

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

Ametur

No: 341

March – April 2021

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

OLSH Convent, 2 Kensington Rd, Kensington, and NSW 2033. Tel: (02) 9662 1777 .Email: associates@olshaustralia.org.au
Other Chevalier Family websites: www.olshaustralia.org.au; olshaustralia.org.au/overseasaid, www.misacor.org.au

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Dear Associates

Another year begins! What will it hold for you and your family, for our world? Whatever that may be we can be sure of one thing – we are all held in the arms and care of our loving Father.

8th December 2020 was the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. On that day the Vatican announced that this year (December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021) would be dedicated to St. Joseph, husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis then chose this day to issue an Apostolic Letter entitled, *Patris Corde*, which translates as *A Father's Heart*. In the words of Pope Francis: *The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great Saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.*

The Letter begins with these words:

*WITH A FATHER'S HEART:
that is how Joseph loved Jesus,
whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph".*

It concludes with these words:

*In every exercise of our fatherhood,
we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession,
but is rather a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood.
In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father,
who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good,
and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45).
And a shadow that follows his Son.*



What a beautiful description: *a shadow of the heavenly Father, a shadow that follows the Son.* As members of the Chevalier Family, dedicated to the Heart of Jesus, we can find a wonderful Model in St Joseph. May he help us to become faithful shadows of our heavenly Father, faithful and loving shadows who follow the Son.

St Joseph learnt of God's saving plan through four special dreams, and it was through his attentiveness to the words of the angels in these dreams that he discovered his part in the incarnation. Katie Marquette in her Blog, *Born of Wonder*, wrote:

*St. Joseph never saw an angel the way Mary did,
clear as day, with her waking eyes.
He never saw the burning bush
or heard the thunderous voice of God, "I am who I am."
St. Joseph only heard God in the quietest of ways.
He dreamed of angels. He heard God while he slept.*

In the Gospels we read of the four dreams of Joseph. In each account the angel speaks and Joseph, on awakening, obeys.

In Matthew 1:19, he learns of Mary's miraculous pregnancy and of his role:

*Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife ...
... and Joseph **took his wife** to his home.*

In Matthew 2:13, he is warned to leave Bethlehem:

***Get up, take the Child and his mother** and flee to Egypt.
So Joseph got up and,
taking the Child and his mother with him
left that night for Egypt.*

In Matthew 2:19, he is told to return to Israel:

***Get up, take the Child and his mother with you**
and go back to the land of Israel.
So Joseph **got up and, taking the Child and his mother**
with him, went back to the land of Israel.*



In the final recorded dream, Matthew 2:22-23, Joseph is warned not to go to Judea and so

... he left for Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth.

St Joseph is the quiet man. We have none of his words, but we read of his actions – actions that spring from his deep listening to God, in his dreams and in his prayer. Pope Francis wrote in *Patris Corde* No 21:

At the end of every account in which Joseph plays a role,

*the Gospel tells us that **he gets up, takes the child and his mother,**
and does what God commanded him.
Indeed, Jesus and Mary are the most precious treasure of our faith.*

In one of the earlier writings of Pope Francis we read:

*"I have great love for Saint Joseph because he is a man of silence and strength.
On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping.
Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church!
Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him.
In this moment of rest in the Lord,
as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities,
God is also speaking to us.
But like Saint Joseph, once we have heard God's voice,
we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act."*

Let me finish these reflections with some beautiful words from the Book of Wisdom which I like to think could be applied to Joseph's relationship with Our Lady:

*She it was I loved and searched for from my youth.
I resolved to have her as my bride,
I fell in love with her beauty.
I therefore determined to take her to share in my life,
knowing that she would be my counsellor in prosperity,
my comfort in cares and sorrow.
When I go home I shall take my ease with her,
for nothing is bitter in her company.
When life is shared with her there is no pain, gladness only, and joy.*

We thank you gracious God, for Joseph,
a man of **love** who was called the husband of Mary;
a man of **faith** who was called the father of Jesus;
a man of **hope** who was called the carpenter of Nazareth;
a man of **silence** and strength, who listened and obeyed.

