

*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 the Family*

Dear Associates,

Our prayer to St Joseph is taken from our OLSH Community Prayer Book and I have chosen it because the last Sunday in September is World Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants. During these unsettling days when so many countries are unsafe for their citizens, we are daily witnessing heart-rending scenes of mass departures as families desperately seek places of peace and acceptance. Let us pray often for these suffering sisters and brothers of ours.



*Saint Joseph,  
Because of Herod's threat, you were forced to go into exile.  
You cared for the Child and his Mother in Egypt.  
Pray now for those far from their homeland,  
and help us to reach out to them,  
to extend a welcome to the stranger in our midst.  
Amen.*

Spring is here bringing with it capricious weather and new life in abundance. Although here in Australia we celebrate Easter in the Autumn this liturgical season is akin to nature's season of Spring. As one writer expressed it:

*Our Lord has written the promise of **resurrection**  
not in books alone, but in every leaf in **springtime**".*

And another wrote:

*"The day the Lord created **hope**  
was probably the same day He created **spring**."*



During these months of lockdown you may, like me, have been receiving email messages of friendship, support, “feel-good” stories and many laughs. The following gave me inspiration and pause for reflection.

*I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job - a flat tyre made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit - his ancient truck refused to start.*

*While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. When opening the front door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles, and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss. Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.*



*'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So, I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.' 'Funny thing is,' he smiled, 'when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.'*

We all need a *Trouble Tree*, and we all have One – the *Cross of Jesus* where we find His broken Heart, infinitely suffering, infinitely tender, infinitely forgiving. Here we can place all our troubles, fears, griefs, worries and cares. Here we find acceptance, infinite love and the promise of eternal life. Here, indeed, is the Tree of Life. St Paul explained to the Corinthians:

*The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation,  
but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save.  
And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom,  
here are we preaching a crucified Christ,  
to the Jews an obstacle they cannot get over,  
to the pagans madness,*

*but to those who have been called,  
whether they are Jews or Greeks,  
a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God.  
For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,  
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.  
Corinthians 1:18 - 25*



Pope Francis in an address to the Passionists said:

*Contemplating the Crucified One, we see every human dimension embraced by God's mercy. His kenotic and compassionate love touches, through the Cross, the four cardinal points and reaches the extremes of our human condition, joining in a mysterious way the vertical relationship with God and the horizontal relationship with humanity, in a fraternal union that the death of Jesus has definitively made universal.*

Pope Francis in a homily at Domus Sancta Marta on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> this year, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, spoke of the two trees, the Genesis Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of the Cross.

*This tree of the Cross saves us, all of us, from the consequences of that other tree,  
where self-sufficiency, arrogance, the pride of us wanting to know all things  
according to our own mentality, according to our own criteria,  
and also according to that presumption of being and becoming  
the only judges of the world.*

*This is the story of mankind: from one tree to the other.  
The only possible explanation for our salvation is Divine love.  
Today we look upon the Cross, the story of mankind and the story of God.  
We look upon this Cross, where you can try that honey of aloe,  
that bitter honey, that bitter sweetness of the sacrifice of Jesus.*

Pope Francis emphasized the motherly role of Mary in understanding the dual nature of the cross.

*"In order to enter into this mystery,  
which is not a labyrinth but resembles one a little bit,  
we need the Mother, the mother's hand.  
That she, Mary, will make us understand how great and humble this mystery is;  
how sweet as honey and how bitter as aloe."  
Each Christian must take up the bittersweet journey of the cross for himself,  
with our mother, weeping and on our knees."*

So dear to us is the crucified Jesus. As one writer expressed it:

*We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.*

So let us go deep into our hearts and reflect on this extraordinary love that surrounds us – the love of a suffering God who has given all for love of each one of us. Some of you may be familiar with the prayer, *Anima Christi*. Following is a lovely adaptation of this prayer that you might like to pray before a crucifix:



*Jesus ... Best Friend  
May your soul give life to me.  
May your flesh be food for me.  
May you warm my hardened heart.*

*Jesus ... Best Friend  
May your tears now wash me clean.  
May your passion keep me strong.  
May you listen to my plea.*

*Jesus ... Best Friend  
May your wounds take in my hurts.  
May your gaze be fixed on me.  
May I not betray your love.*

*Jesus ... Best Friend  
May you call me at death's door.  
May you hold me close to you.  
May you place me with God's saints  
May I sing your praise forever. Amen.*

