

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

Ametur

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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,

Let's start with a prayer to St Joseph in this, his special year.

Blessed be your hands which touched the Incarnate Word.

Blessed be your arms which carried him who carries the world.

Blessed be your heart burning with love for him.

Blessed be the eternal Father who chose you.

Blessed be the Son who loved you.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit who sanctified you.

Blessed be Mary who loved and trusted you.

Blessed be those who bless and love you.

Amen.



We all like stories and here is a true one about a little six years' old Scottish girl, Lulu, who wrote a letter to God:

"Dear God, how did you get invented?"

Lulu's father, who was not a believer, sent her letter to various church leaders: The Scottish Episcopal Church (no reply), the Presbyterians (no reply) and the Scottish Catholics (who sent a theologically complex reply!). He also sent it to the then Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who sent the following letter in reply:



Dear Lulu,

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I had any answers. It's a difficult one! But I think God might reply like this:

"Dear Lulu,

Nobody invented me – but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised.

They discovered me when they looked round at the world and thought it was really beautiful or mysterious and wondered where it came from.

They discovered me when they were very, very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn't expected.

Then they invented ideas about me – some of them sensible and some of them not so sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints – especially in the life of Jesus – to help them get close to what I'm really like. But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!"

And the Archbishop went on:

And then God would send you lots of love and sign off. I know that God usually doesn't write letters, so I have to do the best I can on his behalf.

Lots of love from me too.

Archbishop Rowan.

I hope this speaks to your heart; I know it did to mine.

Think of a time when you "discovered" God in a new way. Can you remember where you were and what happened? I am sure we all have had, and probably still do have, "not so sensible" ideas about God. What were/are yours? What is your favourite image of God and your customary name when speaking to God?

Robin Mann is a South Australian Christian singer and songwriter. One of his songs, addressed to God, is entitled, *How Shall I Call You?*

*How shall I call you?
Maker of heaven,
Poet of sunset and painter of sky.
Father almighty,
who's running to find us,
Giving his Son who must suffer and die.*

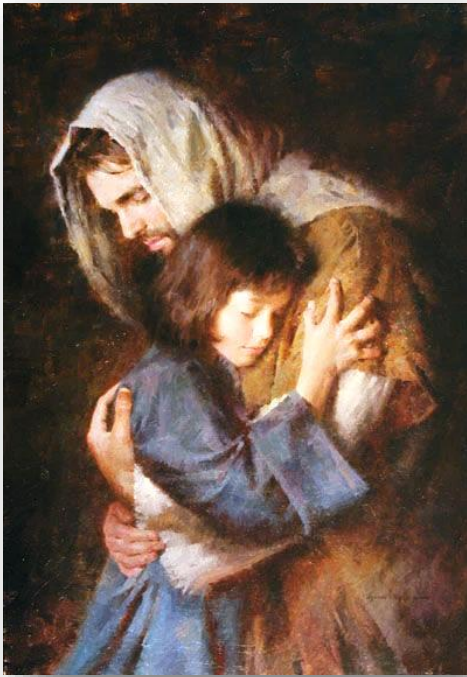
*How shall I call you?
Lover of children,*



Shepherd and teacher and brother and friend.

Healer of blind man and healer of leper:

You are beginning and middle and end.



How shall I call you?

Spirit of comfort,

Cloud in the daytime and fire in the night.

Guide as we wander,

Protector in danger,

Listener and helper and giver of sight.

How shall I call you?

Master and servant,

Lord of the seasons and Lord of the years.

Faithful and constant in loving and mercy,

Giver of laughter and taker of tears.

And Robin, knowing that God is all of these, and infinitely more, lifts his heart in praise in the refrain:

Glory to the Father, the Son and the Spirit,

Let's sing it again and again (2).

(One Licence A-640042)

Many of us can remember when a Last Gospel was proclaimed at the end of Mass. It was the beautiful Prologue to the Gospel of St John 1: 1-18, which tells of the creative Word of God which is itself God and incarnate in Jesus:

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH,

and dwelt among us:

*and we saw His glory, the glory as it were of the Only begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.*

St John is telling us that this is the framework in which we are to read the rest of his Gospel. It is the story of God's revelation of God's Own Self enfleshed in Jesus, God's creative Word, through whom the world was made and lovingly held together.

And the Word was made flesh!

Surely this is one of the most astounding sentences ever to be written or heard. Emeritus Pope Benedict XV1 (Nov 21st, 2012, General Audience,) reminds us of its profound significance but also of the danger that its familiarity will dull the mystery contained therein:

It is important then to recover the amazement before this mystery...

*God, the true God, Creator of all, has come as a man in our streets,
entering the time of man, to communicate his own life.*

[God]shows us the unprecedented realism of divine love.

*The action of God, in fact, is not limited to words,
indeed, we might say he is not content only to speak, but is immersed in our history
and takes on the fatigue and weight of human life."*

God has become enfleshed in Jesus, and in and through Jesus we are being offered “grace and truth”.