Father Chevalier gave us a beautiful invocation to St Joseph:

*St Joseph, Model and Patron
of those who love the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.*

Like Joseph may we always listen carefully to God's voice in the depths of our hearts, and then let us **get up, take Jesus and Mary, and do** what our God has asked of us – **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

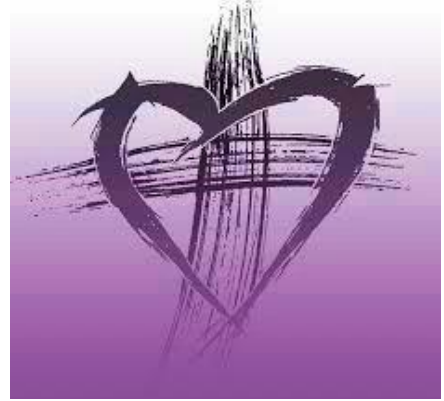
United in the dear Heart of Jesus with Mary

Sr Ancilla White Olsb

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.



Section 53

Spirituality of the Heart in 'Laudato Si': Problems that are related to each other.

(Hans Kwakman msc)

Pope Francis calls on us to wake up and *"look at the facts to see that our common home is in serious disarray"* (LS 61). In the first chapter of *Laudato Si*, he extensively discusses *"what is happening in our home [planet earth]. He sheds light on five problems with which humankind struggles and which are closely interconnected.*

- Pollution and global warming (LS 20-26): *"Climate is a common good of all and for all... All people need to become aware of the need to change their lifestyle and consumption habits"* (LS 23).
- The increasing shortage of water (LS 27-31): *"Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental right of every human being, because human survival depends on it"* (LS 30).
- The loss of biodiversity or diversity of plant and animal species (LS 32-42): *"All creatures are interconnected and should all be treasured with love and admiration, because all creatures need each other"* (LS 42).
- The decline in the quality of human life (LS 43-47): *"Realizing that people also have the right to life and happiness and are endowed with a very special dignity, we must also take into account the influence of environmental pollution and of 'the throwaway culture' on human life"* (LS 43).

- The global inequality between the richest and the poorest people (LS 48-52): We should pay attention to both *"the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"* (LS 49). Therefore, we should *"strengthen the awareness that we are one human family"* and that *"there is no room for the globalization of indifference"* (LS 52).

When faced with so many huge problems, it can make us feel hopeless. That is why the Pope urges us not to lose hope. He keeps believing in the positive attitude of so many men and women. *"In the midst of all our limitations, all kinds of generosity, solidarity, and care flourish. After all, we are made for love"* (LS 58).

Reflection

*"It is easy to see what is wrong with our system,
harder to see how to fix it."*

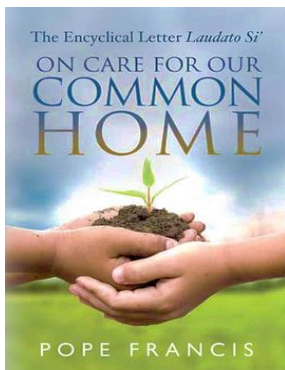
*"The Pope calls for an "integral ecology,"
by which he means a vision of the world
founded fundamentally on respect for Creation,
and a renewed emphasis on our mutual interconnection
with one another and with nature."*

*"An integral ecology must also include...
a culture of care rooted in "love for society
and commitment to the common good,"
as the centrepiece of civil society,
environmental protection, religious communion,
and finally, human dignity, happiness and love."*

*"Crucially, this culture of care
must include not just those of us alive today,
but also future generations."*

(Naomi Oreskes, Introduction to Pope Francis, *Encyclical on Climate Change & Inequality*. Melville House, Brooklyn, London).

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In 2020 environmentalists around the world celebrated the Golden Anniversary of the First Earth Day in 1970. It was also the five-year anniversary of Pope Francis' *Laudato S'í: On Care for our Common Home*. As part of the five-year celebration, 24th May 2020 – 24th May 2021 has been declared as an Anniversary Year of *Laudato S'í*. Don't let this year pass without doing something positive and lasting in your life to help preserve our common home.

