

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

Ametur

No: 340

December 2020

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

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Other Chevalier Family websites: www.olshaustralia.org.au; olshaustralia.org.au/overseasaid, www.misacor.org.au

Dear Associates,

Here is a lovely invitation to celebrate Advent. May it be a time of special blessings for you.

*The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon
the likes of which we have never seen before... .*

*What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you.
And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock,
watching God's [back] fade in the distance.*

So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder.

There will be time enough for running.

For rushing. For worrying. For pushing.

For now, stay. Wait.

Something is on the horizon.

Jan L. Richardson, **Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas**

St John of the Cross wrote a tiny poem that is another invitation to us at this holy time:



*The Virgin comes walking
Word in her womb.
Could you not spare her
A place in your room.*

During the past months we have had to do much waiting. We have been forced to slow down, to stand back, to consider others in ways that take more time than we usually allocate to such things. Washing our hands in respect for others' health, as well as our own, has brought into our days many moments of stillness. Did you find a little mantra to accompany this "chore"? ` Someone suggested singing "Happy Birthday", another praying the *Hail Mary*. Some dioceses

overseas issued ideas on *How to Wash Hands the Catholic Way!!* Just another simple way in which we can learn *to live in the present moment*, the only moment we really have. Each moment is sacred, because it is a gift from our loving God. One author has written:

*Any moment can be a sacred moment
that knocks us onto our knees in adoration and wonder.
But, if we never stop to consider that,
or to say "Yes" to its possibility,
then we are in danger of missing it.
To nourish such attentiveness we have to slow down;
we have to set aside time;
we have to practise stillness and quiet.*

Marie Harris, **Jubilee Time**. Bantum Books, NY 1995 p.34

It's the ordinary, everyday happenings that provide these sacred present moments, and they are available to us if only we can slow down and be ready to receive the graces that they bring from our loving God. One poet has captured this beautifully;

An Ordinary Task

*Like a handmaiden devoted
to her duties, I begin my task,
mindful of every moment.

Hands comforted in steaming suds
I grasp the slender stem of a wineglass,
dinner plates, cups and saucers.

Each dish is laved, rinsed and dried,
my kitchen counter like an altar
covered with holy vessels.*

Helen Fabrach

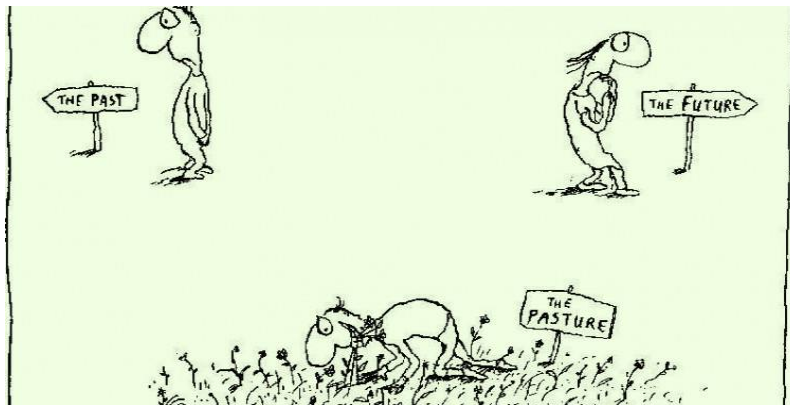
Mary's life was one of mindfulness. She truly lived in the present moment. As God's handmaiden *"her task was to hear God's word, conceive in her heart, and give birth in her daily life. This is what she asked of the Lord: 'Be it done according to your will.'* Her heart was like an altar which held the mystery of obedience and self-giving. *Hers was a eucharistic life.*" Robert Morneau, **From Resurrection to Easter**, p 119

Carrying Christ

*Into the hillside country Mary went
Carrying Christ, and all along the road
The Christ she carried generously bestowed
His grace of those she met. She had not meant
To tell she carried Christ. She was content
To hide His love for her. But about her glowed
Such joy that into stony hearts love flowed
And even to the unborn John Christ's grace was sent.*

*Christ in His Sacrament of love each day
Dwells in my soul a little space and then
I walk life's crowded highway, jostling men
Who seldom think of God. To these I pray
That I may carry Christ, for it may be
Some would not know Him except through me.*
Mary Ruth Fox, **Some Did Return**, Wake-Brook House, 1976

During this Advent, 2020, let us try to live fully in each sacred, God-given moment, as we prepare to welcome afresh the Word into our world. I find Leunig's reflective cartoon very helpful:



Let go of the **past**, leave the **future** to our loving God, live fully and be spiritually nourished in the sacred **pasture** of the present moment.