Let us keep each other in our hearts and prayers as our world adjusts to the distresses of Covid and natural and man-made disasters. I want to finish with these beautiful thoughts on the aftermath of the Crucifixion. Written by Daniel J. O'Leary they remind us that faith, that incredible gift that we received at baptism, is the only way in which we can understand the Cross. He asks the reader to imagine the disillusioned disciples on the way to Emmaus hearing the following life-giving whisper coming from within their hurting hearts:

*I am the Spirit of the Risen Christ.  
If you dare to believe it, I can set free the dance in your body,  
the music in your soul, the dream in your heart.  
You can overcome every fear - with Me:  
you can forgive every hurt - with Me:  
you can make your life a journey of wonder - with Me.  
With your bodies you can worship each other - with Me.  
Every hope you carry inside you can come true -  
because with Me you can do all things.  
You can mend a broken world because now, everything is possible.  
Heaven on earth lies open before you today for the taking.  
But there is one condition to this glorious transformation  
– of you, of humanity, of all creation –  
you must dare to believe it. (Already Within, The Columba Press Dublin, 2007, pages 48-49)*



Blessings, gratitude and love in the Risen Heart of Jesus with Mary, our constant companion on the pilgrimage of life

*Sr Ancilla White Olsch*



.....  
*Marie Louise Hartzler* (Continued)

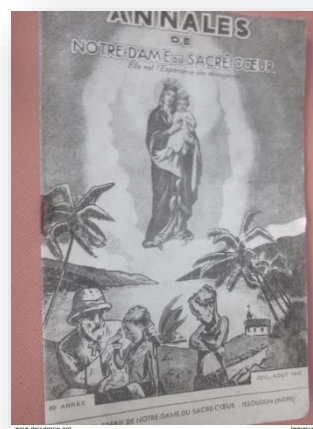
**Sr Juliette Baker FDNsc**

### **The Spirit of the Congregation (Cont)**

In everything, Father Chevalier gave us the shining example of his own life. His affability and deference to my judgement in practical affairs made it easy for both of us to co-operate in complete understanding. Of course, we did not see eye to eye in every detail, but we were at home enough with each other to express different opinions with confidence in each other's sincerity. The congregation began to develop in the way he had been inspired to found it.

### **Growth**

Long before the two years of novitiate were completed other young women came to join us. By the time fixed for the first group to be clothed in the religious habit and make vows, our family of Sisters numbered sixteen. These girls had come to know about our congregation either from reading the *Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*, a periodical published by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, or from one or other of these priests themselves. It was now twenty years since Father Chevalier had founded his society of priests and brothers. After many initial difficulties, God had blessed the work with good vocations – zealous priests who carried the message of the Sacred heart to many parts of Europe. In 1881 Pope Leo XIII entrusted to the Society the Pacific Missions of Melanesia and Micronesia, and we Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred heart were destined to share with them this great missionary work of the Church.

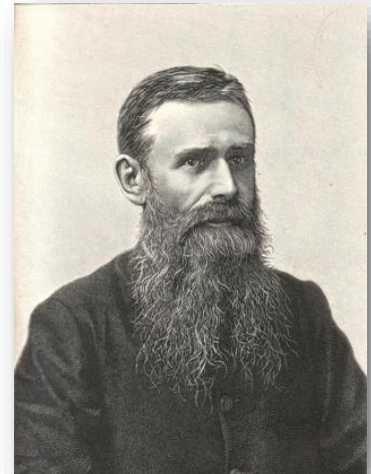


### **The Missions of Oceania**

The lure of the Missions drew many courageous women to our doorstep. Courageous indeed they need be. So far, missionary efforts in these areas of the Pacific had ended in disaster. In the Solomons and other islands to the east of New Guinea, Marist missionaries

and, later, priests of the Foreign Missionary Society of Milan, had been massacred by savages; the remainder died of fever and malnutrition. The mainland of the huge island that we now call Papua New Guinea had been impenetrable. For twenty-five years no missionary had set foot in this vast vicariate when, in 1881, Father Chevalier sent five of his priests to carry out the mission entrusted to the Society by the Holy See. They aimed to make their first headquarters in New Guinea.