MOTHER MARIE LOUISE HARTZER

ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH – Feb 22nd, 1908

Our first Superior General, Mother Marie Louise Hartzer, was a woman of deep faith, and continues to be an inspiration to all Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. In the next issues of the *Ametur* I would like to share with you, in serial form, an account of her life as written by Sr Juliette Baker an Australian Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, some years ago. She wrote this short life in the first person thus bringing Marie Louise closer to us.

Marie Louise Hartzer

Juliette Baker FDNsc

Home and childhood

My earliest memories are those of a happy home. This home was in Alsace, a French province near the German border. In the baptismal register of the church in the ancient town of Wissembourg you can find my name inscribed: Marie Louise, and our family name, Mestmann.

My father in his youth had led an adventurous life as staff doctor of the Dutch Navy cruising the China Seas, but on marrying he settled down comfortably as general practitioner in Wissembourg. I was born there on 27th August 1837, the eldest of three girls.

What can I say of my mother, the heart of our little family? That she was God's great gift amongst so many other gifts was evident to me in a thousand ways. Through her he gave me many natural gifts I may have possessed and, above all these, the lively faith and trust in him which she shared with my father, and which so pervaded the atmosphere of our home that we grew up in the easy familiarity of a great and all-embracing love.

God drew me close to himself, too, by a delight in prayer, the Mass and the Sacraments, and by an intimate love for Our Lady who was so real to me that I thought it only natural to be her little housekeeper. To please her I gaily set about sweeping and cleaning the rooms of our home with great good will, so that even before the age of seventeen when my schooling was finished, I was capable of managing all the household affairs. At this age I was indeed called upon to do so, for my father died quite suddenly and mother, suffering from ill health at this time, needed care and attention; my younger sisters were not robust.

The next few years brought adverse circumstances which helped me develop resourcefulness and a self-possession that was to stand me in good stead in the future.

Marriage and Motherhood

In my twentieth-year mother and I discussed marriage. Like any other young woman I looked forward to romance and the adventures of founding a home and family of my own, and when in the same year I met Victor Hartzler, brother-in-law to my cousin, I knew that I would look no further. With Victor's coming a new kind of loving entered my life. Early in 1858 we were married in the old abbey church of Saints Peter and Paul which had been the scene of the other important events of my young life: my baptism, confirmation, daily Mass, so many Communions and quiet moments of prayer in the sacramental presence of my good Master.

But now it was time to leave the scenes and friends of my childhood and set out with my husband to make a home in Einsishelm, a country town about a day's journey south from Wissembourg. Victor was a Government officer and had recently been appointed Director of the prison there, so we set up residence on the prison premises. Far from being repelled by such austere surroundings, I was happy to set up house in a building which I learnt had once been a foundation of the Jesuit priests.

New friends and acquaintances were soon made, for God has given me a winning personality that attracted others. Our home became the rendezvous for many happy social gatherings, especially in the evenings, which were often enlivened by music and song. Victor, I could see, needed this relaxation from the stern business of overseeing prisoners, and it gave him the pleasure and the opportunity to exercise his talent as violinist whilst I accompanied him at the piano.

Our first year of marriage was drawing to a close when I gave birth to Ferdinand, our eldest boy, and two years later Leopold was born. My heart, ever at its happiest in the home circle, expanded day by day as I came to understand through them the deep things of God. More earnestly than ever I prayed to Mary and gave my sons into her care, asking that I should know how to guide them into the likeness of her Son.

My husband was a man of ability. Promotions came swiftly, it seemed, for every few years we were obliged to move house to a different part of the country, until, in the late 1880's, he was appointed Inspector of Prisons in the Upper Saône district. These frequent family uprootings meant many

partings from friends and familiar places . However, through them I learned the art of making a happy home wherever we found ourselves, and as my acquaintance with people and places widened, so also I gained a deeper experience of life.

Little wonder that I contrived to make a good deal of time between family and social duties to pray before the Blessed Sacrament where I counted my blessings – a loving husband, two young sons who were good and intelligent; a gift for making friends; a love of God which he himself placed deep in my heart. Good health, too, has so far been my portion, so that I was able to undertake frequent fasts and other penances. These I offered to Our Lord in reparation for sacrileges and blasphemies which I sometimes heard, and which affected me deeply.