My sincere gratitude to each one of you for living our Charism and for being in the world the loving Heart of Jesus. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support during the year. You are prayed for each day by our Sisters and we rely upon your prayers for us.

Let me end with this beautiful reflection from Cardinal Francis Xavier Nyugen Van Thuan who was in solitary confinement for nine years:

*Every word, every gesture,
every telephone call, every decision we make
should be the most beautiful
one of our life, giving our love
and our smile to everyone,
without losing a second.
Let every moment of our life be
the first moment,
the last moment,
the only moment.*

United in the loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary

(Sr) Ancilla White Osh

SEVERAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY.



Dear Brothers and Sisters

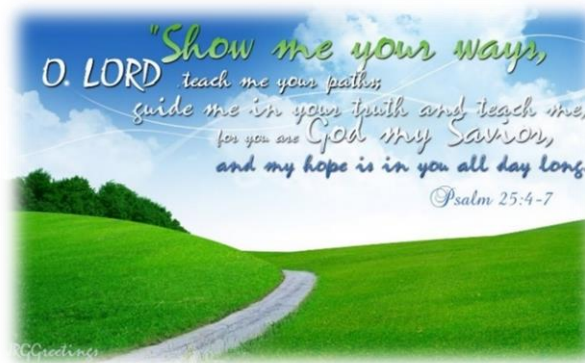
Please find attached a Reflection from Fr Hans to begin our Advent preparation and the December First Friday reflection.

Blessings to you all

Alison, Doris, Rita and Fr Hans

Along the Paths of Hope

An Advent Reflection - Hans Kwakman MSC



In his latest encyclical "**Fratelli Tutti**" (FT), Pope Francis addresses all his brothers and sisters, speaking among other things, about the "*worldwide tragedy like the Covid-19 pandemic.*" This tragedy revives, "*the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person's problems are the problems of all.*" "*The pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realization of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our styles of life, our relationships, the organization of our societies and, above all, the meaning of our existence*" (FT 32-33).

However, the Pope points out how important it is to keep hope in these challenging times. By saying so, he doesn't only refer to vaccines that hopefully, as soon as possible, can be used worldwide, but he points to the hope that is "*deeply rooted in every human heart: a thirst, an aspiration, a desire to achieve things that fill our hearts like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love that make life more beautiful and worthwhile*" (FT 55).

In his Encyclical, "Spe Salvi", Pope Benedict XVI had already declared that, "*in hope we are saved*". "*The foundation of this hope is God Himself. God, who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety.*" We learn to deepen our hope through prayer. "*When no one listens to me anymore, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk*

to anyone or call upon anyone, I can always talk to God. If I pray I am never totally alone" (Spe Salvi 31- 32).

Saint Augustine describes prayer as an exercise of desire. We are created to be filled by God's gifts of love. But our hearts are still too small to receive the great gifts that God has prepared for us. Our hearts must be stretched. When we feel that our prayers are not heard, it might indicate that God still wants to strengthen our desires, in order to enlarge our hearts and to prepare them for the greater gifts of his love.

So, Pope Francis urges us to keep moving forward "*along the paths of hope.*" (FT 55) and to treasure our desires, even our unfulfilled desires. Our desires to give and receive love; to meet our family and friends. Our desires for the healing of ourselves and our loved ones; for the reunion with our beloved deceased. Our desires for freedom, justice and peace and the conservation of nature. By keeping our desires alive, we open our hearts for God's human face and the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. Father Chevalier already wrote: "*God reveals the desires of his Heart through the desires of our hearts. What do we desire in the innermost depth of our hearts?*" (Le Sacré Coeur, 1900, p. 77).

May Advent deepen your desire for the coming of the Redeemer and Christmas open your heart to the God who reveals himself in this world with a human face.

Tilburg, November 2020

Christmas Grace

(Tune: Once in Royal David's City, prelude/postlude John Lennon, words Br James Maher msc)

Gathered here around this table
We remember we belong.
Here our story finds its meaning,
Here we touch a hope that's strong.
Lives connected in this feast
Bound within the dream of peace.