The missionaries went by way of Australia, making contacts in Sydney where it would be necessary to have an operating base. After many adventures and more than twelve months later, three of the priests succeeded in landing on the island of New Britain, the final stepping-stone before New Guinea. Here the first mission station was established. Father André Navarre was in charge of the mission and in the very first letter that he wrote to Father Chevalier he asked him to *"beg the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart to come soon and lend us their assistance."*



### **What is a Missionary?**

The next year Father Navarre wrote a long letter to me, knowing that five of us Sisters were soon due to make our profession of vows. He hoped for our speedy co-operation. Nevertheless, he felt it only fair to give me an insight into some of the trials that awaited the future missionaries. He wrote:

*"... As some of your Daughters are destined by the good Master to come here to second our efforts, it is only fair that I should say a few words to you on the noble and sublime task that they will have to fulfil. And as the greatest sacrifices, instead of discouraging noble hearts have, on the contrary, always attracted them and urged them to undertake the most painful labours for the love of God, I shall not hide from you the trials to be expected by those who will have the happiness to come and join us. "*

There followed a detailed description of the loneliness and lack of good food; the effects of equatorial heat and humidity; fever; the constant effort to understand and live with people of an alien culture; unremitting hard labour. The women and, above all, the children would be the main recipients of the Sisters' loving care. For the children, Father Navarre had obviously a great compassion.

*"... These poor little ones live in an atmosphere that is pitifully foreign to all that can elevate the mind or touch the heart. Nevertheless, they quickly respond to marks of affection and devotedness. They know very well how to distinguish the missionary, who is so devoted to them, from the trader who seeks to enrich himself at their expense. 'Kind as a missionary' was the verdict of Tolitoro one day when speaking of someone who had gained his favour. How much truer still will the comparison be when they are able to say: 'Kind as a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart'..."*

I was, then, well aware that the training given the Sisters must take into account the hardships that they would be called upon to endure in mission lands. They must be prepared also to be educators, a role which Father Chevalier envisioned as one of the chief works of our apostolate in order to win lovers for the Sacred heart of Christ.

On 9 September 1884 the first Profession ceremony took place. With four companions, I gave myself completely to God by the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. It was the fulfilment of all my greatest desires, and I was radiantly happy.

## **Missionary Foundations**

Barely one month afterwards, Father Chevalier came to have a long talk with me. Rome had officially informed him that not only were the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart to be sent to New Guinea but also the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. This we had foreseen. Both of us considered the serious difficulties which warned against sending the Sisters so soon to this unknown land; but since the Church wished it, we would unite our “Yes” to that of Mary who did not hesitate to agree to the most stupendous mission God had ever given to mankind.

Accordingly, in 1885 Fathers Verius and Couppé, three Brothers and five Sisters set sail for New Guinea. As the time of departure drew near, I could not hide my sadness. It cut me to the heart to think that I was sending these Sisters, so young, so simple and unpretentious, on a long and hazardous journey into an unknown country where European women had never before set foot. And yet, I would have loved so much to share their privilege. But mission life was not for me – my mission, I well knew, would be to prepare others for this great work.

In waving farewell to these first missionary Daughters, I knew that it was extremely unlikely that any of them would ever see their homeland again. This was indeed to be the case, for in the 1880’s the voyage from France to Australia, the country nearest to New Guinea, took at least three months, often twice that time. So, journeys back and forth for them or for me were out of the question. Every departing missionary Sister in those days said: “*Au revoir* in heaven.”

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We will leave Sr Juliette’s story here until the next issue of the *Ametur*. Following is an account of the departure of the first Chevalier Missionaries as recounted in “*The Designs of His Heart*” written by Sr Venard Pettit FDNSC.

These are Mother Marie Louise’s own words:

*At five o’clock in the evening the final ceremony commenced. The sanctuary of the little chapel, resplendent with flowers and lights, was filled by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart among whom were Fathers Couppé and Verius with whom the Sisters were making the voyage. Then Father Superior, after an unforgettably moving address which made the tears flow, received the profession of Sisters Paul and Martha. The emotion was great for these*

*Sisters were to leave us in a few hours. Then the community took its last meal together. The travellers were in travelling costume. We laughed, we cried, we chatted but all hearts were filled with deep emotion. Then came the visit to the chapel for the last prayer to the Good Master, the dear chapel where so many happy hours had been passed before the Tabernacle ... ( Page 170).*

Sister Venard takes up the story from here:

*“And now the first of many missionary farewells is taking place. The goodbyes are hasty, for all, especially Mother Marie Louise, are deeply moved. As the missionaries step out of the Convent door into the darkness of the night, they are a quaint-looking party. On account of the persecution, these pioneers in every sense of the word, are not wearing their religious habits. So, behold the Superior, Mother Paul, in a most unmonastic-looking jacket and an antique hat; Sister Mary Xavier, a slim little figure as an old photograph shows her, enveloped in a big shawl and a hat of the same vintage as Mother Paul’s; Sisters Claire, Martha and Madeleine in ample black mantles lined with blue and their old postulant hats veering towards green. They have between them as travelling expenses the pitiful sum of 25 francs, and out of this a pair of shoes must be bought for one of the parties in Marseilles. The route is to be by train to Marseilles and then by boat to Australia.*