No one else can talk to us as he does.

God has become flesh in him.

We are meeting God in his words , his acts, his whole life.

This is how God is, Jesus tells us.

God looks at people as Jesus does.

He accepts, heals, defends, love, forgives as Jesus does.

God is like Jesus.

More than that: Jesus is God,

speaking to us in fragility and vulnerability

as this one human being.

(Jose Pagola, *Jesus, An Historical Approximation*, Convivium Press,
Miami, 2011 p 437)



When we look at the last verses of the Prologue of St John’s Gospel, we read these beautiful words:

*No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son,
who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.
(John 1:18)*

How blessed and gifted we are! God has made himself known to each of us through Jesus, God’s Incarnate Word. Jesus has a human heart, just like us! Father Chevalier wrote:

*A day will come when we will know our own heart
by knowing the Heart of Jesus:
We will be able to say with the Apostle:
Everything belongs to us;
we belong to Jesus, and Jesus belongs to God. (cf 1Cor 3:22f)
Then the universe in its entirety will appear as it really is,
as a word uttered in time
to express the secrets of eternity.
(Le Sacré-Coeur de Jesus, p 65)*

As we learn how to live with Covid-19 may these words of Laura Kelly Fanucci help us appreciate the beauty of each day and the preciousness of simple things:

*When all this is over,
May we never again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Conversations with neighbours
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
the taste of Communion
a routine check-up
the school rush each morning
coffee with a friend
the stadium roaring*



*each deep breath
a boring Tuesday
life itself.*

*When this ends,
may we find that we have become
more like the people we wanted to be,
we were called to be,
we hoped to be.*

*And may we stay that way –
better for each other because of the worst.*

Perhaps you would like to add the simple daily blessings that you have missed and those you are still able to cherish.

Blessings and gratitude in the Loving Heart of Jesus with Mary

(Sr) Ancilla White OLSH



Encounter of the Hearts

For the past three years this newsletter of reports and activities from lay members of the Chevalier Family across the world has been published. It comes out annually for the feast of the Sacred Heart. For those whose email address I have you are able to receive it. Please let me know if you would like it and/or if you have not yet received it by email. The following is a letter from Alison McKenzie, our Australia representative and General Secretary of the International Lay Chevalier Council. I thank Alison for this inspiring and challenging letter.



Heart-Bonded

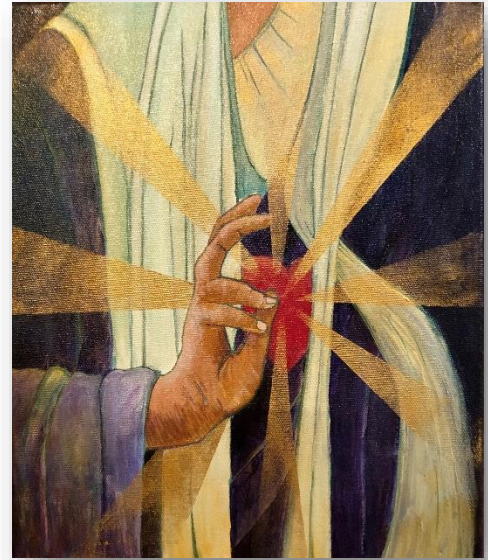
Greetings to you all.

I write this letter to you on behalf of Doris, Rita and Fr Hans, as we approach our great celebration of identity; the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

As you would know, our dear spiritual companion, Fr Hans, has been very ill with Multiple Myeloma. Fr Hans is undergoing treatment, which, while debilitating, is assisting with his recovery and the doctors are pleased with his progress. He is suffering badly from back pain, and we ask that you continue to hold Fr Hans in your prayer over the next few months of treatment.

I was asked recently by a member of our Chevalier Family if heart-bonded was a word in English. It is not commonly used – but as soon as I heard the word I knew it was the word to use to title my letter.

At the time of writing this letter the world continues to be ravaged by the Pandemic which has impacted every part of the planet. We especially remember, at this time, our brothers and sisters in India, where the virus is out of control and many people are dying. On behalf of the Council and the wider Chevalier Family, I sent a message to Thomas Saviour assuring him of the prayer and support of the laity across the world. We also remember all people in every country who are still suffering badly from the virus and we pray for them. We pray also for vaccine justice, that countries with the capacity to obtain the vaccine, including my own, Australia, will accept their responsibility to share freely with those who are less able to purchase the vaccine.



As I write this, fighting has broken out between Palestine and Israel. I am sure you feel the great sadness I feel, that in the land where Jesus came from there is still no long-lasting peace and justice. With these, and many other heart-breaking international events as a background, I have been pondering what to say to you in this edition of Encounter of Hearts, which has the theme – Spirituality of the Heart: a way to open our hearts and participate in the healing of the world.

