computer and the help of a "tech savvy" friend!

Here are the details and if you are interested or know anyone who would be interested in attending, please send you names to Kerrie Wehbe kerrie.wehbe@olshaustralia.org.au by May 15th. Following are details of the Course:

A Mission Shared With the Laity



Course Description: This course is especially designed for the Lay members of the Chevalier Family. It will revisit the roots of the Spirituality of the Heart as a way of life in the Life, Charism and Mission of Fr. Jules Chevalier. It will explore the four movements of the Spirituality of the Heart with focus on the fourth movement: A Mission Shared. It will conclude with the reflections on "Practising the Spirituality of the Heart in the Family and Society".

Goal: The over-all goal of this course is to inspire the Lay Chevalier Family to live the Spirituality of the Heart so as to help liberate families and societies from the evil impact of the pandemic, towards a new way of living in love, justice and sharing of the earth's resources, to love the way Jesus loved.

Methodology: 1 Andragogical and Inter-cultural 2. Conversational and reflective 3. Prayerful and Communally Discerning

Date: 25,26,27 May 2021; 2 hours per session; Manila Time Zone Reference: 1:30pm – 3:30pm

The Program:

A. The Roots of the Spirituality of the Heart as a way of life in the Life, Charism and Mission of Fr. Jules Chevalier: Yohannes Mangkey, MSC

Objective: To appreciate the roots of The Spirituality of the Heart and its relevance today.

Method: Opening Prayer – Presentation - Personal Prayer and Reflection - Group Sharing - Community Inter-Action- Synthesis - Closing Prayer.

B. The Four Movements of the Spirituality of the Heart: A Mission Shared: Ben Alforque, MSC.

Objective: To help deepen the sense of Mission among the Lay Members of the Chevalier Family.

Method: Opening Prayer – Presentation - Personal Prayer and Reflection - Group Sharing - Community Inter-Action- Synthesis - Closing Prayer

C. Practising the Spirituality of the Heart in the Family and Society: Chacho & Marilyn Angeles

Objective: To help the Lay Members of the Chevalier Family crystalize the missionary tasks in their families, in their places of work and in society as whole towards a life that is truly new and liberating.

Method: Opening Prayer – Presentation - Personal Prayer and Reflection - Group Sharing - Community Inter-Action- Synthesis - Closing Prayer.

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Associates' Meeting Reports

BENTLEIGH: 13 Associates met at the Convent and Sr Elaine led the meeting on 27th February. We spoke about what we had done during the lockdown. I was able to show the group some of my watercolours. We talked about the Gospel of the Transfiguration when God the Father asked us to listen to his beloved Son, Jesus. We also looked at Sr Philippa's article reminding us of some of Mother Marie Louise Hartzler's words of wisdom to the early Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. She stressed particularly to watch over with care the children and the needy. We then watched a lovely TV show about Sr Anne Gardiner and her ministry to the Tiwi people of Nguu (Bathurst Island). The overall message of the day was that we take time to really listen to others.

Patricia Mirabile

Our March Meeting was on 27th and we remembered this time last year when our city went into lockdown and there was no Easter celebrated in our parishes. Fortunately, the ceremonies were able to be viewed on TV and YouTube. We shared the different ways in which we had celebrated Easter in 2020. Sr Elaine suggested that we try to spend at least 15 minutes daily during Holy Week to quietly, without distractions, sit down with Jesus and listen to our hearts. Then we could write down how we felt. For our reflection we were given some thoughts on the Eucharist written by Father Chevalier.

Patricia Mirabile

We met on 24th April and reflected on Easter. We were reminded that this Easter season lasts until Pentecost and so we should enjoy the resurrected Jesus and look forward to our New Life free of sin. Some said that they were particularly inspired over Easter by the enthusiasm of the new Catholics in the parish. We also looked at how Peter changed from denial to total dedication to Jesus over this time. We talked about "peace" and our different ways of finding peace in our lives. We then remembered Anzac Day and all our friends and relatives who had been involved in defending our country. We were invited to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred heart with the Sisters at the Convent on Saturday 29th May beginning with Mass at 11 am.

Patricia Mirabile

CALLALA: Our Associate group is decreasing in number, but all are very faithful to the meeting. At the end of 2020 Fr Pat, from Nowra, came and celebrated our annual end-of-the-year Mass. May God bless him for his retirement years after nearly 30 years as Parish priest of Nowra. There were 5 members present at our February meeting and we prepared for the Lenten Group which will meet each week during this holy season.

