

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

Chevalier Year

Ametur

No: 350

July 2023

Newsletter of the Associates

of the Daughters of

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

OLSH Convent, 2 Kensington Rd, Kensington, and NSW 2033. Tel: (02) 9662 1777 .Email: associates@olshaustralia.org.au



Dear Associates,

Easter 2023 has come and gone and yet it is always Easter. Christ is Risen! Every Sunday is a little Easter, and, as St Augustine reminds us:

"We are Easter people and our song is Alleluia!"

I would like to begin this *Ametur* with some words from Daniel O'Leary who reminds us of how our hearts can always be Easter hearts – hearts for and with our Risen Lord, hearts patterned on Jesus' Sacred Heart, hearts for our sisters and brothers everywhere.

Easter in your Heart

Christ Rises in your heart when:

*You wake in the morning with new hope;
You go to bed with a forgiving heart;
You truly grieve at another's loss;
Your heart rejoices at another's joy;
You keep your temper with a trying friend;
You refuse to nurse a niggling hurt;
You try again to beat your fears;
You face the routine of another day;
You try again to say, 'I'm sorry';
Your broken heart begins to mend;
You notice beauty you missed before;
You weep at the greed that causes war;*



*You delight when love comes around again;
You put together the broken pieces and make with God a work of art;
You dare to love despite the grief;
You discover, within your winter, a summer-time that never ends;
You hold the earth and all people as you hold the hearts of those you love;
You trust in dawn at the darkest hour;
You accept your weakness and it makes you strong.*

As we live out our Charism of making Jesus' Sacred Heart known and loved everywhere, and particularly in our own milieu, we could measure our heart's health in the light of Daniel's Easter heart. The Persian poet, Hafiz, describes our vocation in another way in this beautiful poem:

Listen to the Music

*I am a hole in a flute that the Christ's breath
moves through – listen to this music.*

*I am the concert from the movement of every
creature singing in myriad chords.*



*And every dancer, their foot I know and lift.
And every brush and hand, well, that's me
too, who caresses any canvas or cheek.*

*How did I become all these things, and beyond
all things!*

*It was my desire, as it is ours. My poems are
about our glorious journey.*

*We are a hole in a flute, a moment in space,
that the Christ's body
can move through and sway,
all forms – in an exquisite dance –
as the wind in a forest.*

(A Year With Hafiz Penguin Books, New York, p3)

What a beautiful Easter heart Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has! And what a beautiful hole she was in the flute that Her Son's breath moved through! May she continue to form our hearts so that we may more and more resemble His.

United in the love of these two Hearts
Sr Ancilla White Osh

Causes for Celebration and Thanksgiving

CHEVALIER YEAR

This year brings with it many occasions for rejoicing and for gratitude. As you have noticed on the cover of our *Ametur* it is **Chevalier Year**, and we are preparing to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Father Chevalier's birthday on 15th March 2024. To prepare for this special birthday the Chevalier Year Commission has set up a new website – a sub-domain of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart website. You can access it by clicking this link, jchevalier.ametur-msc.org, or use the hashtag **#jchevalier200** on your Social Networks. The Commission is also issuing **Annals for the Chevalier Year** each month. Heartfelt thanks to the Chevalier Year Commission for permission to send these excellent monthly reflections in this format as many of you do not have access to a computer. I am sure that you will find great inspiration and matter for prayer as you read them.



Welcome to the Chevalier Year

Annals for the Chevalier Year #1

Welcome to the Chevalier Year, which will officially open on 15 March 2023, the 199th anniversary of Fr. Jules Chevalier's birth and will end on the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in May 2024. The grand celebration will be on 15 March 2024, the 200th birthday of Fr. Chevalier.

WE PRESENT TO YOU THE THEME AND LOGO FOR THE CHEVALIER YEAR

We invite you to sit and pray with this logo & theme. What does it say to you?

We thank the MSC province in Brazil who first proposed the theme and Sr. Helena (Nam, Yuri), MSC Sister from Korea who designed the logo and Fr Michael Angelos Dacalos, MSC, from the

Philippines who helped in putting the logo in its final form. We also thank João Pedro from Brazil who also submitted logo designs.

We encourage provinces, unions, regions and communities to have a special celebration in your places to mark the official opening of the Chevalier Year!

As we celebrate this special jubilee for our Chevalier Family, may each one of us be touched by the Spirit, and, like Fr. Chevalier, will be gifted with a heart on fire for mission.

These Annals are brought to you by the Chevalier Year Commission.

Special thanks to Fr Michael Angelo Dacalos, MSC, for the layout and design.

About the logo

The Holy Spirit + Passion

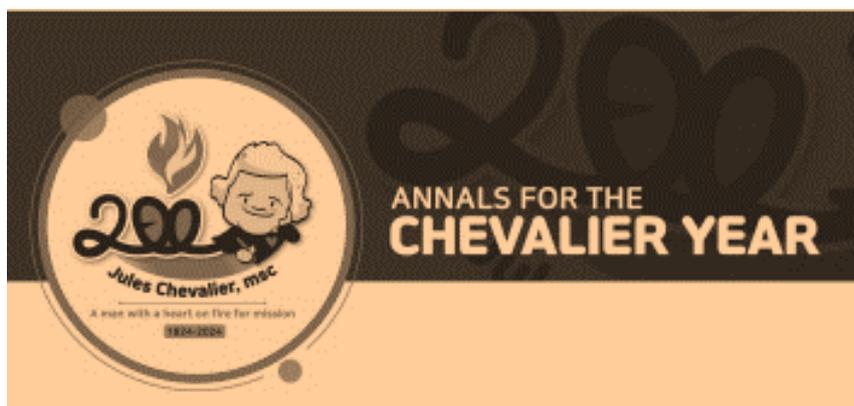
- The Holy Spirit shaped by a dove and a flame.
- Our passion for the Spirituality of the Heart.

Bicentennial + The Pierced Sacred Heart

- The number 200 expressed by continuous line and the pierced Sacred Heart symbolize our motto and vision originating from the time of Chevalier to our time.
- MSC Charism at the centre of that time.
- The red line and surface spreading at the bottom mean our mission.

Jules Chevalier, MSC

- His white hair and the red stars on it symbolize wisdom



All throughout this Jubilee year (from March 2023 to May 2024) we would like to invite you to remember the life, the works, and the words of Fr. Chevalier, and to reflect on what these mean for us today. To help us in our remembering and reflection, you will receive the first of these monthly send outs with this Annals.