Our world is changing so quickly – not just through international events such as the pandemic but in so many ways that affect our daily lives for good and for ill. Some that come to mind are:

we immediately know when something happens in one part of the world through the wonders of technology, so much so we can become overwhelmed and apathetic to the suffering of others;

technological and scientific advances offer great hope for many in the world but not for everybody, and the advances often bring with them ethical dilemmas regarding their use;

our societies and cultures are changing before our eyes – what we once commonly accepted as right or wrong is now contested and argued about, and seen from many different viewpoints, even within the Catholic and Chevalier Family.

So, how do we open our hearts and know how to respond in difficult situations? For me these words from the MSC Constitutions are helpful:

*Fr Jules Chevalier was deeply moved
by the evils that afflicted the people of his time.
As he contemplated the Heart of Jesus,
in whom is revealed the compassionate love of the Father,
he discovered there the remedy for the ills of the world. #3-4*

The beginning point is to be deeply moved – we could say we are ‘heart-bonded’ to the people who are suffering in our families or communities and beyond. We are called to feel the pain of

the world. Our starting point and our focus is on people, not ideology or doctrine but on the pain of the world. Our spirituality calls us to have one foot firmly planted in the reality of the world in which we live. For me, this can be a very uncomfortable and challenging place to be.

Chevalier points us to our response to the pain and suffering of the world – we are called to contemplate the Heart of Jesus. In English, contemplate is a beautiful word, it means to consider deeply over a long period of time and from many perspectives. Heart is another beautiful word. It draws us to the essence or spirit at the centre of a person – the place where we personally encounter the presence of our God of love, and where we ourselves are changed by that love. By allowing ourselves to contemplate the Heart of Jesus; to focus deeply on the spirit that animated Jesus, we can be drawn together to become like him; ‘two hearts beating as one’ – our hearts become bonded. In my experience, this can only happen for us if we give significant time each day to sit silently in the presence of the risen Jesus and to allow his presence into our lives, in other words – we are called to contemplate the Heart of Jesus. Prayer must come before response.

We see this in the life of Jesus – he constantly went off to a lonely place to pray. And when he was not praying, Jesus was very often in the company of the bad people of his time – the six times divorced, the tax cheats, the undocumented immigrants ... Perhaps this reminds us that to contemplate the ills of the world is not just an academic exercise, but it is way of being that will lead us to spend time with the people the world rejects. Our hearts are bonded with the rejected. In my experience, this is a very uncomfortable place to be – especially, sadly, in our church, which can reject and judge those who Jesus tells us to love. Our Christian brothers and sisters can judge us more harshly than others outside the family. But, that is where Jesus points ... and it is the way to participate in healing the world. It is our calling and the challenge of our spirituality.

What did Fr Chevalier encounter when he contemplated the Heart of Jesus? He found there the compassionate love of the Father. Compassion is another beautiful word. In English it means to be able to see and experience the world through the eyes of another. That is a very challenging statement – especially when bonded to the previous sentence. We mix with those who are outside the church and we have compassion for them – we see the world through their eyes – as God does. How hard is that? I don’t know about you – but for me that is often impossible. My fear of the other, my judgement of people who do things I disapprove of, my need for acceptance from my church family can make it almost impossible for me to be as God is and to open my heart to participate in the healing of the world.

And then, what Fr Hans says is the important difference between us and other Sacred Heart groups – we believe, with Chevalier and Jesus that an experience of the compassionate love of God, revealed in the way of Jesus is the remedy for the ills of the world.

And so, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, 2021, let us pray for each other that in our own small way we can be heart-bonded and thus, be God’s Heart on Earth.

With love and blessings to you all.

Alison McKENZIE

Marie Louise Hartzler (cont)

Sr Juliette Baker FDNSC

Vocation

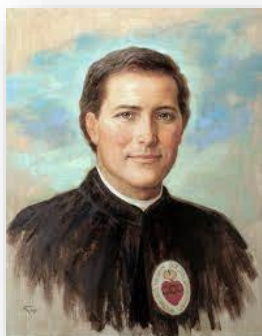
About this time, I began to dream of a priestly vocation for my sons and a religious vocation for myself. To my great joy, without my having broached the subject to them, both Fernand and Leopold asked to join the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. They were received into the seminary of this Society at Issoudun, France. Although it was the fulfillment of my hopes for them, the parting was almost more than I could bear.

Whilst on a visit to them in Issoudun, I met the Founder and first Superior General of the Society, Father Jules Chevalier, a priest of great holiness, kindness and a boundless enthusiasm for the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I learned that he had not only founded the Society of Priests and Brothers, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, but also a Congregation of Sisters whom he called Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

This title, and all that it meant attracted me enormously. To be a consecrated Daughter of this Mother whom I had loved since childhood, was the only destiny I wished for, and yet, one that seemed too good to be realized. I came away from Issoudun excited and thoughtful, hardly daring to believe in the happiness that seemed to be opening up before me. This longed-for destiny did indeed lie in the future, but it was five more years before I was free from family obligations and could take the final step to realise it. By that time my sons were settled in their vocation and nearing ordination to the priesthood. My mother has died and my sister, Antoinette was greatly improved in health.