Sr Merrilyn Lee olsh

CANBERRA: The Associates met at St Matthew's, Page, on 6th March. After having a meditation of Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, we decided that we must learn more about St Joseph and pray more to him. Like him we must listen more than talk in our quiet times of prayer so that we can hear God talking to us. Thank you, Sr Ancilla, for your beautiful words on St Joseph in the *Ametur*. There is much for us to contemplate over this month.

Christine Casey.

CORINDA: The Associates met on 28th February for their first meeting of 2021. Sr Rita led the group. After our reflection we all moved to the Chapel for the Commitment Ceremony for four new Associates. We were so happy to welcome Patrice and Laurie Gillespie, Nancy Gabaeur and Marnie Niland into our Chevalier family as OLSH Associates. The day was filled with joy at being together again and sadness knowing that the Convent is being closed. At our next meeting decisions will be made about the way forward for our alive and vibrant group of Associates.

Sr Merrilyn Lee olsh

HARTZER PARK: Our first meeting for the year fell on the First Sunday in Lent and our reflection theme was "Seeing Things Differently" as Zacchaeus did when he climbed the tree. Then Jesus came to his house and from this encounter Zacchaeus *opened the door of his heart* and saw things differently – as we are called to do in Lent. Our Formation time was reading a brief outline of *Patris Corde* and discussing how we may see St Joseph, during this special year dedicated to him, as a model of Heart Spirituality. It was with great pleasure that we welcomed a Sydney Associate, Lilyan, to our meeting for the morning.

Jan Clark

We met on 21st March and Julie presented a beautiful and prayerful Reflection on Heart Spirituality, *Anchored Within*, that encompassed faith, hope and love. It was inspired by Joyce Rupp's *Anchors of the Soul* and Jenny Lee (of *Call the Midwife* fame) upon reflecting:

*In later life I came to see that faith, like hope,
is a rope and anchor in a shifting world.
Faith cannot be questioned, only lived.
And if I could not grasp it then,
I felt its heartbeat, which was love.*

For our On-Going Formation time we discussed with considerable passion the points raised from Section 53 especially in relation to *the throwaway culture of human life*.

Jan Clark

We met on 18th April and our Reflection, "*For Easter People - Love is Come Again*" covered Scripture passages from the Resurrection to the time of waiting prior to Pentecost with prayer and reflection on the eight short Scripture narratives presented. Our Formation was inspired by Sr Philippa's words in the *Ametur* reflecting on Mother Marie Louise Hartzler words of 1901, "*I again urge you to show much delicate attention towards the needy*" and how the charism of Jules Chevalier's love of the Sacred Heart also inspired Eileen O'Connor and Father Edward McGrath MSC in the formation of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor in the early 1900s.

Jan Clark

NOTRE DAME: 9 of us met again in Mascot for our March meeting. We read and reflected on the Sunday Gospel John: 3:16. Our sharing began with the topic of "Hope" which was prepared by one of the members. It seems very appropriate in the current world we live in. This led us to the Year dedicated to St Joseph, Pope Francis Encyclical Letter "Fratelli Tutti", and Mother Mary Louise Hartzler. We concluded with the following from Joan D. Chittister "*The spiritual task of life is to feed hope. Hope is not something to be found outside us. It lies in the spiritual life we cultivate within.*" The meeting came to a close with a hymn by James Maher followed by afternoon tea.

Therese Poulton.

Six Associates gathered at Therese's place for our April meeting. We discussed the Gospel for the second Sunday of Easter, Jesus' meeting with Thomas, so beautifully prepared by Judith. At His appearance with the disciples, Jesus' first gift to them is the gift of peace which we all seek. Jesus also gives them the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the gift of forgiveness which they are to extend to others. As we know, Thomas was not there when Jesus first appears, and in the eight days between the first and second appearance of Jesus Thomas would have wrestled with the dark stranger of doubt and is wounded by this struggle. What a special person Thomas must have been that Jesus came back a second time for him to show Thomas that He was truly risen from the dead. It was in responding to the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas understood Christ's true identity, exclaiming: *'My Lord and my God'*. It is only by touching the wounds of Christ in many different people in many different situations that we can authentically make the same act of faith. The words, *'My Lord and My God'*, are the highest expression of our faith, we thank Thomas for his gift to us of these beautiful words.