And now, having been thankful for the joys that God had given me it was time to learn to bless him no less for what he would take away.

Victor, though in the prime of his life, began to feel his health and strength ebbing as he endured the onset of an agonizing form of paralysis. For nearly two years I watched with anxiety and compassion as he dragged himself around on his tours of inspection until the inevitable day when he became completely paralyzed. Then he could do no more than follow me with his eyes as I served his needs with a forced cheerfulness and a breaking heart. He died in my arms after a long agony.

*“All I know
how to do,
is to make a home”
Mother Marie Louise Hartzer*



Marie Louise Mestmann, aged 17.

From Sr Philippa Murphy, Provincial of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart - Australia

Remembering Mother Marie Louise Hartzer

Dear Sisters, Associates and our OLSH Partners in Mission,

As we commemorate the 113th death anniversary of Mother Marie Louise Hartzer, I'm aware that her life speaks to each one of us depending of where we are at in our own life. I have put together some images and text from the life of Mother Marie Louise. You might like to spend some time reflecting on one or more of these quotes, talking to Marie Louise about what is happening in your life this day.



You cannot imagine all my worries. Each day brings some new trial. I don't know how I manage to support all my troubles. God, however, gives me grace and sustains me always...

My children alone give me a hold on life.

Marie Louise Hartzer, after the death of her husband, Victor

Above all watch over your children with the greatest of care, in the classroom, outside playing, everywhere. This supervision must come before everything else. This is not always easy but it is what you must do. Care for the children as Jesus has shown us, let them see they are important, show them kindness. You not only work with their parents to form their minds but also their hearts.

I pray frequently for you to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and her Son, Our Lord. Their help will never be lacking for you.



Marie Louise Hartzer 1899



Extracts from letters Mother Marie Louise Hartzler wrote in 1901.

"I again urge you to show much delicate attention towards the needy. I am convinced that you let them want for nothing, but there are a whole crowd of little attentions which the heart alone can dictate. These give so much pleasure to the needy whose state is already so painful and at times humiliating. Make them feel that they are at home. This makes them so happy. And charity ought to be distinctive characteristics of the community."

"Be always kind towards each person. Let all feel that you love them equally and that they can, in complete trust, open their hearts. It is in this way that you will win their trust and affection."

Marie Louise Hartzler listened to her own heart and the heart of God in the world. She knew the pain of loss in her life, the fear of being a refugee with two young children and the joy and hope that comes from trusting in a loving God. As we remember her life may we be attentive to God's heartbeat in our world. In our humanity may we rely on God's love, tenderness, and compassion to bring healing to our own hearts and the heart of all who suffer in our world.

Blessings of love and peace, Philippa

"I embrace you more maternally than ever, Mother Marie Louise Hartzler"



FOR THE SPIRIT OF MOTHER MARIE LOUISE HARTZER

"FILL OUR HEARTS WITH A FAITH AND GENEROSITY LIKE HERS, SO THAT WE MAY HAVE THE LIGHT TO SEE YOUR WILL FOR US IN THESE TIMES AND THE STRENGTH TO CARRY IT OUT."

FRATELLI TUTTI
Encyclical Letter on
Fraternity and Social Friendship
Pope Francis
3 October 2020, Assisi

This is the third encyclical letter of Pope Francis after *Lumen Fidel* (2013) and *Laudato Sí*. It is a social document dedicated to fraternity and social friendship. It is concerned with the universal dimension of the doctrine of fraternal love. Its aim is to present a new vision of fraternity and social friendship. It is addressed to all persons of goodwill who will accept this reflection as an invitation to dialogue. Finally, it encourages us to dream as a single human family and as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh.



The Pope uses the Parable of the Good Samaritan as a model for fraternity and social friendship. The story is constantly being played out all over our hurting world. We are called to be neighbours to everyone, even to those who are distant. We are called to practise a universal love that transcends historical prejudices, cultural barriers and petty interests.