The monthly send outs are based on the excellent book of Fr Andre Mayor MSC entitled *Fifteen Days Prayer with Jules Chevalier*. This book is published in French and Spanish. An unpublished English translation is also available.

Use these monthly send outs in your personal and community prayer and reflection. Share them widely with members of your Congregation and with our Lay Members and Partners in Mission. Share them with students at schools and with employees of our different institutions

and houses. Share them with the youth, those discerning their vocation in life. Share them with as many people as you can.

Through the life and words of Fr. Chevalier, let us make the Heart of Jesus known and loved everywhere. Let us live out Fr. Chevalier's charism and spirituality. Let us fulfill his mission of being God's Heart on earth in our world today!



CHEVALIER, IN HIS TIME ...

His Life: Jules Chevalier was born on 15th March 1824 in the small town of Richelieu, France. Jules was the third child of Jean-Charles, who was a rough but kindly man, and Louise Ory, a devout lady. He shares: *"Soon after my christening my mother took me to church and dedicated me to the Blessed Virgin and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus"* (Personal Notes, 3).

His Words: *"... it is through love that God created everything; the atom, that nothingness. God loved it with an eternal love just as he loved the angels"* (SCJ 302). For Fr. Chevalier, *"every creature is a word of God"* (SCJ 329). In every creature he hears a *"... word of love"*, and if he wants to improve his knowledge of God, he has to explore everything carefully. His prayer is contemplation, and he hears a voice whispering and reassuring: *"Do not be afraid... little atom ... you are a word of God, a written word ... and God would delete this word? ... No! God deletes nothing; what God says is well said, and it is said for eternity"* (SCJ 303).

From *Fifteen Days of Prayer with Jules Chevalier*, Fr Andre Mayor msc, First Day.

CHEVALIER FOR TODAY ...

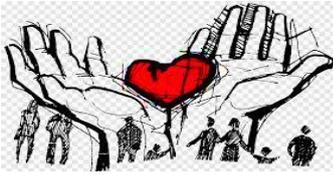


In our time, we hear the sentiments of Fr. Chevalier again in Pope Francis when he said, *"Together with our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly, we are called to recognize that other beings have a value of their own in God's eyes: ... by their mere existence they bless him and give him glory and indeed, '... the Lord rejoices in all his works' (Ps 104:31). The Catechism clearly and forcefully criticizes a distorted anthropocentrism: 'Each creature possesses its own particular goodness and perfection. Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness. Man must therefore respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things'"* (Laudato Si', 69).

How about you? What do you see when you look at creation? What do you hear when you listen to the sounds of nature?

If we recognise that every creature is “*a word of love*” from God, how are we called to relate with creation?

Listening to Fr. Chevalier and Pope Francis, how are we invited to care more for the earth, our common home?

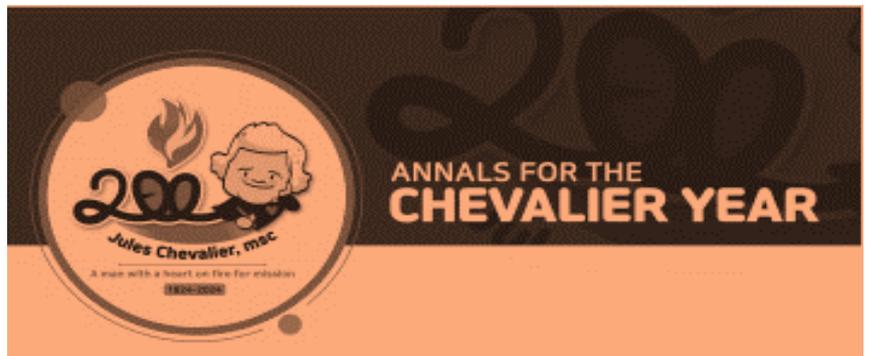


PRAYER FOR THE MONTH ...

Loving Jesus,

We are sons and daughters of Fr. Jules Chevalier, msc, a man you have gifted with a heart burning with love of you and for the mission of making your Sacred Heart known and loved everywhere and forever. As we commemorate the 200th anniversary of his birth, we ask you to give us his eyes, his hands and his heart, that, like him we may see every creature as created in love. Set our hearts on fire and strengthen our hands that we may fulfill our mission of being your Heart in today’s broken and wounded world. Amen.

Issue #3
April
2023



CHEVALIER IN HIS TIME ...

His Life So, on after finishing primary school, Jules indicated he wanted to become a priest. *“My mother explained that their lack of money ... would prevent them from supporting me in this and advised me to take up an apprenticeship. After a lot of crying, I said to my mother in a resolute way : ‘All right! I’ll take up a trade if I must, but as soon as I have some savings I’ll go and knock on some convent’s door ...’ ”* (Personal Notes).

His words: *"In the human person, matter becomes religious. The person's nature is to be a symphony ... made up of the diverse forms of life: Not only is a human person a flowering mineral, but a bush which can feel, an animal that can reason, the person is a mineral, a tree, an animal who prays, who adores, who gives thanks: in us matter becomes religious (SCJ 64).*

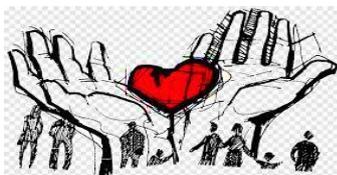
"The human person's life," says Chevalier in a profound way, *"is a song for two voices. In us and through us, God speaks and sings of Godself, out of Godself, and God wants us to speak of God and to sing of God"* (SHJ 326). That's why God made us intelligent, loving and free.

CHEVALIER FOR TODAY ...



Chevalier is aware of it: he too is a "word" of God. Therefore, he insists on saying "his word", the word that no one else will be saying for him. (See *Fifteen Days*, Second Day). Today, 200 years after his birth, we thank Chevalier not only for saying "his word" but also for passing it on to generations and generations of people, men and women, priests, religious and lay united around his charism. And what was "his word"? What was the "note" he sang over and over again? *"We are loved by God!" ... "We are loved by God!" ... "We are loved by God!"*

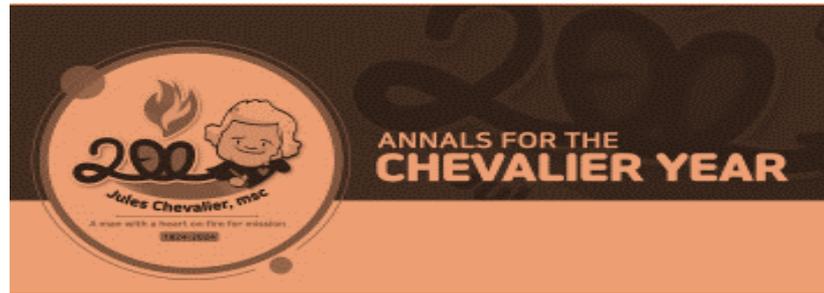
How about you? You too are a word of God. What is "your word"? What is the "note" that you are called to sing? Spend time to listen to God's call once again for you. What is the mission that God has given you? How are you called to continue singing and enriching Fr Chevalier's word: *"We are loved by God"?*



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH ...