*“All climb quickly into the waiting omnibus and the door is shut. But just as it moves off, one of the departing missionaries opens it again and flings out the words: ‘May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.’ Back from the rapidly receding group of those left behind comes a strong, ardent response: ‘Forever!’”*

*Mother Marie Louise continued: “Those who remained returned silently, and very much overcome, to the chapel where we prayed a long time for our missionaries – Fathers and Sisters.”*

Sister Mary Venard FDNSC, *The Designs of His Heart* , The Mercier Press, Cork, 1966, pp170-171

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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 56**



# Spirituality of the Heart:

## The Praise of God from the Heart of Creation.

Not only the book of Genesis, but also other books of the Bible teach us to care for nature and in particular for animals, says the Pope. Sabbath rest, he states, applies not only to human beings, but also to the animals that work for us (Exodus 23:12). Regarding nature, the Pope underlines the fact that the Bible rejects inalienable possession of the land: *"The land should not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine, and you are but aliens, who have become my tenants"* (Leviticus 25:23) (LS 67).

Several psalms invite both us humans and other creatures to praise the Lord. *"Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created"* (Ps 148:3-5). (LS 72)

From the first moment of creation, all living and non-living nature praises the Creator simply by being there. No human being is needed for this. All creatures praise God in their own way by existing, regardless of whether they are useful to humans. The hymn of praise of the three young men is a hymn of praise of the whole of creation: *"All creatures, praise the Lord."* (Daniel, Deuterocanonical).

The Pope quotes the words of the Catechism, which says: *"Each of the various creatures is willed by God in its own being and reflects in its own way a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness. Human beings must therefore respect the special goodness of each creature in order to avoid any misuse of things"*(LS 69).

The Pope refers to St Francis of Assisi, who reminds us to read nature as a beautiful book, in which God speaks to us and shows us his beauty and goodness (LS 12): *"When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them. This sentiment finds magnificent expression in the hymn of Saint Francis of Assisi: "Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures."* (LS 87).

### REFLECTION

"How marvellous it is, this material world!

What perfect unity  
in this indescribable variety.  
Not a being in isolation!

On the contrary,  
everywhere union of forces,  
a combination of influences;  
each element is useful for the whole,  
and the whole is useful for each element.

It is an immense network  
all the links of which hold together  
and converge at a central point:  
the human being...



A human being is not just a mineral that blooms,  
a shrub that feels,  
an animal that reasons.

A human being is a mineral, a tree, an animal  
who prays, who worships, who gives thanks.

In us, matter becomes religious."

Jules Chevalier MSC, *Le Sacré Coeur de Jésus* 1900, p. 62. English translation by Dennis Murphy MSC



## *Spirit-Inspired Initiatives in the Church*

The following initiatives are a **"call to arms"** for us all! What binds them together is a celebration of who we are as Church, as human living together in our loving Father's creation, and as OLSH Associates and members of the Chevalier Family. As you read about them reflection on your response and decide on your action plan, because in order for these initiatives to be fruitful, we must all play our part. You can learn more about each of them from our learned friend Mr Google!!

### *Season of Creation 2021*

On September 1<sup>st</sup> the Season of Creation commenced and continues until October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios 1 proclaimed 1<sup>st</sup> September as a Day of Prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox Church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. The World Council of Churches (WCC) was instrumental in making this special time a Season, extending the celebration from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron of the environment and beloved by believers and non-believers alike. Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced this Season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the Season official in 2015. During this Season we are invited to pray, protect and advocate for God's creation. The Theme of 2021 is:

### *A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God.*

"Oikos" is the Greek word for the Household of God and this year's logo depicts this graphically.