In these days of Incarnation
We renew ancestors' ways.
In their stories lives our story:
Our hearts with their hopes ablaze.
Thankful for the gift passed on
We now give, as they have done.

Bless this feast and bless our sharing.
Lead us into love's embrace.
Heal our hurts and bring forgiveness,
Fill our lives with joy and grace.
May we know the treasure here,
Love transcending, ever near.
Love transcending, ever near.



Letter to the Laity of the Chevalier Family

1st December, 2020.



What a year 2020 has been!

In my country of Australia, there were ferocious bushfires all over the Christmas season and well into the new year. Thousands of hectares of bush were burnt down, townships were destroyed and many people were killed. Every evening on our television screens we watched with horror as the fires spread, joined up and burned out of control. Burnt and blackened bush and destroyed homes and villages were a nightly reality. My own home was very close to the fires and was covered in black ash and burnt gum leaves.

And then – came the miracle, millions of dollars were donated to help strangers, people gave up their holidays and homes for others and we stood together and wept. The bush does not stay blacked and charred for long. So quickly, it regenerated into the most beautiful green regrowth that sprouted out of blackened tree trunks and barren earth.

And everywhere across our beautiful world have been the similar stories this year – we have all experienced the Coronavirus, our sisters and brothers in the Philippines have suffered terrible typhoons, Africa has had drought and many countries have had political unrest. I am sure, just as for us in Australia, during and after the difficulties came the miracle – people helping each other, emergency workers and teachers going above and beyond, good people amidst political turmoil; sprouts of green amongst the devastation.

Perhaps that image of sprouts of green will be one for us laity to ponder with relation to our Vocation. The new growth cannot reverse what has happened, but it draws deeply on something that is unseen as the source of the emerging life and hope. And so too for us, we are called to draw deeply on the ever-present life and hope from the heart of our God of love.

The Readings for Christmas day are filled with images of light and life and hope. Isaiah speaks of God revealing himself in plain sight before the eyes of all the nations and the psalm deepens that idea with a God who is everpresent and who is steadfast and faithful to his people. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is the exact imprint of God's very being and then, the Gospel speaks of one who brings life and light to the people and the darkness can never overcome that light. Perhaps then for all of us – this drawing deeply on God enables us to move through our lives revealing a God who is ever-present, who is steadfast and faithful, revealed fully in Jesus whose heart beats in ours.

And so, the birth of the baby so long ago is not a historical story but an everpresent reminder that God was present then and in every place and every moment ever since.

Alison MacKenzie Secretary of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.



Report to the Lay Chevalier Family **from the International Council**



1st December, 2020

It is with pleasure that I submit the 2020 Report to the Lay Chevalier Family from the International Council of the Lay Chevalier Family. We have worked hard this year to continue to undertake our responsibilities as your international Council and we send best wishes to every member of the family scattered across the globe. The following is an update on the major activities we have undertaken this year.

International Gathering, Cebu, Philippines, 22nd – 29th January, 2023

Planning for the international gathering is progressing well, despite the interruptions caused by both the pandemic and the recent cyclones in the Philippines. The Filipino National Council has appointed an organizing committee headed by Deborah Mellijor and they are already hard at work. It is the hope of the Council that at least one person will be able to represent each member country and early next year we will send out invitations to those countries we know have members. We encourage National Councils to begin to plan for the gathering by considering who to invite to attend and how that will be funded. We have agreed to source development funding so we can subsidise the attendance of people from countries who do not have the means themselves to pay.

Refining the Guiding Principles and Statutes

As we have worked with the current Guiding Principles and Statutes we have become aware that some minor revisions were necessary if the document is to be truly reflective of our structures, organization and vision. The new document has been renamed Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions and we hope that it will be a source of vision and inspiration to members. We will offer the new Guiding Principles for ratification in the Philippines, after which it will become the standard document from which all other translations will be made.

The illness and Impending retirement of Fr Hans as Spiritual Companion of the Lay Council

We are saddened to hear of the recent illness of Fr Hans, and also, of his desire to retire as our Spiritual Companion. We are unanimous in our gratitude to Fr Hans and all those Companions who have gone before, for their accompanying of us, but also for their life-long commitment to encourage and empower the emergence of the lay movement over many years. We recognise and affirm the intrinsic importance of the role of Spiritual Companion to the work of the Council and the development of the lay movement and we hope that successive Companions continue to walk with us in support and solidarity. Discussions have begun with the Tri-Generalate about a process for selecting a new Spiritual Companion and we hope that that can be finalised before we gather in the Philippines.