*"O my adorable Saviour,
I hear the music of your saints, what magnificent songs!
How I wish there was in that concert a part for me to play!
It is not a brilliant and important part that I wish for; the least, that is all I deserve.
Just one note, that will be enough;
But I will sing it solo; it will be mine;
And this will be one more harmony in the universal concert!
I will help all heaven to better sing your praise;
I will give to you that little bit of glory;
Without me, you would not have had it!!"* (SCJ 82)

Issue #4
May



CHEVALIER IN HIS TIME ...

His Life: When Jules was seventeen he entered the minor seminary of Saint-Gaultier (Indre) and shifted without difficulty to the major seminary of Bourges (Cher) in 1846. He was a serious student, quite strict in his practice of his faith. One day, thanks to an exceptional teacher, he discovered the Heart of Christ. For him it was “... like a new vision of God ... bathed in resplendent light and colours ... illuminating his whole life as he was discovering the Heart of Christ . It was the vision and the inspiration of his life and of all his achievement... ” (A New Heart, A New Spirit, E J Cuskelly msc p.24)

His Words:

*Appear, Sun of all suns,
Light of the world, living light;
beginning and end,
our God and our all!
Jesus, Jesus,
appear with all the splendours
of your adorable Heart, that nucleus of love,
that source of life, of grace and of blessings.*

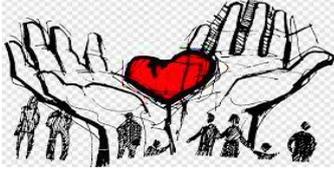
From the tiny atom to humankind, Chevalier has advanced in the direction of “God’s Heart”. What a revelation!

CHEVALIER FOR TODAY ...



This refreshing revelation of the face of God came to him providentially at a time when he was worried about the salvation of the world on account of its indifference. Here, he became acutely aware that “... while Jesus was on earth, he gladly bestowed all the tenderness of His Heart upon the little ones, upon the humble, upon the poor, upon suffering humanity. The sight of misery ... touched His Heart with compassion: (Meditations, Vol 2,3).

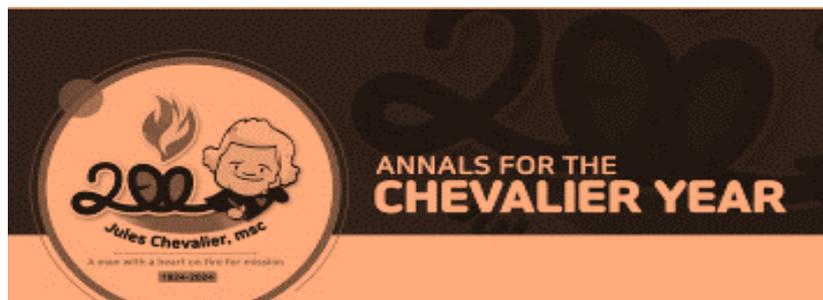
Fr Chevalier's discovery of the Sacred Heart radically changed him, and like Jesus, the sight of misery touched his heart with compassion, and he responded concretely. How about you? How is the Heart of Christ changing you? Where we are in different parts of the world we see "misery" all around us. Close your eyes for a moment, and with the eyes of your heart, look at the misery that surrounds you and name it. How are you, as individuals and communities, responding to the misery that you see?



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

O Sacred Heart of Jesus appear to us today
In those who have nothing to eat;
In those whose voices are not heard;
In those who are rejected and isolated;
In those who have nowhere to call home.
O Sacred Heart of Jesus, appear to us today and make our hearts like yours.

Issue #5
June



CHEVALIER IN HIS TIME ...

His Life: In the major seminary, Jules tried to live a spiritual life. In his effort, he had become serious and taciturn in his relations with others. After Jules discovered the Sacred heart as the Good Shepherd in particular, Christ appeared to him to be *"the very last word"* (SCJ 76). Since that day, Chevalier seemed more relaxed and smiling. *"... and still today, after fifty years, we find him always good, compassionate, and amiable towards all who approach him. He has become all things to all men to gain all for Jesus Christ"* (Charles Piperon, **Writings on the Life of the Founder**, 34).

His Words: *Jesus then comes to earth to fulfill His mission; he will only follow His Heart. A word would have been enough, but He questions His Heart and His Heart answers that, to express more love, He would have to be born a tiny child in a stable, poor and needy ...* (Ftes MR 35).

From the beginning of time, Chevalier tells us: *“God [...] planned to reveal God’s love to us”* (SCJ 3) and adds, *“The Son of God ... appeared amongst us with a Heart filled with compassion, love and mercy”* (SCJ 209).

CHEVALIER FOR TODAY ...



As soon as Jesus was conceived in Mary’s virginal womb His human Heart was grafted straightaway on to the adorable person of the Divine Word. Jesus makes us God-like by uniting our nature to His; He gives us His gifts, His graces, His friendship. *“Through Him we possess the Heart of God ... ”* (M1,120). *The incarnation is still growing until all will be one body, of which Christ will be the head* (says St Paul), or the heart, adds Chevalier : *“ ... the Heart of Jesus is not only the Heart of His holy humanity but also the heart of the Church, her mystical body ... a real body of which we are the members; each one of us can truly say to this divine Heart: ‘You are my Heart’ ”* (SCJ 81).

What are you listening to in your heart?

Today everywhere, Jesus invites all hearts to be like His Heart, especially under the tender guidance of His Mother, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. He keeps calling: *“Come, follow me, the beloved of my Father!”* Let us listen to our hearts attentively.

In what way is Jesus calling your heart continuously to be the incarnated Heart of Jesus in your relationship with others in your daily living?

How are you responding in concrete ways to this particular call of Jesus for you?



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH ...

Lord Jesus, the incarnate Word of God

Your Sacred Heart is the Heart of God, the source of mercy, compassion, courage and strength.

Give us the grace to transform our hearts into your Heart in our daily living.

Lord Jesus, in your Heart there dwells the fullness of God’s love for the world.