Inspired by his patron, Sr Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis begins this letter:

“FRATELLI TUTTI”.

With these words, Saint Francis of Assisi
addressed his brothers and sisters
and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel.
Of the counsels Francis offered, I would like to select the one
in which he calls for a love that
transcends the barriers of geography and distance,
and declares blessed all those who love their brother
“as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him”.
In his simple and direct way, Saint Francis expressed
the essence of a fraternal openness
that allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person,
regardless of physical proximity,
regardless of where he or she was born or lives.

And Pope Francis concludes this important letter with an account of a fraternal meeting with the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb , in which

*“... we resolutely [declared] that religions must never incite war,
hateful attitudes, hostility and extremism,
nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood.
These tragic realities are the consequence of a deviation from religious teachings.
They result from a political manipulation of religions
and from interpretations made by religious groups who,
in the course of history, have taken advantage of the power of religious sentiment
in the hearts of men and women...” (No 285)*

I encourage you to obtain a copy of this Letter – from a bookshop or from the internet.
Perhaps you might like to pray the prayer that Pope Francis gives us at the conclusion of the Encyclical:

A PRAYER TO THE CREATOR

Lord, Father of our human family,
You created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us.,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen.



*To be on earth
the Heart of God !*

SOME LENTEN THOUGHTS



From Pope Francis Lenten Message 2021 - Renewing Faith, Hope and Love.

In his message for Lent 2021, Pope Francis calls on the faithful to

*... renew our **faith**, draw from the living waters of hope,
and receive with open hearts the **love** of God.*

*This Lenten journey... is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection,
which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Jesus.*

Pope Francis concludes:

*The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion,
prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us –
as communities and as individuals –
to revive the **faith** that comes from the living Christ,
the **hope** inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit
and the **love** flowing from the merciful heart of the Father."*

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Father Claude Mostowik msc has kindly given permission to print some excerpts from his *Reflections for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 2021*. I am sure that you will find them thought-provoking, challenging and helpful as you live out your Lent.

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As Jesus is filled with the Spirit we can imagine him walking on to the beach of 'new beginnings'. As he calls us to repent and believe the good news, we can take this image of walking on to the beach where he wades into the worlds of forbidden people that are often estranged. He has created a new Ark of sisterhood and brotherhood. He calls us into the good news: the news that God loves this world, loves us, loves all the forbidden people. We are called, with him, to resist the political and religious authorities, by being in solidarity with people outside the normative social structures: women, the poor, tax collectors, prostitutes, the sick and the possessed, all people who suffer and wonder if they have any hope.

This is a time to pay attention to the dimensions God requires of a Church big enough to hold all of the human community, with a religion and theology big enough for all the denominations, and all creatures, for a place in the Reign of Peace.

We have heard people ask, 'Will there be room in heaven for the animals? Is there a heaven for the birds and beasts?' A prior question is: Will there be room on earth for them? Will we learn to live with all creation – humanity, the animals and flora – in harmony with the planet and its passengers?

In his recent encyclical, ***Fratelli Tutti ('Brothers and Sisters All')*** Pope Francis uses the story of the Good Samaritan where two people encounter one another through merciful action despite their profound differences due to social norms. He aims to teach us how we can live out our call to 'brothers and sisters all' and was repeated in his 2021 Message of Peace: ***A Culture of Care as the Pathway to Peace***. He is calling us to go beyond our divisions to share God's love, to reveal God's heart, in working for justice and peace where new social bonds are forged because we share a common humanity.

*'We cannot be indifferent to suffering...
Instead, we should feel indignant,
challenged to emerge from our comfortable isolation
and to be changed by our contact with human suffering (68).'*

God is not aloof. Nothing can overcome God's active and saving presence in the world. God's reign is here in the present. It is not a **place** but about relationships. Speaking of God's reign, Jesus' eyes are fixed on earth- not heaven. The reign of God exposes division as incompatible with what God intends for the human community. The rich cannot exploit the poor without also exploiting God. One cannot infringe upon the humanity of another without also infringing upon God. Anyone who would discriminate against another because of religious, sexual identity, sex, racial background or creed needs to be aware that he/she also discriminates against God.