The Role of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

As a result of requests to the International Council to send money to several countries who were experiencing hardship during the pandemic, we held an extraordinary Zoom meeting to clarify the purpose of the Council.

We agreed that the role of the IC is not to act directly in any crises that occurs in a member country, but rather, to support and encourage the National Council in that country to reach out to their own people. Our spirit grows from the recognition that the Vocation of the laity demands that we are God's Heart and Hands in our families and in our communities.

Finances

The International Council has continued to move very slowly towards the goal of financial autonomy. We are very grateful to those countries and regions who are already undertaking their responsibilities to financially support the work of the International Council and their own National Council. We encourage all member countries and regions to continue discerning how they can meet this responsibility according to their means.

Through the support of Australia and Europe we were able to over-subscribe the Mission Outreach Project, advertised in the 2020 edition of *Encounter of Hearts* to Sr Rita Grunke Olsch in South Sudan. \$3,082.00 has been sent to Sr Rita via the Australian MSC Mission office. We enclose verification that the money was used for the intended purpose as Appendix 1.

Communication:

We have expended considerable energy this year communicating with you through Reflections, letters, Reports and the second edition of *Encounter of Hearts*. We invited every country on our Contact List to provide an article on their work towards justice, peace and integrity of creation. We were very heartened by the responses we received from so many countries and were inspired by how much is being done, in rich and poor countries for the wellbeing of creation. Our monthly reflections have featured the music of James Maher MSC and if members would like to purchase James' music it can be bought at <https://misacor.org.au/Works> and Ministries/MSC music.

Formation

We recognise the importance of formation in the growth and maturing of the Lay Chevalier Family. We are in the process of collating formation resources in Spirituality of the Heart in the three languages with the intention of publishing them on the Website. We are continuing to offer the Online Course on a Spirituality of the Heart, written by Fr Hans, which already includes more than 50 sessions.

Lay Chevalier Family Website

We commend Doris and Ranulfo for their ongoing work towards the development of an international website. We are hoping that site will be launched before Christmas and it will be in the three languages. We may consider adding a link to a closed Facebook page.

On behalf of Doris, Rita and Fr Hans, I thank you for all your work and commitment this year and we extend every good wish for Christmas and the new year to you and your families.

Alison MacKenzie Secretary of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

News of Father Hans Kwakman msc

During the past years we have all benefited from and been most appreciate of the writings of Fr Hans Kwakman msc from Holland. We followed a study of Father's book, ***Jules Chevalier's Charism and the Identity of the Chevalier Family***, through many issues of the *Ametur* and during the past there years we have used his ***On Line Course*** as our On-Going Formation program in the *Ametur*. Father is beginning chemotherapy and I know that you will keep him in your prayers. Here is a communication from Roland Douchin in Issoudun regarding Father's situation.

Herewith, I'm quoting a message sent on November 16th, by Fr. Theo te Wierik, Provincial of the MSC in the Netherlands, to Rita Cleuren.

*"On Friday Hans received his first chemotherapy at the Elisabeth Hospital. Brother Harrie picked Hans up on Saturday morning and brought him to Notre Dame (home). The following chemo's (every week for one and five weeks) are "outpatient": so day hospitalizations. Hans is doing well and is in good spirits. Of course you can send him emails yourself. I think he will even appreciate it. Just pass this message on to others. Now you can do it!
Warm greetings and extra prayers !
Theo"*

Let's keep united in prayer to the Heart of Christ through Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, that our Loving God sends Fr. Hans strength, patience and courage.
Fraternally,

Roland

VALE, LOUIS JOLY.

Roland has also sent us the sad mews of the death of Louis Joly.

*Wishing to forward to each of you a prayer intention, as our French, European and International Chevalier Family Laity Leaders mourn the death of Louis Joly, such a caring, loving and tremendously active member of our leading committees over the three last decades. With Nadette, his spouse, they used to set up the very first International Lay Meeting in Issoudun more than 20 years ago. Our spiritual family owes him so much. Let's thank our Loving God through Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, for Louis' dedication and care, together with Nadette, their children, grand-children and great grand-children.
In Corde Jesu,*

Roland

OUR ON-GOING FORMATION PROGRAM

SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART

in accordance with **FR. JULES CHEVALIER'S CHARISM.**



An on-line program for members of the Chevalier Family and for everyone interested in a Spirituality of the Heart.
(Fr Hans Kwakman msc)

SECTION 52 SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART IN 'LAUDATO SI':

SOME CENTRAL THEMES

In Pope Francis' encyclical: "Laudato Si" certain themes keep recurring. These show that the care for our common dwelling, the planet earth, is grounded in spirituality. David Cloutier, whom I also quote in the Reflection, mentions some central themes. I will briefly summarise his contribution.