Give us the grace to live this Chevalier Year in communion with all the members of the Chevalier Family throughout the world, so that your Heart may be everywhere known and loved. Jesus, Heart of our hearts! Come, live in us! Amen

Back to the Beginning

This is the 350th Issue of our OLSH Associate Newsletter. As a way of celebrating this milestone you might enjoy reading the very first issue which came out in April 1977 in time for Our Lady's month of May.

The cover was very simple, and the printing done by hand (no computers in those days!). Sr Francis Mary Walsh, the founder of the OLSH Associates' Movement in Australia, wrote each monthly bulletin for many years until she retired and her dear sister, Sister Pauline Walsh, took her place as Director and continued producing the bulletin. How much we owe to these two pioneer Sisters of our OLSH Associate Family.

*May the Sacred Heart
of Jesus
be everywhere loved!*

AMETUR!

*Associate Daughters of
Our Lady
of the
Sacred Heart.*

*One Heart in His Heart
& Hers*

No 1

Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

By the Church's arrangement, this feast is celebrated on the last Saturday in May. So, for 1977, May 28th is our own very special day for honouring our Blessed Mother. It will be a day on which we will listen with deepest gratitude and attentiveness to Jesus' personal word to each of us: "*Behold your Mother!*" Our Associate effort for May, directed to seeing the will of her Son in the events of every day, will have given us something of our Mother's joy and serenity, as well as a deeper understanding of God's love and wisdom in His plans for us covering every moment of everyday. What Janet Stuart once wrote of Our Lady's joy can have real meaning for us in these last days of her month. "*Our Lady's joy should be ours because she gave us JOY itself, God her divine Son. But she is our joy, too, in herself. The thought of Our Lady, simply resting in our minds, gives steadiness to our joy. We need not even think ABOUT her, just think OF her. We all know what purity of the atmosphere is after a steady snow-fall – so does the thought of Our Lady clarify the soul, removing perplexity, foreboding, unrest, diffidence. We may not see our way out, but we have the certainty it will come.*"

And now the month of June is nearly with us. It comes with all the strength, all the warmth and tenderness, appeal and challenge that the words, ‘Sacred Heart of Jesus’ bring to our hearts. Our plan for the month will centre around our Associate call to be the heart of Christ in the world for others. Our chief aim will be to communicate His understanding, sympathy, forgiveness and graciousness to others – those with whom we live, those with whom we come in contact. He himself will give us the circumstances and opportunities in which we can be the channel of His love for others and thereby lead them to experience that “God is love”.

Our daily Scripture reading will be an important help here. We will concentrate of St Matthew, Chapters 5,6 and 7. Our Lady will be our guide in understanding her Son’s attitudes and values as, like her, we ponder his words and keep them in our hearts.

June 17th, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, will find us united with one another and with all Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart throughout the world. In a special way we could remember the needs of our Sisters in communist-penetrated Rome, and in Africa where Mother M Gerarda at present is making visitation. You would understand what questions there are to be answered and what problems solved in these troubled countries.

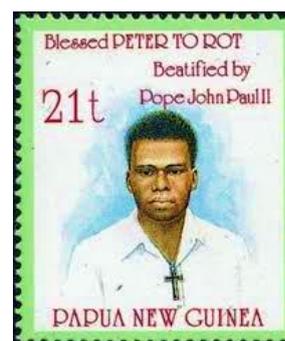
AMETUR! Our little monthly bulletin takes its title from the first word in the Latin form of our motto: “May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved!”

Ametur! May He be loved!
Everywhere!
Forever!

Our first OLSH Associates made their Commitment on 11 November 1977. There were five of them – all in heaven now and, with all deceased Associates and Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, surely looking with joy as the Laity of the Chevalier Family grows in numbers across the world. How blessed we are to have the privilege of helping to make Jesus’ Sacred Heart known and loved in our different corners of the world, and all in union with His Mother and ours, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.



Our Stamp Project is firing ahead and since we began in June 2021 we have netted almost \$7,000 for OLSH Overseas Aid. Thank you so much for your contributions, small and large – all most welcome. A special thanks to Fr Roger Purcell from the MSC Missions `Office who shares his stamps with us. As I type this 350th Ametur it is 7th July and the feast of Blessed Peter To Rot – PNG’s first Blessed. These PNG stamps honour him.



Our Sisters in the Philippines

Our Provincial, Sr Philippa Murphy, recently spent time with our Sisters in the Philippines and shared with us the highlights of her visit. I am sure you will be inspired as you read of how our Sisters with their Associates and Partners on Mission are being the Heart of God to our less fortunate sisters and brothers.

Philippines Visitation Report

May 24th – June 15th, 2023

Dear Sisters,

I have recently returned from a life-giving visit to the Philippines. Upon arrival, I received a warm welcome. And I attended the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Srs Emma, Cetah, and Merle which was a wonderful, joyful occasion. The following day, I facilitated a Mini Assembly which was an enriching experience. The day ending with a rousing rendition of 'Hearts on Fire with the Love of Jesus'.

Srs Emma, Cetah and Merle chose as the theme for their Jubilee: 'the Almighty has done great things ... Holy is His name'. As I visited each community in the Philippines these profound words of Mary's Magnificat echoed in my heart: " The Almighty has done great things...Holy is God's name."

During my time of visitation, I was privileged to listen to the sisters' stories of family, of ministries, of struggles and joys. Our Filipina Sisters have been through many challenges these past years, with COVID, Typhoons, family struggles, illness and aging. I was humbled at their gracious acceptance of their reality. Their focus remains on caring for the most vulnerable in their midst, including one another. What motivates them each day is their love for the Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. This is manifested in their deep love for one another despite their many differences.

On Monday I began my formal visitation. My first stop was Munoz where I visited Srs Irene Datig and Betty, both of whom are ministering to the people of the Sacred Heart Parish. Irene is the Parish Secretary and is kept busy with the numerous weddings, baptisms, and day-to-day tasks as the parish secretary. She is meticulous and ensures all the records are up to date. Betty is in the field, working in catechesis and supporting members of the Chevalier family. Betty is innovative and creative and has many ideas to share with her Church community. Both these Sisters have a passion for living our mission of God's love. There is much evidence in the community of being guided by the inspiration of Pope Francis in Laudato Si.

We had the opportunity to visit our old convent at Munoz and San Sebastian Catholic School. It was inspiring to hear the stories about our Pioneer sisters from some of the elderly people in Munoz. They particularly remembered Srs Joan Clarke, Lydia and Precy, not just because they taught them well but because of who they were: kind women who listened attentively and spoke to them with gentleness and respect.