*Abraham and Sarah opened their tent as a home  
for three strangers,  
who turned out to be God's angels.  
By creating a home for all, their act of radical  
hospitality became a source of great blessing.  
Abraham's tent is a symbol of our ecumenical  
call to practise creation care  
as an act of radical hospitality,  
safeguarding a place for all creatures,  
human and non-human, in our common home,  
the household (oikos) of God.*

Michael Jonas, an American priest, has written a poignant hymn to Sibelius's *Finlandia*. It expresses the dream of a hope-filled society, where all may live in safety and where the peace of Christ reigns in "a place called home." You can find this beautiful hymn on his CD *Deep and Lasting Peace*. The final verse runs like this:

*.A place called home for every human being;  
A place called home where arms are opened wide;  
A place called home where all extend the welcome,  
Where none are lost, alone or cast aside,  
But members of a single family;  
God grant us grace to build a place called home.*

**More Information:** <https://seasonofcreation.org>



## *Action Platform for Laudato si'*

### ***Theme: Our Care of Our Common Home***

As the end of the celebration of the five years since the ground-breaking encyclical *Laudato si'* was released, Pope Francis has launched the Vatican's seven-year *Laudato si'* Action Plan to implement environmental sustainability in different sectors of the Church, namely families, parishes, schools, hospitals, businesses, organizations and religious orders. The Pope explained that the Action Plan has seven goals:

*the response to the cry of the earth,  
the response to the cry of the poor,  
ecological economies,  
adoption of simple lifestyles,  
ecological education,  
ecological spirituality,  
and community involvement.*



And he continued:

*We need a new ecological approach  
that can transform our way of dwelling in the world,  
our styles of life, our relationship with the resources of the Earth and,  
in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life.  
Our selfishness, our indifference and our irresponsible ways  
are threatening the future of our children.  
I therefore renew my appeal: let us take care of our mother Earth ...  
let us overcome the temptation of selfishness  
that makes us predators of resources,  
let us cultivate respect for the gifts of the Earth and creation,  
let us inaugurate a lifestyle and a society that is finally eco-sustainable.  
We have the opportunity to prepare a better tomorrow for all.  
From God's hands we have received a garden,  
we cannot leave a desert to our children.*

The first year of the initiative will be dedicated to “drawing up concrete action plans” followed by “five years of concrete action” with the final year dedicated to “praise and thank God”.

This year there are also two United Nations Conferences which will have an important effect on the whole question of our Care of Creation. In October world leaders will meet at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) to set meaningful targets to protect creation. In November at the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, countries will announce their plans to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

**Let us pray that the leaders will make courageous choices.**

We see how Pope Francis' *Laudato si'* has challenged and enlivened Catholic to care for creation. His influence has spread throughout the whole world. We need to put our faith into action. One way of doing this is by advocacy. Go to this website <https://the.catholic.petition.org> where you can find a simple way to help. Also look up Mr Google at [Tosy's Letter COP26](#) and help our sisters and brothers in the Pacific – where we have OLSH Sisters in Kiribati, Nauru, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Marshall Islands, PNG – by clicking on the letter to the Australian Government. You need to do this by 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**More Information:** <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org>





## *Synod of Bishops and The Faithful*

### ***Theme:***

### ***For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission***

A **“Synod”** is that gathering when the Bishops of the whole world are assembled under the leadership of the Pope to foster closer unity between the Pope and the Bishops, to assist the Pope with their counsel in the preservation and growth of faith and morals and in the observance and strengthening of ecclesiastical discipline, and to consider questions pertaining to the activity of the Church in the world.

The Synod was conceived by Pope Paul VI as a way to continue the collegial experience of the Second Vatican Council. During the ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis expressed his desire for a common path for “laity, pastors, the Bishop of Rome.” **Now, for the first time, a "decentralised" Synod is being celebrated and the Pope has invited the whole Church to question itself on “synodality” (walking together) a decisive theme for the life and mission of the Church.**

To make the **synodality**, desired by Pope Francis since the beginning of his pontificate, concrete and visible, the next Synod of Bishops, scheduled for October 2023, will not only be celebrated in the Vatican but in each particular Church of the five continents, following a three-year itinerary divided into three phases: diocesan, continental and universal.

According to a May 21 Vatican communique, the three-stage process “*will help to make possible a true listening to the People of God to ensure the participation of all in the synodal process*”. It is not just an event, but also a process that involves in synergy the People of God, the College of Bishops and the Bishop of Rome, each according to their proper function,”

The synodal path will begin at the Vatican, in the presence of Pope Francis, on **9 and 10 October 2021** with a time for encounter and reflection, followed by a moment of prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist.

## Diocesan Phase: Consultation and Participation of the People of God

The particular Churches will begin their journey on **Sunday, 17 October**, under the presidency of the diocesan bishop. The objective of this phase is the consultation of the People of God. To this end, the Secretariat of the Synod will send a preparatory Document accompanied by a Questionnaire and a Vademecum ( literally “come with me) with proposals for carrying out the consultation in each particular Church. The same Document will be sent to Curial Dicasteries, Unions of Superiors and Major Superiors, unions or federations of consecrated life, international lay movements, Universities or Faculties of Theology.