- *What is our responsibility, as people in covenant with God, for preserving and renewing what has suffered the results of sin?
- *How are we responsible for the safety and well-being of others?
- *What can we do to help the poor of the world overcome disease and hunger?
- *How are we to care for and renew the natural environment itself?
- * How can we protect human life in all its stages?
- * How can we diminish violence in society?
- *What do we need to do to assure the dignity of each person?

Lent is a time for listening to all creation which cries out to us as it is increasingly threatened. The coming days are for dreaming something new and re-building the 'Ark'; re-building all that is broken and needs healing.

What will we do with the gift of life we have been given?

Chevalier Family Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation Intention for February

Please join with the world-wide Chevalier Family for praying for this intention during February.

ENG

February
First Friday Intention

Based on Section 52
<https://www.olsghen.com/chevalier-family/spirituality-of-the-heart-an-online-course/>

Awareness:

Everything and everyone is interconnected. The crisis in our world cannot be resolved by purely technological means but **requires a new way of living and interacting with each other.**

Prayer

Creator God, we can choose to live differently. Inspire us as we make choices so that we recognize the impact that our lives have on our environment and our human family around the globe. Amen.

Action

What little changes can you make in your lifestyle to live more sustainably? Choose at least one concrete action that you will do, beginning this month.



STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS



Thank you so much for all the stamps that have been rolling in - bags and bags! We now have 20 kilos, that is approximately 96,000 used stamps, ready to go to auction. We are now beginning on the second 20 kilos.



All contributions, no matter how small, will be most gratefully received.

Please leave a wide space around each stamp.

A GRAND ADVENTURE

A Grand Adventure written by Sr Helen Warman, 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.



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0296621777

MEETING REPORTS

BENTLEIGH: 15 Bentleigh Associates met at the Convent on 19th December. Today we were able to get together for the first time since February and the COVID lockdowns. It was lovely to be back and we all responded differently to the isolation. Some found it hard to face groups again. Others enjoyed the football and horse racing. Many enjoyed the Masses online or on TV. With Christmas approaching we think of the Holy Family. This coming year has been named the Year of St Joseph as an example of a wonderful father figure for us as he was for Jesus. Sister Elaine gave us some notes about his life and virtues. We then assisted at Mass celebrated by Fr Clem who asked us what appealed to us about being OLSH Associates. We then had afternoon tea while Sister Robyn played Christmas Carols. **Patricia Mirabile**

CANBERRA: the Canberra Associates met on 5th December and welcomed back Sr Dain after all the COVID travel restrictions. There was much to talk about and prayers of thanks to Our Lady for helping keep all of us safe and well. It was a short meeting before all of us attended Mass at St Matthew's before heading to a restaurant for Christmas lunch. We thoroughly enjoyed each other's company over our meal. It was so nice to have everybody attend, even the two who had knee replacement surgery only a few weeks before and are doing quite well now. Our group wished to express our gratitude to Sr Ancilla and the team who produce the *Ametur* each year. We look forward to every new edition we receive. Have a blessed and happy Christmas to all our interstate Associates. **Christine Casey**

We met on 6th Feb at St Matthew's, Page. Sr Dain gave us a meditation on "The Year of St Joseph" as proclaimed by Pope Francis. The Holy Father wrote *Patris Corde* against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of ordinary people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. St Joseph goes unnoticed – *a daily, discreet and hidden presence, who nonetheless played an incomparable role in the history of salvation*. We all thanked Sr Dain for all the effort she put into our first meeting back - all together again. **Christine Casey**

ELMORE: We are saddened by the departure of the Sisters from Elmore but will continue to meet regularly as we live out the OLSH Charism. **Irene Nihil**

Here is a very short history of the Sisters involvement at Elmore a small country town in Victoria.