My next stop was Manila to visit the community at Hartzler House where Srs Leda, Marivic, Rosalia, Irene Munsayac, Regina, Connie, Hayashi San and Naty are members of this community. Sr Rosalia continues to be an inspiration celebrating her 90th birthday next year. She spends countless hours making beautiful cards, bookmarks and is attentive to the Sisters. Sr Naty is passionate about liturgy; she prepared and led the community prayers with reverence and thoughtfulness. She will turn 80 this year. These elderly sisters are an inspiration and wisdom figures for the Region. Sr Leda is the current community leader but will soon be replaced by Sr Marivic. These Sisters work tirelessly to support and assist the Sisters in the community. Leda has been responsible for the secretarial work of the Region and the day-to-day tasks, including overseeing the staff. Sr Marivic will continue in this role, as well as assist with the care of Srs Irene Munsayac and Reggie, who are both suffering from cognitive and health decline. It is a blessing that Sr Hayashi San Akie from Japan is living and ministering with the Sisters at Hartzler House. She has a background in aged care and health which is a great need in the Region at this time. She generously shares her skills in the support and care of our Sisters. Sr Connie is also in the community at Hartzler. She can help out in various household duties including the garden, she is passionate about Laudato Si and collects plastics to build eco bricks. In this community there are also sisters from Indonesia, Burkina Faso and Papua New Guinea who are studying. Whenever I visit the sisters here, a highlight for me is to experience our international family and intercultural living. It reminds me of the richness of our charism, as well as giving me a deeper realisation of what it means to be a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on mission.

After visitation at Hartzler House, Ruth and I packed our bags and walked the short distance from Hartzler House to Ermin Garcia. This was our Camino experience. Ermin is the formation community for the Region. I'm pleased that sisters Merle and Carmen have joined this community. Sr Sally Amodia also stays there as she prepares for her mission in Angola. Merle is now employed as the sabbatical coordinator at East Asian Pastoral Institute. I was delighted to have the opportunity to go to the place where she ministers and meet the staff with whom she will be working. Merle brings many gifts to her new role, especially her enthusiasm and rich experience of living interculturally. She will live in at the EAPI and return to Ermin on weekends. Carmen is a gentle, kind presence in the formation house and her various gifts of listening, gentleness, and being a gifted seamstress will enrich this community. Sr Precy is always open to the needs of the Province and Region; she selflessly carries her role as Postulant Formator with the spirit of graciousness and openness to God's spirit. Her wisdom is appreciated.

We have two young women in formation. Nina Rose and Sheila May. Both of these young women are open to all that is involved in the invitation of Jesus 'to come and see.' We assure them of our prayers

Whilst at Ermin and I had the privilege to visit Matantubig joining the Postulants as they supported the tutoring program offered to the small children whom I have visited on numerous occasions. It was wonderful to see the people with very little in terms of resources, ready to welcome me and invite me into their home. I was very moved by the simplicity and the willingness of these poor ones to share their stories. I felt blessed by these friends of Jesus.

The following day Ruth and I travelled by plane to Cebu. Cebu is beautiful with many dotted islands and clear skies. I visited the SACS Community in Lapu Lapu City. The students were on vacation. I was pleased I had the opportunity to spend some time at SACS with the staff, where I lead them in a session on heart spirituality and self-care. The school is one of the best schools in the whole region having achieved level three status which is the highest status of any school. It was wonderful to be with them again as some of them had visited Australia. Sr Emma works diligently as the director of this three-campus school, Sr Marjory is an enthusiastic Principal of the Grade and High Schools. Sr Narie is the School Registrar. She was kept busy and remained patient as many families were lined up hoping to enrol their child at SACS. Sr Dove works as the School Treasurer with sensitivity and kindness.

Srs Emma, Marjory, Narie and Dove, work tirelessly to support the staff, students, and parents of SACS. No matter what their role is in this excellent School, they carry out their duties with kindness, compassion, and love. These Sisters are a witness to the SACS community of woman alive on mission, united by their common goal to bring the love of the heart of Jesus to people everywhere. I was grateful for the outing they organised where I had the opportunity to swim with the whale sharks, a memorable experience.

I spent one afternoon, with Sr Ruth, the SCAS and Cordova communities visiting a community at Mactan seaside impacted by typhoon Odette. I had visited this community last year. The purpose of the trip was to see the growth of the mangroves planted by the Sisters. The mangroves protect those who live in very basic housing on the coast. It was wonderful to see these poor people impacted by the typhoon rebuilding their lives with the love and support of our Sisters.

From here Ruth and I packed our bags to continue our Camino journey to Cordova. Cetah is principal of a 'boutique' kindergarten with 18 students, OLSHies. The enrolments have been impacted by COVID and the recent introduction of K-12 schools in the area. The Sisters are looking at creative ways to increase the enrolments. Cetah has decorated the classroom beautifully, displaying the students work in a colourful and educational workplace.

Cordova has a magnificent garden and Sr Cha along with Olive, a young woman who lives and works with the sisters, are responsible for planting, pruning and the upkeep of the garden. Sr Cha calls the garden her pharmacy as it has many fruits, herbs and plants to aid in a variety of health conditions. A highlight of this visit was the blessing of the shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart made with eco bricks. It was a work of love, involving many people from SACS and the local parish. It was lovely the Associates could join us for the blessing of the shrine and the beautiful prayer prepared by Cetah and Cha.

Our next stop was Surigao where we were greeted by Sr Cathie and five young women who are exploring ways to share our OLSH Charism and life. One of these women is an Architect who works with Sr Cathie to support the Badjoa - a poor, displaced, Indigenous tribe who live over the ocean with homes raised on stilts. Cathy is involved in the social action centre for the diocese and represents the Badjoa people on radio and social media. Her pleasant personality and hard work have endeared these 'poorest of the poor' to her.

Sisters, during my time in the Philippines I felt I should remove my shoes, for surely, I was standing on holy ground. I was very conscious of our pioneer Sisters in the Philippines, and their spirit of kindness, generosity, hospitality and tenderness. A spirit that is still evident in the lives of our Sisters in the Philippine Region today.

I would like to thank the Regional Councillors, Srs Precy and Merle for their generous service to the Region. I would especially like to thank Sr Ruth Yburan, the Regional Leader for ensuring my visit was well organised, enriching, and comfortable. My accommodation was very comfortable, and the food was delicious, including the Caribou milk, cheese and tilapia (fish) ice cream - a memorable experience.