Everything is interconnected. For the Pope this is the core of a healthy spirituality. Our spiritual life, our prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist should not be separated from our daily life, from caring for the world around us and for God's whole creation.

Everyone is connected. This forms the heart of our Christian faith: the human family is one, we are all brothers and sisters of each other and live in a common home. The Covid-19 pandemic makes this painfully clear once again.

The crisis in which the world is currently immersed cannot be resolved by purely technical measures. The solution to the crisis requires a conversion of the heart and a deepening of our relationship with God, with each other and with creation. Together with the Son, Jesus Christ, we are all sent to accomplish the Father's creative work. Under the inspiring guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are called to make this world a better place to live for everyone.

One of the things we thus need to do is to develop a new way of living and interacting with one another. The "throwaway culture" must make way for a culture of care and sustainability. This will also enrich us spiritually and deepen our relationship with God and with one another.

The earth is "our sister" and our "common home". These metaphors want to express that we are responsible for our planet, as for our family members and for our own home.

Planet earth is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be admired in joy and gratitude. Moreover, the Pope repeatedly stresses that there is a close relationship between the crisis facing the world and the widening gap between rich and poor. The care of our common home needs above all to benefit the poor and the needy.

REFLECTION

“An actual encounter with the text of “Laudato Si” should also be about spiritual development.

It should change us, inside and outside.

We not only need to read it;
we need to pray it and live it....

As we approach the encyclical,
we might also pray for the grace of humility.

A genuine humility always reflects Christ.

Francis has been a prime example of it.

When discussing social issues in our society,
things can quickly become destructive...

Humility makes it possible for us
to speak our differences, listen
and perhaps grow toward one another.

Let us listen to God, to the pope,
to one another, and to the world.

Let us pray about it – really pray –
and not just react.

And then let’s act together
so that God’s will might be done on earth,
and not just in heaven.”

(David Cloutier, *Reading, Praying, Living Pope Francis’s “Laudato Si.”* A Faith Formation Guide, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.)



Jubilarians for January 2021



Sr Marlene Dewar

Sr Jenny Kirby

Sr Christine Martin



Sr Margaret Bird

Sr Pauline Compton

Sr Monica Donnan

Sr Patricia Irwin

Sr Cornelia Speelman

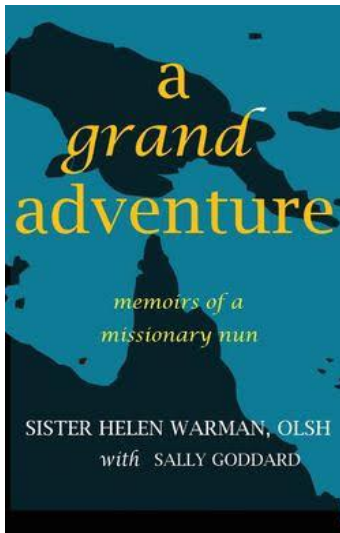


Sr Eileen Kennedy

Loving Congratulations, dear Sisters.

Thank you for those years of loving dedication and generous ministry.

A Grand Adventure



Would you like a good read over the Christmas break, or a great gift for a friend? Look no further! **A Grand Adventure** offers just that. Written by Sr Helen Warman, it chronicles the memoirs of an Australian Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, who spent over 60 years in Papua New Guinea as an educator. Helen ministered primarily in the Milne Bay Province, including the Trobriand Islands and Alotau, and in Port Moresby.

It is just \$20, including postage, and proceeds go to the PNG Missions.

ORDER FORM

Name:

Address:

.....

Number of Copies:

Obtainable from:

Sr Helen Warman
OLSH Convent
2 Kensington Rd
Kensington 2033



STAMPS

Sincere thanks to those who have sent along used stamps.

Please keep them coming.