Father Jules Chevalier MSC

By this time, too, I had come to know Father Chevalier and to understand his hopes and plans for the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Every detail of his vision, at once spiritual and practical, went straight to my heart. Here was a way of living for God that would keep me close to Mary and to the great Heart of Christ, to whom I wished to make a return of love for his own everlasting love that had enfolded me all the days of my life. I longed to spend the rest of my days as a simple Sister, learning to be a true Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.



When at last I was free to enter the little community at Issoudun, commonsense dictated a pause. In its eight years of existence the new congregation had given its Funder no end of trouble and seemed doomed to failure, mainly because Father Chevalier had not been able to find the right person to govern it and to work with him in imparting to it the spirit he has been inspired to give it. But it was the spirit which drew me irresistibly – the spirit of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of his Mother.

I was astounded to hear Father Chevalier express the wish that I should take charge of the community. This I flatly refused to do. How could I lead others in the way of religious life, having no previous experience of it myself? *"I only want to lead a life of obedience and*

prayer," I told him, "and certainly not to exercise authority over others." And it was with this understanding, throwing human prudence to the winds for once, I took the decisive step of joining the community.

A Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

A new era began for me. I felt so happy and free that my natural high spirits rose and often brimmed over. At the age of forty-five I became like a young girl once more, skimming up and down the stairs, throwing myself enthusiastically into the manual work (of which there was plenty because we were so poor), and delighting in the hours of prayer and recollection. We were a community of six Sisters and, as the months went by, I grew to love and admire the sterling qualities of my companions. At the same time, it was becoming increasingly obvious that the Superior, for all her good will, was an impractical person. Father Chevalier often visited us to explain aspects of the religious life and of our proposed rule. He noticed everything, of course, and was well aware of the situation, but seemed to be biding his time before taking any action. When he did, it took me completely by surprise.



On 7th December of that same year, 1882, the eve of the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, we assembled for one of his usual visits. As we had been expecting, he announced that the next day would be the beginning of our formal training period, the novitiate.

"But" he went on in a new tone which made us sit up, "your Superior wishes to be relieved of her office. The one who will replace her as Superior and Mistress of Novices is Sister Marie Louise."

I sprang to my feet. *"Me? Never, Father."*

"You can't refuse. You are appointed Superior and you must obey."

Then his eyes twinkled at my dismay. *"But your daughters will be very good. So now, do sit down."* And he calmly continued to give his instruction on the religious life.

You may be sure that the moment he had finished I followed him out of the room for a private interview. I did my level best to make him go back on his decision, but it was useless. In the end he succeeded in convincing me that this was God's will, and he showed me that the whole of my life, up until that moment, had been designed by God to develop in me the qualities necessary for this work.

"God wants you," he said. And with these words I found the heart to surrender and the courage to shoulder this responsibility with trust and love. Then peace came.

Superior General

After all, I reasoned, this work is the inspiration of Father Chevalier. He has been given the gift of bringing its spirit to birth. All I have to do is to transfer his ideals into everyday living and to help the other Sisters to do this, too. And if it were true, as he had said, that my life so

far had prepared me for this, what really had I been? Why, simply a mother, the centre of a family, a homemaker. Well then, that's what I would continue to be, and I would make of this little group of Sisters a family with a spirit of homeliness and love, with Our Lady for Superior, and the Heart of Jesus the King and Centre of our lives; St Joseph would fulfil his role as father and provider of our family.

Fanciful? Indeed no – this was the reality that lay deep in our lives. Our task would be to act upon it in faith and love. For everything else we could look to Father Chevalier. From him during his conferences we could learn the Church's teaching, the principles of religious perfection, norms for guiding ourselves and others in the art of combining a life of prayer with an active apostolate. Above all, we would set ourselves to catch from him something of his burning love and intimate knowledge of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady. In short, we had to make his spirituality a lived experience for spirituality is a way of life – it does not exist in the air.

The Spirit of the Congregation

With these aims in mind we journeyed through our two years of novitiate. From the Founder himself we learnt the three distinctive qualities that characterize each of his spiritual sons and daughters:

- A concern for all people, especially for those who are deprived in any way – a concern that teaches us to read the signs of the times and to know how to identify the needs of the people of our day as well as the evils that threaten them;
- To see in the love of the Heart of Christ the answer to every human desire and the fulfilment of every human need;
- The sensitive awareness that we have the mission to make this love known by our own human love, gentleness and kindness – the quality of our human-Christian loving.

These qualities he summed up in our motto:

MAY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS BE EVERYWHERE LOVED. FOREVER!

(To be continued)

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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.

Fr Hans Kwakman msc

SECTION 55: A SPIRITUALITY OF RELATIONSHIPS

The biblical stories of creation are permeated by profound wisdom. In symbolic language they tell us that in God's creation everything is connected. *How* the cosmos came into being is investigated and studied by the physical sciences. The biblical stories proclaim that human existence is based on four closely connected relationships: our relationship with God, neighbour, ourselves, and the cosmos (LS 66).