I especially enjoyed our fun nights and sharing stories and life. I thank Ruth for her gentle leading of the Region, and the care, kindness, and encouragement she shows the sisters, especially the elderly. Once again, I thank the Sisters for their warm hospitality, generosity, kindness, love and welcome. Thank you, Sisters, for the many and varied ways you are women of Heart on Mission, bringing the love of Jesus and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, to the people of the Philippines. Be assured on my prayers and support as you met the ever-changing needs and challenges of the Region.

As we approach our 150th anniversary of the Congregation let us continue to be inspired by our pioneer Sisters, and united in our common call as Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, to be attentive to the needs of the poor.

To our Filipina Sisters, maraming salamat mga kapwa kong mga Madre sa pagbahagi ninyo ng iyong buhay at magagandang istorya sa akin. Naramdaman ko ang inyong mainit na pagtanggap sa aking pagdalaw.

Pagpalain nawa kayo ng Maykapal at nawa ay alagaan kayo at tulungan ng ating mapagmahal at mapagmalasakit na Ina ng Sagrdong Puso ni Hesus.

Blessings of love and peace,

Philippa



An Update on the Work of the International Council of the Lay Chevalier Family



Much has happened since our last letter:

Philippines Assembly

The official letter of invitation and the Registration Form for the Philippines Assembly of Laity have been released. If you did not receive a copy by email or WhatsApp the forms are on the Website under the Philippines Assembly Tab.

<https://misacor.org.au/chevalierfamily>

Remember, payment is required on arrival in the Philippines – but please register your intention to attend as soon as possible so we can finalise planning. We are aiming to have representation from as many member countries as possible.

The Assembly is being conducted in alignment with Laudato Si principles in an ecologically sustainable manner. Rather than bringing booklets or trinkets, we ask participating countries to prepare Digital Signage that showcases your mission and ministry. Any movie format is acceptable. When you have completed your movie send it to alisonmckenzie@misacor.org.au and it will be collated and played during the Assembly.

Encounter of Hearts

The writing of the 2023 edition of Encounter of Hearts is complete and it is currently being translated ready for release on the Feast of the Sacred Heart in June. It is the Assembly edition and contains all the important information you will need to prepare for the Assembly.

New members

We welcome two new members to our Council.

Sr Deborah Reho msc – MSC Sisters, Sutri, Italy originally from USA.

I have been an MSC Sister for 36 years. I am an administrator/teacher by profession and have been involved in schools through the U.S. and Papua New Guinea. For the past 11 years I was the Provincial Treasurer and Provincial Counsellor for the U.S. province. I am now serving on our General Council since November 2022. I am happy to be the MSC Sister liaison for the International Laity of the Chevalier Family.



Sr Fabilene Santos Castro FDNCS

I am Sr Fabilene Santos Castro; my name means - **Fabilene** : relic, companionship; **Santos** : sacred; **Castro** : Castle, fortified. My parents are Joana Maria Santos Castro and Benedito Castro. I have five brothers and two sisters. I am the eighth child. I grew up in a simple, quiet and poor

family environment, based on good Christian principles and human values. My parents always made sure that we had a good school education.

I love religious life and my congregation. I try to be attentive to the needs of the sisters and maintain a good relationship with them. I have an open heart for the mission, and I have lived with the most vulnerable and the poor. During the time I was in Maranhão, Apicum-Açu and São Paulo, Eldorado, I had the grace to live with and encounter many people who shared their lives, pains, wounds and miseries with me.

Our community developed some social projects to meet the needs of many families; we distributed many basic baskets, clothes, food, toys. We brought joy to many hearts. This gave me immense joy.

I am very grateful to be part of this new Generalate team that is at the service of the Congregation, and I thank God who led me here. I ardently desire to learn new languages and at this time, I am learning English.

New roles

We have established two new roles to help with the preparation for the Assembly.



Olguita Garcia Ocampo will be assisting Doris in the Central and Southern American region. Olguita's role will be to:

- Help to raise awareness about the international movement
- Share information about the upcoming Assembly in the Philippines
- Assist, where necessary, countries to select an appropriate leader to attend the Assembly
- Lead the discussions about the important issues that will be decided at the Assembly

Chris McDermott will be working in the Asia Pacific region.

Chris' role will be to:

- Organise two Zoom meetings with member countries in the region
- The first meeting will be to meet and get to know each other
- The second meeting will be to raise the important issues that member countries need to discuss before the Assembly.

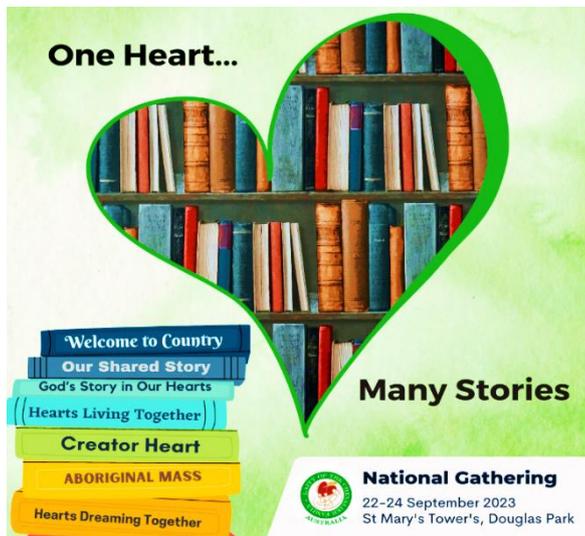


On behalf of the International Council we thank you for your ongoing commitment and hard work.

Please pray for us as we pray for you

Blessings

Alison



Australian Council of the Lay Chevalier Family National Gathering 22-24 September, Douglas Park All invited.

The 'One Heart... Many Stories' gathering invites participants to encounter their shared story with God within themselves, Creation, their personal and Chevalier Family communities, and the wider world. Let's explore together what our individual and collective story has been, what it is, and what we dream it to be as we look forward to the future. As we listen, reflect, and speak, may our hearts connect and unite as one heart within God's heart.

Friday (Optional)

For those arriving today, please arrive after 6:00 pm.

6:00 pm Arrive and Dinner
7:30 pm Hangout and Unwind

Saturday

For those arriving today, please arrive by 8:00 am.