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MEETING REPORTS

Alice Spring: On 17th October the Associates met at the Church and attended Mass together. We then went to the Convent for a meeting and lunch. Sr Kathleen prepared a booklet *Our Prayer – Today and Tomorrow*. The opening hymn by Br James Maher, *Our Sister in Faith, prepared us for a reflection on the life of Mary*. We then discussed how COVID-19 has prevented many people from going about their normal lives and the repercussions of loneliness and isolation. Sr Kathleen's booklet included thoughts on *The Present of Presence*, which offered ways in which we can be present to those in need.

Paula Thornton

Canberra: The Canberra Associates met on 3rd October at St Matthew's Church, Page. From the *Ametur* we discussed the power of prayer from *The Wildness of God* by John O'Donohue. That article says it all. We must think of prayer in a different way and pray more for our world. Kate Bird read the Gospel for 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time and we looked at the Parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard by discussing the points that Kate put forward: 1. we will be judged by the fruits of our labours; 2. treat others as you would expect to be treated; 3. if you are given plenty then will plenty be expected of you; 4. prophets are usually rejected by those closest to them; 5. We should challenge others when things do not seem right.

Christine Casey

With only three of us present on 7th Nov we concentrated on the *Ametur* and the theme of *Hope*. We agreed with pope Francis that it is not easy to live in hope at this present time, but we must remain faithful in our knowledge that God is with us all the way, and live in the present not in the past. Hopefully we can be agents of hope in the communities in which we live.

Christine Casey

Corinda: 16 Associates gathered (with one apology) at Shirley's home for a Christmas break-up. Our meetings have been much affected during 2020 by the COVOD restrictions, so it was wonderful to have so many there. We missed the guidance of Sr Rita (presently in Sydney), but she sent a message about the Mission we have even in old age, to spread the love of the Heart of Jesus our Lord in all we do. We reflected on the article on *Hope* in the *Ametur*, particularly where Pope Francis titles Mary, the Mother of Hope. We look forward to meeting in 2021.

Mary McMahon

Hartzer Park: As our October meeting coincided with the canonisation of St Mary MacKillop, our reflection focussed on her great devotion to the Sacred Heart and how this and her exceptional courage and hope were the driving force of her life and mission.

Starting Section Five of the On-Going Formation program we looked at the words of pope Francis that were quoted in speaking of *the complexity of the ecological crisis and its multiple causes*. This prompted considerable discussion and all expressed concern about various aspects of the environment and the impact on people. This is especially the poor concerning in countries where social conditions and political events are not congenial to assistance where it is most needed, particularly where corruption exists at bureaucratic levels.

Jan Clark

For our final formal meeting for the year, 15th Nov, Grace and Wendy prepared a Reflection, *Through the power of God's Spirit to lift our hearts with hope and peace and joy no matter what is going on in our life right now*. Using the symbolism and imagery of the growth and life of trees we mediated, and in closing prayed: *God help us to live slowly, to move simply, to look softly, to allow emptiness, to let the heart create for us ...*. This is also our prayer for all Associates as this year draws to a close with a hope and trust for a renewed world in 2021. Following this it was appropriate that for our On-Going Formation we read and discussed passages from the *Ametur on Hope* and concluded with the blessing Sr Ancilla offered from Romans 15:13.

Jan Clark

We gathered on 6th December at Hartzer Park. Due to Covid restrictions this year we gathered with only the Sisters as our "guests". We are, in fact, the guests of the Sisters, for each month and at other times too, we are able to come together at Hartzer Park for which we are very grateful. The friendship of the Sisters, their inspiration and hospitality, mean so much to us all.

A Reflection on the meaning of the various Christmas symbols and a prayer associated with each meaning preceded morning tea.

As in the closing blessing of our reflection we extend our very best wishes to all other Associates and wish all our Chevalier Family

*the blessings of Christmas through
the care and protection of St Joseph,
the enfolding love of Mary, our Mother, and
the lasting Peace and Joy of Emmanuel, our Saviour.*

Jan Clark

Notre Dame: It has been seven months since we had met and as it was the month of October a few of us met to pray the Rosary. It was like having a family reunion, it was so good to see each other again and catch up. We also reflected on the Gospel of the *Woman at the Well*. We prayed for that Living Water to quench our spiritual thirst, so that we will be sustained on our journey of life.