The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart went to Elmore 91 years ago in 1929 and, apart from 7 years, from 1988-1995- remained all that time. During those years over 30 of our Sisters have, at some stage, called the Parish and Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Elmore, home. Sisters Shirley Gallagher and Lee Davison were the last two Sisters there and on 5th January were farewelled with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop Shane McKinley, assisted by the Parish priest Fr. Ashley Caldow, and with four other priests con-celebrating. Sisters, parishioners and Associates were present as well as the School Principal and school children, and representatives from various religious and civic groups. A delicious country-

style luncheon followed. It was a bitter-sweet day for all concerned. The Sisters will always keep the people of Elmore in their hearts and pray for them with deep gratitude.

Below is a photo of Bishop Shane in the beautiful Elmore Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart with the picture of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart sent by Father Chevalier above the altar.

The foundation stone for the Parish Church in Elmore was laid on 26th June 1904. The tradition concerning the title was that the then Parish Priest, Dean T Rooney, had been on a holiday in Europe. He went to Issoudun where he met Fr. Jules Chevalier, by whom he was introduced to the devotion to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. He was deeply impressed and, consequently, when he returned to Australia he dedicated his new church to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and consecrated his parish to her. Her beautiful image was enshrined above the altar. He even had her monogram reproduced over the front door of his presbytery exactly as he had seen it in Issoudun. In 1928 when the next parish priest, Fr. Ryan, heard that the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart were desirous of making a foundation in Victoria, he requested them to come and see Elmore. How thrilled they were to find on arrival that Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was there in the Church waiting to welcome them!



May Our Lady of the Sacred Heart with her dear Son, Jesus, continue to bless the Parish and people of Elmore.

NOTRE DAME: A small local group of Associates met at Therese's home on 9th January and we read and reflected on the first article of the Christmas *Ametur* which contained much food for thought. We all need to sit, linger, tarry, ponder, wait, behold and wonder. Our lives are lived at such a fast pace and it is hard to stop and give God time. Even in the liturgical seasons outside of Advent it is a good practice to set aside time for God even if it is only 5 minutes each day. Maybe if we take time for God we may learn to let go of the past, leave the future to our loving God, and live fully and be spiritually nourished in the sacred pasture of the present moment. We pray that, like Mary, we may be able to let every moment of our life be the first moment, the last moment, the only moment, giving our love and smile to everyone.

Our discussion then turned to some of our family and friends who have died. Mary shared that she noticed that one of her friends who had died with cancer was peaceful, knowing that she was about to die she had accepted that she was going to leave this world and meet her God. We all had our own story of the deaths of those who were close to us and how their death had affected us.

Maureen Maher

Therese once again opened her home to a small group who met on 13th February.

We welcomed Kath Findlay's sister, Elizabeth, to the group for her first ever meeting. As it was the 32nd anniversary of their father's death, Kath and Elizabeth wanted to remember him in a special way by attending the meeting together. .

After reading the Gospel for 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time we shared thoughts from Fr Claude Mostivik's reflection on that Gospel. Father mentioned LGBTIQ in his article. We questioned ourselves as to our attitude to those who identify with that group. As members of the Chevalier Family we are called day by day to reach out to those in need and to overcome prejudices of all kinds. Lent is a time to overcome obstacles and pull down barriers. It is a time to overcome sins that we continually live with and become "comfortable" with and justify because we think it is OK to act in a certain way. The only way we are able to overcome these things in our life is to ask God for the grace and for his help, and then to leap out in faith and act the Christ-like way. We have to believe that a load will be lifted off our shoulders when we make this leap of faith. Of course, we are graced by having Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, with us on our Lenten journey.

We closed our meeting with the hymn, "Woman of the Sacred Heart" by Br James Maher msc. I noted that none of us had any trouble remembering the words of this beautiful hymn. I feel this is a reflection of our devotion to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and what it means to each of us to share this truly special devotion.

Maureen Maher



MOTHER EARTH DAY

22nd April

The International **Mother Earth Day**, also known as simply **Earth Day**, has been celebrated every year on 22nd of April since 1970. In 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic forced people into lockdown around the world, shutting down the global economy, the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day was an urgent reminder that humans need to rethink their relationship with nature and recall how the Earth provides life and sustenance. Now in 2021 we need

to raise our awareness of our collective responsibility as humans to promote harmony with nature and to balance the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations.