Our thoughts then turned to our article on St Joseph from the *Ametur*. We all agreed he is the quietest of all achievers and an example to be followed. He followed the Will of God perfectly and quietly, a truly great and good man whom we come to know through the Gospel stories, especially the infancy narratives. Because we have no words spoken by St Joseph to ponder, we have to use our imagination to recall him in our prayer and recollection of the part he played in the life of Jesus.

Maureen Maher

RANDWICK: We met on 15th February for our first meeting for the year. Such a joy, having not met last year because of the number of restrictions. It was a delight to have Sr Terie guiding us through a friendly and comforting meeting, with discussions and insights on the past year, and the effects that the Covid virus had on our own lives both physically and spiritually. A common theme expressed was relief that we had survived physically, with gratitude for that. We also discussed the spiritual and mental effect of the virus on our individual lives. This, of course, varied with each of us, but again gratitude and awareness of others, sometimes fear, was mentioned. We felt loss on occasions, for example, not being able to receive Holy Communion. Others who were active volunteers, felt the loss of ability to do their normal work. It was, and still is, an interesting period in our lives. All the while, God is with us, always leading us to new awareness. Looking ahead, Lent is almost upon us. Gone are the days, at our age, of too much emphasis on "giving up", but we can still make an extra effort in giving kindness, caring and love. May our Lent be a special time for us.

Sr Terie spoke of Sr Helen Warman's recently released book, *A Grand Adventure*, which contains Sr Helen's memoirs of her long ministry in Papua New Guinea. We look forward to reading it. Hopefully, we will meet again in March.

Margaret Krijinen

We met at the church at Randwick for our March meeting, the 2nd of the year, in the Year of Saint Joseph. We were led by Sister Terie, and we joined her in praying for recently deceased Sisters, in particular Sister Bernadette Koning, and all who grieved at her death, including her extended family. We discussed living during the special time of Lent, and the time this season gives us for quiet reflection and prayer.

We have received a gracious letter from our dear member, Ann Jarman, who is now in a retirement village in Randwick. Thank you, Ann, and you will be in our prayers and thoughts as the year progresses. Leaving us to retire in Brisbane is our dear member, Pauline Nugent, who is going to live near her large family. We wish you a safe journey, Pauline, a happy new home, and gratitude for your long and faithful contribution to the Associates.

We will not be having a meeting in April but will meet again in May.

Margaret Krijinen

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Maureen Brazel (St Joseph's)
Sr Bernadette Koning (Kensington)
Sr M Pia Baeten (Rumst)



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Sisters

Sr Anne Margaret Dalton (Melbourne)

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Fr Joe Hegglin (Slavakia)
Fr Harold Baker (Kensington)

Associates

Jean Beston (Maroubra), Joanne le Soeur (Melbourne), Dorothy Gimoloras (Mascot), Veronica Brennan (Canberra), Wendy Lander (Queenstown), Val Bretherton (Bentleigh), Joy Pollock (Darwin), Jean Newton (Kensington)

Our Loved Ones

Shayne Flannery, Holly Reynolds, Bobby Lander, Tom Reagan, Kathleen Downey, Alan Tierney
Carla Zampatti, Prince Phillip.

All Those Who Need Our Prayers

Debbie, Greg and Marian Shoebridge and Family, the Koning Family, Barbara Stife, Kim and the Family in the Netherlands, Eileen Phillips, Mary Lloyd, Margaret Cherry, Tony O'Brien, Jean Large, Sr Christine Martin, Sr Mary Batchelor, Sr Mary Stevens, Fr Christian Casselare mscj, Aileen Gallagher, Fr Hans Kwakman msc, Maria Pellizer, Margaret Leigh, Eileen Hohn, Michael Moir-Bussy, Niroshan, Margaret Keen, , Margaret Toye, hazel Bailey, Lyn Small, Petra O'Donnell, Barbara McLean, Lesley & Patrick Cheesman and Katie, Adam and baby Bob Moschioni, Joan Munday, Elaine McComb, Peter Morrissey, Ray O'Neill, Rayma Weaver, Pam Stack, Ted Moseley, Craig Jennings, Judy Balston, Mark Butler, all who have lost children, all who have no-one to pray for them, all infected with the Covid-19, all badly affected in any by the virus particularly those in poorer countries.

Thanksgiving



For Nancy, Marnie, Patricia and Laurie our new OLSH Associates in Corinda.



For Lynn and Peter Small on their 50th Wedding Anniversary