Pope Francis quotes Psalm 33: "*By the word of the Lord the heavens are made*" (Ps 33:6). In doing so, he emphasizes that the universe and humankind did not come into existence by chance but were given to us by God as a rich and abundant gift. God's creative word expresses God's free choice, arising from God's loving heart.

Creation is thus given to us as a gift, and we are called to respect this gift and to manage it with care. By caring for the order of creation with respect, we honour God as the Creator. "*A spirituality that forgets that God is the Almighty Creator is unacceptable*" (LS 75).

However, when we dishonour the riches of the earth, we sin against God, the Creator, just as we sin against God when we deliberately dishonour our relationship with our fellow human beings or ourselves. To explain this, Pope Francis quotes the words of Patriarch Bartholomew, the leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church:

*"To destroy the biological diversity of God's creation;
to damage the integrity of the earth by causing climate change;
to strip the earth of its natural forests or abolish its wetlands;
to soil water, land, air, and life on earth - these are sins.
To commit a crime against the natural world
is to sin against ourselves and to sin against God"* (LS 8).

Abuse of the riches of the earth is a violation of our relationship with God, with our fellow human beings, and with ourselves. In that case we are not faithful to our calling to love God and His creation.

REFLECTION

*"To follow Jesus means
being led by the Spirit
as he was Spirit-led at every stage of his journey.*

*This involves a truly personal discernment,
but it is never an individualistic one.
The Spirit of God is always the Spirit of communion,
communion with our human sisters and brothers
and communion with the whole of creation.*

*It is not difficult to see the Spirit at work
in great movements of our times:
the ecological movement,*

*the movement seeking justice and peace
above all for the poor of the Earth,
and the feminist movement seeking the full equality of women.
In spite of all the human failures and sin
that play a role in these movements,
they are places where the Spirit of God
is powerfully at work, calling us to our own part
in these movements of liberation and hope.*

*To be led by the Spirit
at the beginning of the twenty-first century
is to be involved in the transition
from “a period of human devastation of the Earth”
to a period when humans will be present to the planet
in a mutually beneficial manner.”*

Edwards, Denis. **Ecology at the Heart of Faith**. Orbis Books. Kindle Edition.

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Reflections on this Theme of Relationships and Interconnectedness

In 1854 Chief Seattle, an American Indian, delivered an address on the transfer of ancestral Indian lands to the United States Federal Government:

*“How can you buy and sell the sky, the warmth of the
land?*

*If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle
of the water,
how can you buy them?*

This we know:

*the earth does not belong to the humans; humans
belong to the earth.*

This we know:

*all things are connected like the blood which unites one
family.*

All things are connected.

*Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the
earth.*

The humans do not weave the web of life; they are merely strands in it.

Whatever they do to the web they do to themselves.

*The earth is precious to God
and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its Creator.*



The Buddhist poet Thich Hanh explained our interconnectedness with the natural world in another telling way. Pointing to a piece of blank paper he said:

*“If you are a poet,
you will see clearly that there is a cloud floating in this sheet of paper.
Without a cloud there will be no rain; without rain the trees cannot grow;
and without trees we cannot make paper.
The cloud is essential for the paper to exist.
If we look at this piece of paper even more deeply, we can see the sunshine in it.
Without sunshine the forest cannot grow.
And so, we know the sunshine is also in this sheet of paper.
And if we continue to look, we see the logger who cut the tree
and brought it to the mill to be transformed into paper.
And we see the wheat. The logger cannot exist without his daily bread,
and therefore, the wheat that becomes his daily bread is also in this sheet of
paper. The logger’s brother and sister are there too.
When we look in this way, we see that without all these things,
this sheet of paper cannot exist.
Peace in Every Step, Bantam Books, New York, 1992, p. 95.*

The 2021 theme for NAIDOC Week, (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) which is celebrated each year in July, was **Heal Country**. Professor Mick Dodson explains the deep significance of the word **Country** for Australia’s First Nation People.

*For us, **Country** is a word for all the values, places, resources,
stories and cultural obligations associated with that area and its features.
It describes the entirety of our ancestral domains.*

In some Homily Notes provided for the Sunday Liturgy we read:

*Because of the connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
recognize between country, faith and wellbeing,
it is no surprise that when the world is in pain, Australia’s First Peoples are in pain.
During Covid 19 Pandemic, many of the trappings of Western life became impossible.
The rivers were calm and clear from the absence of boats,
the cities were quiet and still as restrictions took hold.
We saw images of animals returning to previous habitats,
and smog clearing from above cities across the world
as our common home took a “breath”
from our constant consumerism and drive for development.*

Father Chevalier, in his book on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, *Le Sacré-Coeur de Jesus*, writes of the sacredness of all God’s creation:

*Everything that came from nothingness from the angel to the tiniest worm,
from the blade of grass to the smallest speck of dust,
all is the doing of the Word, the doing of love.
Everything has been inspired by that love.
Every single creature, without exception,
living or not, was even before its creation,*

*present in the Spirit of the Word.
It lived and existed in Him from the beginning of time,
as if inside its creator, before effectively existing by itself (p 139-140).*

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Pope Francis

As you are aware, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has recently undergone surgery. On July 11 he prayed the Angelus from Rome's Gemelli Hospital and then said:

I have felt your closeness and the support of your prayers. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!... Let us remember that, in the protocol of the final judgment – Matthew 25 – one of the things they will ask us will be about closeness to the sick. In these days of being hospitalized, I have experienced once again how important good health care is, accessible to all, as it is in Italy and in other countries... And let us pray for all the sick... accompany them with prayer, especially for those in the most difficult conditions: may no one be left alone, may everyone receive the anointing of listening, closeness, tenderness and care. Let us ask this through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, Health of the Sick.



Pope Francis has since been discharged. Let us keep up our prayers for the continuing good health of our Pope, whose prophetic leadership, vision, compassion and wisdom is leading our Church into a hope-filled future.

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World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

On January 31, 2021, Pope Francis announced a new celebration in honour of all grandparents and the elderly, who are so important to our communities and our Church. This new World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated every year on the **Fourth Sunday in July**. I encourage you to read the complete text from the internet. It will inspire and comfort you. As Pope Francis wrote: “... *there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new*”.

Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will live once the storm has subsided. All of us must “take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies” (ibid., 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than

anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are **dreams, memory and prayer**. The Lord's closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

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Associates' Annual Retreat 2021



We are still hoping to have our Annual retreat this year and 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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Stamp Project



Wonderful news!

Our first auction netted the sum of **\$2,602.21!!!!!!** Many thanks to all who sent in used stamps, as well as Father Roger Purcell of the MSC Missions' Office who is generously sharing his donated used stamps with us. All proceeds go to our OLSH Overseas' Aid. We now have 17 kilos and counting and are nearly ready for the next auction, so please send along your contribution no matter how small (or large!).

Meeting Reports

Bentleigh: We met on 26th June at the Convent, and it was lovely to get together again after another lockdown. Unfortunately, one of our favourite attendees, Sr Mary Batchelor, passed away since we last met and we will miss her very much.

We watched a video of Pope Francis announcing the introduction of a Grandparents' Day on the fourth Sunday in July. He emphasized the great contribution that older people make to our families especially through their dreams, memories, and prayer. He was encouraging us (the older generation) to speak about our faith and life experience to those younger than us. If we don't have much social contact, then pray for our families and friends. As Pope Benedict once said, "The prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others."

We look forward to the first Grandparents' Day on 25th July.

Patricia Mirabile

Canberra: We met on 1st May at St Matthew's, Page, for a day's retreat with Sr Dain, with the theme, *Autumn- Season of Surrender*.

I am listening to the trees taking off their lush green garments.

I am listening to the leaves turning, turning, ever turning.

I am listening to the burning bush of autumn.

I am listening to the falling of this season.

This is part of a poem by Macrina Weiderkehr. We were each given an autumn leaf that had fallen from a tree, each one different and full of colour, to take on our journey that day: to find God and sit or stand beneath a tree full of colour, to see the sun streaming through its canopy. What a lovely day to search for and see the good in others, rather than remembering their faults and weaknesses.

Christine Casey

We met on June 5th at St Matthew's Church, Page.

We had a very relaxed meeting sitting in the sun that was streaming through the windows of Marian Hall on an extremely cold winter's day in Canberra.

Sr Dain was down from Hartzler Park and with only four Associates present we discussed articles in the *Ametur* especially about Pope Francis' new book on the path to a better future. All agreed that the Pope has given us much to ponder for the month of June.

We will not have a meeting in July, with all these restrictions going on we thought it better to cancel it. There is enough in the *Ametur* for each of us to explore at our leisure in our own warm homes. Winter is settling in down here and getting very cold, although there is no snow visible on the surrounding mountains as yet.

Christine Casey

Corinda: With Sisters Merrilyn and Margaret on a visit to Corinda, we joyously celebrated the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (early) with a special Mass, followed by a light luncheon with attendees. Subsequently thirteen Associates (with one apology,) met to explore the way ahead for the Associates following the closure of the Corinda Convent.

With the welcome presence of two Sisters, we had a very fruitful and positive discussion. One of our number has offered the use of her home for our planned two-monthly meetings, and a small planning committee will draw on the rich source of material in the *Ametur* to frame each meetings' focus.

We were delighted that Sr Marilyn is planning to return for a Reflection Day with us on 8th September and we have dates set for future months.