The idea for the first Earth Day came from a junior senator in Wisconsin, America, who was concerned about the deteriorating environment in his country. Senator Gaylord Nelson with the help of other enthusiastic, concerned individuals and groups set up campus teach-ins across the country. By the end of 1970, 20 million Americans were inspired to take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impact of 150 years of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of **serious human health impacts**. Thousands

of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment and there were massive coast-to-coast rallies in cities, towns and communities.

In 1990 Earth Day went global and mobilized 200 million people across 141 countries. Earth Day that year gave a huge boost to **recycling** efforts world-wide and paved the way to the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. In that year, also, President Bill Clinton awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the highest civilian honour in the United States – to Senator Nelson for his role as Earth Day Founder.

As the new millennium arrived, and the 30th anniversary was celebrated, another campaign was undertaken and with 5,000 environmental groups across 184 countries, reaching out to hundreds of millions of people, world leaders were sent a clear message : **Citizens around the world wanted quick and decisive action on global warming and clean energy.**

Earth Day 2010 came at a time of great challenge for the environmental community to combat the cynicism of climate change deniers, well-funded oil lobbyists, reticent politicians, a disinterested public and a divided environmental community with the collective power of global environmental activism. In the face of these challenges Earth Day prevailed and **EARTHDAY.ORG** reestablished Earth Day as a major moment of global action for the environment.

Today, Earth Day is largely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behaviour and create global, national and local policy changes. Now the fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more and more apparent every day.

As the awareness of our climate crisis grows, so does civil society mobilization, which is reaching fever pitch across the globe today. Disillusioned by the low level of ambition following the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 and frustrated with international environmental lethargy, citizens of the world are rising up to demand far greater action for our planet and its people.

Recognizing Mother Earth reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit. The UN General Assembly has declared 22 April as International Mother Earth Day to recognize the responsibility we have to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a balance between economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations.

The words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* reinforce this message: “... our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.” (para 1). Let us take some action to express our commitment to promoting harmony and balance in our lives and with nature.

What will you do?

(Much of the material in the above is taken from “*The History of Earth Day*” on EARTHDAY.ORG)

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Geziena Putman, Sr Ine Marie Bennis, Sr Norbertine Ryjk, Sr M Williberta Staal, Sr M Castissima Neefjes (Holland)
Sr Reine Chabin, Sr M Germain Rouger, Sr Madeleine Bouriguad, Sr M Ricardis Rolling (Issoudun)
Sr Giovanna Chiappa (Rome)
Sr M Goretti Tajik (PNG)

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Br Kevin Guthrie
Br Rey Flapper

OLSH Associates

Betty Savage (Melbourne)
Brenda Stewart (Bentleigh)

Relatives and Friends

Stuart Eagleton, Marlene Fordham, Janes Leung, Leonie Jamieson, Carol Brunton, Leonie Palmer, Leodegaria Yburan, Seiji Hayashi, Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, Sr Dorothy McGowan MM, Rosemary Cooley, Jim McMahon, Josie Stinson, Gwen McConeghy, Anne McClelland, Jerome Hurd, Jean Morton, Patricia Gormley.



We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

Sr Bernadette Koning olsh, Fr Hans Kwakman msc, Kayla Ireland, Trish Irish, Emilysue, Audrey (3), Ptolomey Savage, Allan Tierney, Nora Mendoza, Sr Marife Mendoza, Margaret Cherry, Gwenda Davison, Craig Jennings, Lindie Kearney, the Yburan Family, the Hayashi Family, , Switchridge Family, Kathleen Casey and Baby, Lyn Small, Hazel Bailey, Steven Keen, Allan & Christine Casey, Margaret Keen, Ted Moseley, Rayma Weaver, Ray O'Neil, Pam Stack, Evelyn Micallef, Jeanette Butler, reemployment, a failing business, anyone suffering in any way from the effects of COVID-19.

Thanksgiving to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

- For the safe delivery of Christine and Allan Casey's first great grandchild, Robert Paul Moschioni
- For Tony and Lilyan Staniforth on their 69th Wedding Anniversary.
 - Our Oldest Associate, Jean Newton, on her 103rd Birthday.