The diocesan discernment will culminate in a “Pre-Synodal Meeting.” The contributions will be sent to their own Episcopal Conference. The bishops, gathered in assembly for a period of discernment, will make a synthesis which they will send to the General Secretariat of the Synod. This first stage will be completed by **April 2022**. Once the material has been obtained, the first *Instrumentum laboris* ( working document) will be drafted, which will be published and sent to the particular Churches in **September 2022**.

## Continental Phase: Dialogue and Discernment

This will mark the beginning of the second phase, scheduled to take place from September 2022 to March 2023. The aim is to engage in a dialogue on the *Instrumentum laboris*. At the end of their discussions, each continental grouping will draft a final document, which they will send to the General Secretariat in March 2023. The Secretariat will then draft a second *Instrumentum laboris*, based on the responses. Publication is planned for June 2023.

## Universal Phase: the Bishops of the World in Rome

The synodal journey will culminate in October 2023 with the celebration of the Assembly of Bishops in Rome, according to the renewed procedures established in 2018 by Pope Francis.

Make sure you are signed up to your Parish Church email so that you will be able to receive your local notifications concerning this most important event in our Church.

**More Information:** <https://synod.va/en/html/synod>





## *Fifth Plenary Council of Australia*

***Theme: Listen to What the Spirit is Saying***

***First Assembly Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021, Adelaide.***

The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia is a journey for the whole Church across the country. To invite the People of God into the First General Assembly, Masses and parts of the opening session each day will be livestreamed via the Plenary Council website. Mass booklets will also be available on the website. We are all invited to pray with the members these liturgies and prayers that will nourish and sustain them throughout the ten days of this most important event. The Plenary Council President, Archbishop Timothy Costello SDB invites us:

*This historic moment is a time of deep prayer and discernment,  
and we are inviting everyone to play their part in praying for the Council  
and praying for and with the members,  
who have a particular role during the Council's celebration.*

After this First Assembly there will be a period of time, Nov – June 2022, for the prayerful discernment of the outcomes of the Assembly and the preparation of papers and proposals for the Second Assembly to be held 4-8 July 2022 in Sydney.

**278 members** from across Australia have confirmed their participation in the two Assemblies of the Fifth Plenary Council – in October 2021 and July 2022.

There are 278 members who will participate in the Assemblies. They are lay and religious who represent all aspects of our Australian Church and come from all across Australia. You will find their names on the Plenary Council website. As all leaders of Religious Congregations are members, our Provincial, Sr Philippa Murphy, is attending as well as Sr Moya who is part of a 20-member group of expert advisors named "Periti".

Let us pray daily for this most important event in the history of our Australian Church.

*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.*

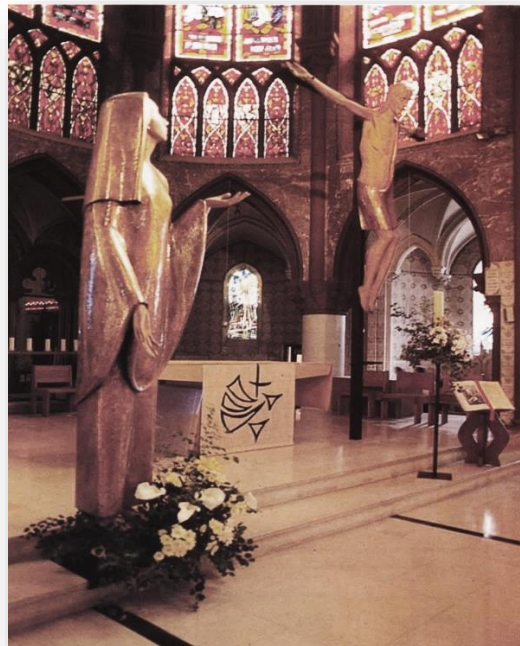
*Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.*

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us*

I encourage each of you to go onto the Plenary Council website, where you will find all the information, including times of Mass and prayers.