Mary McMahon

Darwin: The Associates have been meeting since February this year at the MSC Ranch in Nightcliff per favour of Father Malcolm Fyfe msc. The venue is just so beautiful: a small Chapel in which we are very blessed to have Mass celebrated by one of the priests from St Paul's Parish, Nightcliff. We then relocate to the verandah which overlooks the magical Arafura Sea. Even in the WET it is so lovely. We share a meal together and then return to the Chapel for a Reflection Time, usually prepared for us by Sr Mary Stevens olsh. One huge piece of news is that one of our Associates, Patricia Goyen, celebrated her 95th birthday on April 19th (two days before our Queen Elizabeth!). For our next gathering we will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. **Anne Davey**

Hartzer Park (Burradoo): We met on 16th May and as we were approaching the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Christine and Irene presented a Reflection on *Mary at the Foot of the Cross*. It was inspired by a talk given by Sr Pauline Compton at a retreat earlier this year. His was accompanied by *The Magnificat* and concluded with the singing of *Woman of the Sacred Heart*. Our Ongoing Formation followed the theme of Section 54, *Spirituality of the Heart and God's Creation in Evolution*. This was expanded to also reflect on God's creation in the nature that surrounds us, and especially in the current season of autumn, as a nourishing source of spiritual transformation. **Jan Clark**

Our June meeting was on 20th. "*Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me*" (Matt 24:40). In scripture, biography, commentary, prayer and hymn, *You Raise Me Up*, Julie presented a challenging, but hope-filled Reflection specific to World Refugee Day, today.

This augmented our **Formation** theme as we looked at formation as a personal pilgrimage and ongoing spiritual journey shared as a faith community in our everyday life and wider world, especially in relation to Chevalier's charism and our call to "*be on earth the Heart of God*".

At the conclusion all shared a wide variety of personal experiences and influences in this journey agreeing on how blessed and fortunate we are to be able to practise and share our faith in the way we do, both because of the political freedom to do so [as opposed to many refugees and asylum seekers fleeing oppressive and intolerable regimes] and the faith community of which we are part as Associates. **Jan Clark**

We met on 18th July at Hartzer Park, so grateful to have Mass and be able to meet together while so many others are in Lockdown.

Vocation and Mission was the theme of the **Reflection** presented by Anne who experienced this as a personal call and in turn shared this through Scripture and verse in a way that prompted us to reflect on this aspect of our lives too.

Our **Formation**, partly inspired by Ch 2 of Hans Kwakman's book, "*Jules Chevalier's Charism and the Identity of the Chevalier Family*", where the influence of Margaret Mary Alacoque is recorded. We looked at some other significant saints [both canonised and not] who contributed to the development of devotion to the Sacred Heart, that through the charism of Jules Chevalier became what we know and live today as Heart Spirituality.

Sr Marilyn also presented material from ARRCC [Australian Religious Response to Climate Change] – a multi-faith network committed to taking action on the many aspects of climate change and called us to action by gathering as a group to write letters to be presented to the Prime Minister by ARRCC later this month. **Jan Clark**

Notre Dame (Kensington): Five Associates gathered for our May meeting. After our opening prayer we reflected on the Gospel for the 6th Sunday of Easter – John15:9-17. Our reflection was beautifully prepared by Judith. We discussed how important it is to have close friends. We shared on the thought that *a friend is someone who knows you and loves you just the same*. A friend can also be someone who may say something we may not want to hear. If we have a friendship based on love our relationship will be maintained even though we may feel hurt at the time. This Gospel passage is part of Jesus’ last discourse to his disciples. He is about to suffer and die and leave his friends. After his resurrection they will see him again but in a different way; they will see him in his glorified body. This last supper is a very intimate and special time between Jesus and his friends. We are called, as part of the Chevalier Family, to love those around us with the love of Jesus. This was Jesus’ last instruction to his disciples, as it is Jesus’ instruction to us, a commandment to love with a divine love, unconditionally and without compromise.

We then meditated on Gerald Manley Hopkin’s poems from the *Ametur*. These will be very helpful in our prayer during this month of May. They will help us in our relationship with our loving Mother, Mary: *Hold me fast in thy mothering grace where I may pray.* **Maureen Maher**

Therese was kind enough to offer her home once again for our meeting on 12 June. Six of us gathered and discussed a reflection for 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, beautifully prepared for us by Judith. We are the soil in which God’s seed is planted. This is God’s choice: He has chosen us. Once we have received the seed of God’s word into the soil of our hearts, we must be ready for the dispossession, the gradual unfolding of the seed’s potential, that will push into our consciousness and transform our lives, making us a plentiful harvest and enabling us to become nourishment for others.