We also prayed the seventh day of the novena to OLSH which is recited every Thursday at the National Shrine of OLSH at Randwick. A question from this reflection was: *What aspects of our lives do we find most difficult to entrust to God?* And the answer was given: *Let us confide in Mary and seek her help.*

Therese gave us a hand-out about a Jade Tree. Tradition has it that it will bring good luck. Not all our fortune is of our own making. Sometimes it walks through the door in the form of a person who offers kindness or advice, a gentle challenge or a challenging gentleness. May God give us not luck, but grace. Keep us open to your daily coming, dear Lord. Amen.

Maureen Maher

On 14th November a small group gathered at Therese's home to discuss the topic of *Hope* from the *Ametur*. We began our meeting by praying the *Memorare*. We then read the article together and shared our thoughts. In relation to the people who have opened our heart and soul to another way of being, thinking and acting, Therese shared that it was her father who was a person of hope, a great example to be inspired by and to follow. We saw the Scriptures as giving us much inspiration, especially the words from Jeremiah: *"... for I know the plans I have in store for you," declares the Lord, "plans for peace, not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you."*

As it was the month of the Holy Souls we live in hope that all those we have loved in our lives are now at peace resting in the arms of God. As people of hope we believe that we shall be united with them and our loving God when we die. We closed our meeting reading from the *Ametur* in reference to Our Lady. She teaches us the virtue of waiting, even when everything lacks meaning. May Mary, the Mother that Jesus gave to all of us, always support our steps. May she always say to our hearts: *"Arise! Look forward. Look to the horizon", because she is the Mother of Hope.*

Maureen Maher

Once again Therese opened her home to us for our December meeting. We reflected on *A Time for Waiting – Waiting with Mary*, a beautiful Advent reflection. We shared about the feeling of getting the house ready when we are expecting visitors. When all the work is done all there is to do is wait. Our "cleaning" in Advent could be acts of penance in preparation for Jesus' coming. The reason the priest wears purple in Advent is to remind us of the penitential aspect of this season. We prayed for those in prison and isolated, those who are homeless, those who have lost hope and those who are weary. We then read the Gospel for the 2nd Sunday in Advent and shared some thoughts from a homily by Fr Anthony Casamento. We are people always in a hurry, always wanting things instantaneously. The Church gives us a season of waiting, and we are waiting for Christ. We are told to stay awake and prepare, repent, make crooked paths straight, heal a wound, mend a quarrel, comfort the lonely, console the grieving, look beyond and look within. Advent is the time when we wait, not for Christmas but, for Christ. We wait for him to step into the doorway of our heart. We make the walkway to the front door of our lives straight. Christmas is coming, yes, but more importantly, Christ is coming.

We then shared a beautiful afternoon tea and our news.

Maureen Maher

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Valerian O'Brien (St Josephs), Sr Eugenia Sierra, Sr Leonia Luzietti (Rome), Sr M Natália de Gonzaga (Sao Paulo), Sr Pascaline Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), Sr Martha Sturkenboom, Bernadette Kennis, (Netherlands)

OLSH Associates

Shirley Stewart (Hornsby)
Patricia Hutchinson (Sydney)
Rosalyn Sexton (Canberra)

MSC Laity

Louis Joly (Belgium)

Relatives and Friends

Margaret Albert, Murray Neck, Kevin Cleary snr and son
Kevin, Fr Kevin Barr, John Nasser, Florence Taguinod, Edwin Fargas, Angel Dizon, James Jennings, Leonarda Ventura, Mike Reid, Marlene Fordham, Gill Lamont, Stuart Eagleton.



We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

Fr Hans Kwakman msc, Jackie Pretti, Jon Lilly, Margaret Cherry, Rosemary Cooley, Yves Dinel, Nora Mendoza, June, Denis Ryan, Cherry Cubillo, Josie Kani, Maria Miller, Timiti, Betty Wetzler, Lawson, Lyn Small, Hazel Bailey, Allan Matthew Paul & Kathleen Casey, Ted Moseley, Ray O'Neil, Leone Kirton, Kimi (troubled teenager).

Thanksgiving

- * 20th Anniversary of Corazon and its Healing Ministry in Werribee
- * The seven 2020 High School Graduates – the first in 13 years – Wadeye, NT.
 - * 25th Anniversary of our foundation in Japan
- * 100th Anniversary of the arrival of the first FDNAC Missionaries in Brazil
- * 166 years since the Foundation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

LOVING CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

TO EACH OF YOU.

This Christmas let us pray for each other and for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world in the words of the carol:

*Pray then that we, one day might be,
but a moment of peace
cradled in His arms.*