**More Information:** <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/>

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*Issoudun Basilica*

*Preparation for 150th Anniversary of the  
Foundation of the Congregation of the  
Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart*



This is the final Spirit-inspired initiative that I wish to tell you about and involve you in as you are such a special part of our OLSH Family. Our Congregation was founded on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1884, and on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 we began a three-year preparation for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this blest event. As you can imagine, we are full of gratitude to God for the incredible blessings that these years have held for each one of us personally but also for the Church and those to whom we have ministered. You, dear Associates and friends, are part of these blessings and so we invite you to join us in prayer and gratitude. This beautiful litany was composed by Sr Moya and perhaps you might like to pray it during this time of preparation. The Response to each blessing is:

*We thank you, our God.*

*... For the gift of the tender, compassionate and forgiving love of the Heart of Jesus. R/  
... For the gift of the unfailing love and companionship of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. R/  
... For the faithful protection of St Joseph, a man according to your Heart, O God. R/  
... For the gift of the faith, vision and unshakeable courage of Father Jules Chevalier MSC. R/  
... For the gift of the motherly solicitude, humility and simplicity of Mother Marie Louise  
Hartzer FDN. R/  
... For the gift of the courage, faithfulness and missionary daring of our pioneer Sisters and all  
who have gone before us. R/  
... For the gift of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who have generously served our spiritual  
needs over all these years. R/  
... For the gift of our families who have generously fostered our religious vocation and have  
supported us throughout the journey. R/  
...For the gift of all to whom and with whom we have ministered, who have enriched us by  
sharing their lives with us. R/  
...For the gift of each other, companions on the journey over the years to the present. R/*

*All gracious Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
our hearts overflow with gratitude  
as we seek to grasp something of your love for us  
and our religious family and your goodness to us.  
Through the intercession of Mary,  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and of St Joseph,  
we pray that our living each day  
may reflect our deepening faithfulness and gratitude. Amen.*

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**CANCELLED**

## *Associates' Annual Retreat*

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our retreat for the second year. Hopefully 2022 will see us "retreating" together again.

# Stamp Project



Many thanks for the stamps that keep on coming! Large and small packets, they are all most acceptable. We have another 22 kilos ready to go to Auction.

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I hope you have been able to procure a copy of Pope Francis' book, *Let us Dream*. It concludes with a special poem written by a Cuban actor and comedian in Miami, Alexis Valdés. He told the Pope that he had written it in a single sitting, without changing the words, as if God had used him as a channel. It has gone viral. May it move you as it has so many millions of others. Let us say a prayer for Alexis.

*Hope*  
*(Esperanza)*



When the storm has passed  
and the roads are tamed  
and we are the survivors  
of a collective shipwreck.

With tearful heart  
and our destiny blessed  
we will feel joy  
simply for being alive.

And we'll give a hug  
to the first stranger  
and praise our good luck  
that we kept a friend.

And then we'll remember  
all that we lost  
and finally learn  
everything we never learnt.

And we'll envy no one  
for all of us have suffered  
and we'll not be idle  
but more compassionate.

We'll value more what belongs to all  
than what was earned.  
We'll be more generous  
and much more committed.

We'll understand how fragile  
It is to be alive.

We'll sweat empathy for those still  
with us and those who are gone

We'll miss the old man  
who asked for a buck in the market  
whose name we never knew  
who was always at your side.

May maybe the poor old man  
Was your God in disguise.  
But you never asked his name  
because you never had the time.

And all will become a miracle.  
And all will become a legacy.  
And we'll respect the life,  
the life we have gained.

When the storm passes  
I ask you, Lord, in shame  
that you return us better,  
as you once dreamed us.



## Meeting Reports

**Callala:** We had a special meeting at the end of June. It was some time since the six of us were able to gather. All expressed their appreciation of the *Ametur* which had recently arrived. All expressed concern about Covid which had arrived in the Jervis Bay area the day before. So, we prayed for all those who are anxious and suffering, not just in Australia, but around the world. **Sr Marilyn Lee**

A small group of Callala Associates met in August. It was a very enriching sharing as we read and reflected on the Pope's Letter to Grandparents and the Elderly. We appreciated the Pope's words about the importance of dreams, memories and prayers. Special memories were shared in the group as they had been shared with grandchildren. Towards the end of our meeting we received Holy Communion and prayed for the world at this time of pandemic. We also remembered our members who were not able to be with us because of sickness.

**Sr Marilyn Lee**

**Corinda:** Eleven Associates and a welcome two new members enjoyed our July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at Marnie's home. We had three apologies. It was our first meeting solo, following the closure of Corinda Convent, and COVID restrictions had delayed our meeting for a further week.