7:00 am Breakfast
8:30 am **Welcome to Country**
9:30 am **Our Shared Story** (Gathering Opening / Presentation) (ZOOM available)
10:00 am Morning Tea
10:30 am **God's Story in Our Hearts** (Keynote by Michael Fallon and guided sharing) (ZOOM available)
12:30 pm Lunch
1:30 pm **Creator Heart** (Guided Reflective Mediation)
2:30 pm **Hearts Living Together** (Presentation, personal reflection, and sharing) (ZOOM available)
4:00 pm Afternoon Tea / Free Time
6:00 pm Dinner
7:30 pm Movie / Free Time

Sunday

7:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am **Aboriginal Mass with St Mary's Towers Parish**
10:00 am Morning Tea
10:30 am **Hearts Dreaming Together** (Presentation, personal reflection, and sharing) (ZOOM available)
12:00 pm **Continuing Our Story** (Gathering Closing) (ZOOM available)
12:30 pm Lunch



The Program looks very inviting, and I urge you to consider attending either in person or by Zoom.

For those unable to register on the computer please get in touch with me and I will facilitate your enrolment. Those who receive the Lay Chevalier Family Newsletter, *From the Heart*, will have no trouble enrolling online. Again, if you would like any Chevalier Family material to be emailed to you, please let me have your email address. There is much coming out at both a National and International level. It is good to be in touch with our Chevalier Family members all over the world, as together we make the Sacred Heart of Jesus known and loved everywhere.



Meeting Reports

BENTLEIGH: 18 Associates met at the Convent on 25 March. We had a talk from Sr Yen who had just arrived from Vietnam. She described the wonderful work that she and the Sisters had been involved in during the height of the Covid pandemic. The Vietnamese government would identify infected people and put them into Infection Centres where they would not be looked after very well. Many people died. Sr Yen and her Team used to distribute food and medicine to isolated families and were able to help many people to get through this terrible time. Sister showed us photos of this work which showed how demanding, both physically and emotionally, it was. Fortunately, the Communist government allowed these Missionary Sisters to provide this help.

We celebrated the feast of the Annunciation in our paraliturgy in the Chapel. **Patricia Mirabile**

We met at the Convent on 24th June.

Today we had two of our visiting Sisters at our meeting – Sr Wendy, who has worked in Kiribati and most recently in South Sudan. We also had Sr Relida from Rabaul in PNG. She has been on the Generalate Council and also Provincial of the PNG Province. Sr Jeanette, who is celebrating 70 years of Religious profession spoke to us about her reasons for entering the Order - she wanted to go to heaven and to do missionary work in which she delighted.

Sr Elaine then showed us a video of a talk by Bishop Homening where he pointed out the importance of the Eucharist in our faith. He especially reminded us of being quiet and reverent when receiving Holy Communion.

We had a lovely afternoon tea with cake and songs for Sr Jeanette. **Patricia Mirabile**

CORINDA: On Sunday 26th May 9 Associates met at Marnie's home in Corinda with the added and most welcome presence of Sisters Merrilyn and Evelyn. There were 8 apologies. The previous day we had a wonderful celebration for the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, so it was a full and happy weekend.

Sr Merrilyn led us into a very fruitful discussion on the spirit of *Laudato Si'* ... a new dialogue shaping the future of the planet – and we explored the beautiful connection with Aboriginal Spirituality.

Sister had sent us the YouTube links for: *The Letter* A Message for our Planet from Pope Francis, and the Indigenous Voice to Parliament Referendum Discussion, John Lochowiak and Fr Frank Brennan SJ. We will pray for the success of the Voice Referendum and a healing.

A new date has been proposed for our Retreat (with Sr Gerardine) and it will now be held on 9 September. Our next meeting will be on Sunday 20th August.

Mary McMahon

ENFIELD: Our Enfield group of 8, together with Sr Pat Irvin and Sr Yvonne Gleeson met on 27th February.

We read some correspondence from Sr Philippa Murphy reflecting on her visit to Tonga after the 2022 volcanic eruption. From the ashes of despair with solidarity and aid new life arose and we saw a similarity to receiving the Ashes at the start of Lent. We use this time before Easter to change and renew ourselves. We were given 10 Fasting Ideas from Pope Francis on how to conduct our lives and be better persons.

A Report from the Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia was read.

Carmel Cowell

HARTZER PARK: We met on 5th March. Our Lenten Reflection was inspired by Psalm 139 and the song: and the thought that during this time maybe God is wanting to take the initiative to get closer to us (as opposed to us taking the initiative to get closer to God) through just being available, for nowhere could we be more safe, more loved, more renewed, more forgiven than in the Heart of God as we follow the days of Lent with Jesus, being “available” to the Father, as he was.

Following the reflection there was the invitation to share with the group a prayer, thought, practice or personal insight about Lent.

Jan Clark

We met on 2nd April. Both our Reflection and Formation were drawn from the *Ametur* Section 60 of “Our On-Going Formation Program”. This led to an interesting account from Sue of Richard Rohr’s, “*The Divine Dance – The Trinity and Your Transformation*” and how relevant this is to creation wherein all life is relational, held within the Trinity. God is not only inviting us to “the dance” but is “the Dancer.” This then led to reference and appreciation of “*The Song of Jesus*” (see pages 3, 4 in the *Ametur*).

Jan Clark

We met on 4th June. With the debate constantly before us in relation to the Referendum on “*The Voice*” for our Reflection Sue read the “*ULURU Statement from the Heart.*” This was followed by quiet personal reflection and a prayer time that closed with a First Nations song.

Our Formation centered on both the articles in the *Ametur*, “*The Song of Jesus*” and Pope Francis’ 2023 Lenten Message. These drew forth discussion and sharing relevant to our own spiritual journeys. Jan also presented a brief overview of the *OLSH Reflections On Laudato Si’* and the draft for the Action Plan as presented in the recent Assembly in May.

Jan Clark

Our meeting on 2nd July presented a formative reflection and a reflective formation. The reflection was taken from Fr Chris McPhee's homily at a recent ordination:

*"We talk about being on earth the Heart of God ,,,
here, in this story, was real presence, here was the heart of God present in the other ...
here each recognises the God in each other ...
here, was God ...*

You know ... it's in our everyday life we meet the Heart of God."

Our Formation followed this theme of being the Heart of God in everyday life, especially in the thoughts and attitudes that can unintentionally influence us in our not-always-tolerant-and-respectful current world-wide multicultural world. The background reading for this topic and discussion was "*Countering Hate Speech*" by Sr Patty Fawkner SGS from "*The Good Oil*" :June 2023 (used with permission).

Jan Clark

KILBURN: Our meeting on 24th June was attended by 5 ladies. Unfortunately, several were sick, and one was in hospital following a fall.

We studied and discussed the Pope's encyclical "*Laudato Si*". We use the last page also of our OLSH Reflections on the encyclical. Some vigorous discussion followed. Two of the ladies were anxious to read the complete OLSH Booklet and so we have lent two of our books to them. Our next meeting will be 19th August.