We turned our thoughts to the Ongoing Formation Section of the *Ametur: Spirituality of the Heart – God’s Creation in Evolution*. We are blessed with a Pope who is teaching us the beauty of God’s creation. It is our responsibility to nurture and tend all of creation. Pope Francis is making us more aware that everything we are, and we see is a gift from God, that is why we meet God in all things. God is present with us everywhere and we need to be aware that he is with us every moment of our lives, loving and guiding us. We pray that we are open to the promptings of his Holy Spirit. We then shared a very happy afternoon tea. **Maureen Maher**

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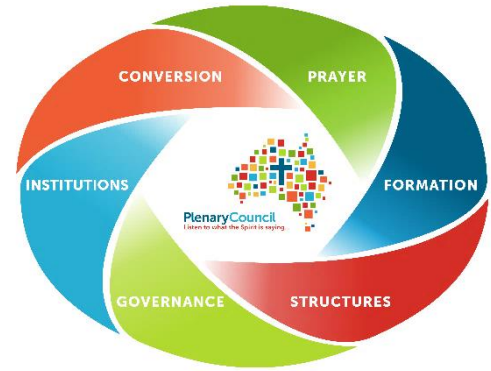
Fifth Plenary Council of Australia - 2020



A Plenary Council is the highest formal gathering of all local churches in a country. Australia’s contemporary society has changed significantly since the last Plenary Council held 80 years ago in 1937, 28 years before the end of the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

As children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia are called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centered Church in Australia.

During the first phase of the Council, we were invited to LISTEN and share and nearly 220,000 people and 17,500 individual and group submissions were received. From these, six national theme papers were compiled, and these led to the final Agenda. The six areas for consideration are:



CONVERSION, PRAYER, FORMATION, STRUCTURES, GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS

On 30th June 2021, Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta, gave the Annual Helder Camara Lecture at Newman College, Melbourne, *My Hope for the Plenary Council*. Bishop Vincent concludes with these words:

*May we have the courage, boldness and parrhesia
to move from the old paradigm of triumphalism, power and splendour
to the new ways of being Church that will convey the freshness of the Gospel.*

You can find the full text of this excellent talk on the internet. It is well worth reading, pondering and praying over. The Plenary Council also has a web site which gives all the information that you will need to follow this most important event for our Australian Catholic Church.

The Timeline for the Proceedings of the Plenary Council in 2021 – 2022 is as follows:

February 2021: Publication of the Working Document

March onward: Preparation and ongoing discernment by the local Church community for the Plenary Council Assemblies.

June onward: Announcement of the Plenary Council Agenda and the final preparation for delegates

3-10 October 2021 the first Assembly is held in Adelaide.

Nov – June 2022: prayerful discernment on the outcomes of the first Assembly.
Preparation of papers and proposals for the second Assembly.

4-9 July 2022: the second Assembly of the Plenary Council is held in Sydney.

August 2022: Preparation begins to enact the decisions voted upon at the Plenary Council Assemblies.

Let us pray daily for the success of the Plenary Council:

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.
O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.
Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.
Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.
Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.
Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.
Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us*

Prayers from our Hearts

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Mary Batchelor (Melbourne)
Sr Teresa Chue (Kensington)
Sr M Eustachia Isbandiyah, Sr Marina van Rooijen (Indonesia)
Sr M Philomena Urlacher (Issoudun)
Sr Regina Lafferty (USA)
Sr Marie-Claire Louette (Belgium)

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Father William Cunningham (St Josephs)
Fr Bernard McGrane

OLSH Associates

Doreen Coleman (Sydney)
Frances Lloyd (Sydney)
Monica Brennan (Darwin)
Val Bretherton (Melbourne)
Joy Pollard (Brisbane)



Relatives and Friends

Roy Lloyd, Gerald McGowan, Mary Wilkins, Gwenda Davison, Annette Marskell, Mirella Balzan, Philomena Moore, Br Peter Smith, Ashley Everrat, Kath Lathem, Joan,

We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

Sr Eileen van de Lee olsh, Sr Catherine Mary olsh, Fr Hans Kwakman msc, Craig Jennings, Pat and Richard Martin, Leanne, Paul, Laura, Julie, Val Lille, Harry Seal, Jules Sarno, Gina Attallah, Cathy, Lloyd Families, Jack Mack, Maggie, Margaret Cherry, Aline Dinel, Kim, Zac, Kathleen, Barbara, Kayla, Davison Family, Judith, Barbara Stife, Fran Bird, Joe Nash, Margaret Toye, Margaret Keen, all Associates who are not well at this time, Paul & Danielle & Matthew Casey, Helen Selinger, Allen Munn, Neil McCormack, Bill Kehoe, John O'Donoghue, Sid Hamilton, Mary Johnson, Josephine Leahy, Monica Brennan, Shirley Dickson, Rayma Weaver, Ted Moseley, Ray O'Neil, Guy McBride, Rollie Taguinod & Family, Jo Lewis, Claire Hilder, Savannah (11 years), Rick, Kathleen, the people of South Africa, those sufferings the effects of natural disasters and Covid 19.

We Pray in Thanksgiving For

- 70th Jubilee of Religious profession of Sr Anne Gardiner and Sr Lorraine Ryan
 - The new OLSH Foundation in the Amazon by the Brazilian Province
 - Patrica Goyen on her 95th birthday
 - Our Stamp Project Results