A small team had prepared a very thoughtful programme for our meeting (originally coinciding with NAIOC week). We commenced with an Acknowledgement of First Nation people. After prayer and a Gospel reading, we shared our thoughts on the quiet and sometimes lonely times we all faced with varying COVID restrictions, and how we could use this time positively to "listen to God" and spend time in reflection.

We then considered a very beautiful reflection – DADIRRI – by Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr AM (a senior Australian of the Year, who became the Northern Territory's first fully-qualified Aboriginal teacher in 1975, before becoming the Principal of her home community's school at Daly River). *Dadirri* is from the Ngan'gikurunggurr and Ngen'giwumirrilanguages of the Aboriginal people of the Daly River region in the Northern Territory. Miriam described *dadirri* as an inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness ...

*My people are not threatened by silence. They are completely at home in it.*

*They have lived for thousands of years with Nature's quietness.*

*Our Aboriginal culture has taught us to be still and wait.*

*We do not try to hurry things up.*

*We let them follow their natural course – like the seasons*

These sentiments fitted in perfectly with our theme of listening and reflection. **Mary McMahon**

Eight Associates were present at Marnie's home on 8<sup>th</sup> September – Our Lady's Birthday. We spoke of the various feast of Mary and celebrated the start of it all, the birth of Mary. We even had a birthday cake to follow our meeting!

The topic of the gathering was *A Spirituality of Relationships* – the On-Going Formation Section from the *Ametur* August/September. We read and reflected on it and shared our thoughts on how everything in God's creation is connected – our relationship with God, neighbours, ourselves and the cosmos (Laudato si 66). We discussed the influence of Pope Francis on caring for the earth and nature,

and how Franciscan Spirituality fits so beautifully into our present time. We reflected on how the present Covid pandemic is affecting the lives of so many people in so many ways.

Our next get-together is planned for 31 October.

**Mary McMahon**

**Kilburn:** There were seven ladies present at our meeting and we had four apologies. We began our meeting with the well-loved hymn, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. We reflected on the father in the parable of the prodigal son. Some very interesting discussion and sharing followed. We ended our meeting with a prayer and the hymn, *I'll be Always Loving You*.

**Sr Patricia Smith olsh**

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## We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

### Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Patricia Mawn (St Josephs)

Sr Maria Aparecida de Miranda (Sao Paulo)

### Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

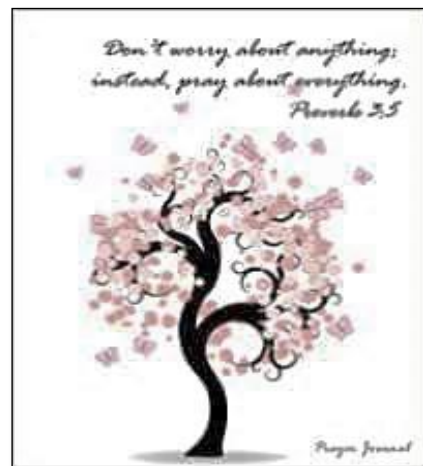
Br Simon Duverney (Issoudun)

Fr Alfred Bour (Issoudun)

### OLSH Associates

Eileen Stubley (Malabar)

Pauline Roberts (Randwick)



### Relatives and Friends

Patricia and Richard Martin, Patrick Bergin, Wipa Wongpaibool, Cleato Catimbang, Bernard Altenroxel, Joe Camilleri, Susan Rolls, Ila Delaney (aged 2), Mervin Hall and his son, Helen Abbey, Veronica Plunkett, Fr Dan Carroll, Theresa Parsons, Michael Willie Fong, Cathy Corrigan, Betty Draney, Trevor Fanton, George Stanley, Antonio Cubillo.

## We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

Fr Hans Kwakman msc, Christine Bulters, Kayla, Barbara, the Martin Family, Beth McGrath, Melissa Sullivan, John Cooley, Margaret Wulf, Mary Roberts, George, Jan, Carol Canavan, Claire Hickey the Delaney Family, Ruby, Elaine McComb, the Cheffings Family, Elsa Barcetti, , John O'Donohue, Donna and Family, Helen Salinger, Chloe Peters, Ashleigh Cotton, Elaine Ramsey, Margaret Casey, Ubolka & Nangi Nilan, Geoffrey Trenear, Allen Munn, Matthew Andrew, Ed Crossan, Maureen and Sophia Jensen.

## We Pray in Thanksgiving For

- The courageous and compassionate leadership of Pope Francis
- Judy and Jim Lamb on the Golden Anniversary of Marriage
- The front line and hidden helpers in this time of pandemic
  - God's blessings on our country
- The goodness and kindness of so many people