Sr Patricia Smith

NOTRE DAME: We met on 13th March. We began our meeting with a prayerful reflection on St Joseph as it will be his feast on 19th. March is considered the month dedicated to St Joseph. Some words from Pope Francis regarding St Joseph: "*Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church.*" These are consoling words. The Pope also has a statue of the sleeping St Joseph on his desk.

Sr Ancilla then explained the Chevalier year which will begin on 15th March, culminating on the 200th birthday of Fr Chevalier on 15th March 2024. We were given a copy of the Logo and its explanation. The Theme for the year is : *Jules Chevalier MSC a man with a heart on fire for mission.*

In the logo Fr Chevalier has 5 red stars in his hair representing wisdom. Perhaps they also represent the Southern Cross and Fr Chevalier's interest in Australia, as it was the first stop when the missionaries went to Papua New Guinea, and Australia was also the first place where the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart commenced a school – St Bernard's Botany. We then watched the first part a power-point presentation, *A Virtual Pilgrimage with Mother Marie Louise Hartzler*, prepared by the Sisters at the Generalate in Rome. This is part of the preparation for the Sisters 150th foundation of the Congregation in 2024. It was lovely to see the places where Mother Marie Louise lived, went to school and worshipped. We are all looking forward to the continuation of the story at our next meeting.

We then had afternoon tea with the Sisters.

Maureen Maher

We met at the Convent on 15th April and commenced with an easter Reflection from Luke 24 when Jesus makes breakfast for his friends. We then read *“Easter in your Heart”* by Daniel O’Leary and shared a word of phrase that spoke to us. We finished with the hymn, *“Love is Come Again.”*

We reflected on the Gospel for the following Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday, and Jesus’ appearance to St Thomas. A sceptic becomes a saint. It happened to Thomas. It can happen to us! We were encouraged to make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God is waiting for us, grace is waiting for us, mercy is waiting for us.

We then continued watching *A Virtual Pilgrimage with Mother Marie Louise Hartzler*. She had a wonderful faith. Also, she had the gift of creating a beautiful home, one of the many gifts that would assist her when she became our first Mother General. We then shared afternoon tea with the Sisters. **Maureen Maher**

We met on 13th May beginning with a reflection for Mothers’ Day, recalling Luke’s words about Our Lady: *“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”* We continued watching our power point on the life of Mother Marie Louise Hartzler. There was a question put to us: *“How did you first receive devotion to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart?”* One of the Sister pilgrims then spoke about writing a letter to Marie Louise for the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. We might like to follow this example and do the same as Mary’s special feast approaches. **Maureen Maher**

We met on 10th June and our Reflection centered on the Eucharist as it was the weekend of Corpus Christi. We learnt of Juliana of liege, born in 12th century. She was a little-know Norbertine Canoness from modern-day Belgium. She spent much of her life advocating for a feast to honour and celebrate Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist and all the meaning it holds for the Church. An Archdeacon who supported her was Jacques Pantaleon who in 1261 was elected Pope. In 1264 he established the feast of Corpus Christi.

We completed our power point pilgrimage with Mother Marie Louise on her journey of faith and trust which led her to Father Chevalier and to her important role as the first Mother General of the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

We then shared afternoon tea with the Sisters. **Maureen Maher**

We met on 8th July at the Convent. The theme of our reflection was *“Being the Heart of Christ on Earth.”* We then reflected on the Gospel for 14th Sunday. We discussed how Covid has affected our everyday lives. We have been reminded that we are not in control our lives. We recalled how we reached out to others and they to us during that stressful time. We then read the Annals for June for the Year of Father Chevalier. We concluded our meeting watching *“A Virtual Pilgrimage in Australia”* made by the Sisters for the Jubilee year in 2024. It was most interesting, giving us a beautiful study of the beginning of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Australia. We then enjoyed afternoon tea with the Sisters. **Maureen Maher**

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased



Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Cecile-Marie Petit (Issoudun)
Sr M Adelia Tavares de Lima (Brazil)
Sr M Dominique Keppens, Sr M Elisa Kindermans (Belgium)

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Fr John Conroy (Randwick)
Br Marianus Weleng (Indonesia)
Bishop Karl Hesse (PNG)

OLSH Associates

Vonnie Meyer (Daceyville)
Mary Anderson (Randwick)
Philomena O'Neil (Edgecliff)
Ellen D'Abreo (Rooty Hill)
Clare Hickey (Brisbane)
Lucie De Vries (Malabar)
Lois Kerwick (Brisbane)

Relatives and Friends

Dr Ella Stack, Rosemary Bolt, Jack McLaughlin, Doris White, Jack Mack, Patricia Krausgrill, John Cooley, Pat Greenhaigh, George Hogan, Barbara Walsh, Peter Manea, Mr Geraldino, Rod Harp, Baby Grace, Joseph Daniels, Allana Vedder, Cathy Hayden, John Violet, Evelyn Micallef, Joshua Balston, Martin Landu, Marie Chawki, Mary Cudmore, Patricia Payten, Anthony Da Silva.

We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

Sr Regina Arguelles, Sr Marlene Dewar, Sr Margaret Reis, Sr Margaret Mary, Margaret Ryan, Tom Vince and Monica Walsh, Bishop Peter Ingram, Frank and John Henschke, Craig Jennings, Mr Le Dinh Kim, Norman Lawrence, Monica Parmenta, Bernard Nihill, the family of Baby Grace, Christine and John Bulters, John Hayes, Rose, Greg Debbie and Marian, Beverley Jim and Family, Annie and Family, Albertina Freitas, Juliette Sevan, Mary Kelegjian, Christine Baker, Rayma Weaver, Patricia Lavin, Ted Moseley, Peter O'Sullivan, Marjory Brady, Neil McCormack, Dave Goodrich, Laurie Jordan, Gordon McCormack, Rick Niland, Matthew Hand, Rhonda Clark, Kay Thomas, David and Louise, Allen Munn, Diane Rackus, Judy Balston, Jeanette Butler, Madeleine Petroni, Roselda Oliva, Sharon, Dorothy Garcia, Ian Fromberg.

Thanksgiving

For our wonderful Jubilarians

70th Years: Sisters Jeanette Balding (Bentleigh) Sr Patricia Hogan (Roxby Downs)

Sr Julienne Mack (St Joseph's)

25 Years: Sisters Luisitia Carreon, Merle Salazar, Emma Villanueva (Philippines)