

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



JUBILEE
OF MERCY

Ametur

No: 322

October-November 2016

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

OLSH Convent, 2 Kensington Rd, Kensington, NSW 2033. Tel: (02) 9662 1777 .Email:

associates@olshaustralia.org.au (Please note the new email address)

www.olshaustralia.org; www.olshoverseasaid.org; www.laymsc.org

Dear Associates,

On November 20th we will come to the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. On September 21st at a General Audience in the presence of many thousands of people gathered in St Peter's Square, Pope Francis stressed that the motto for this Jubilee Year, "*Be merciful as your Father is merciful*", is "*not a slogan for effect, but a life commitment*". He then reflected on the passage from St Luke's Gospel that inspired this special Motto – Jesus' encouraging and challenging words:

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Do not judge others and God will not judge you;

do not condemn others, and God will not condemn you;

***forgive** others, and God will **forgive** you;*

***give** to others, and God will **give** to you.*

You will receive a full measure, a generous helping,

poured into your hands – all that you can hold.

The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you." (6:36-38)

Pope Francis spoke of two actions that are essential if we are to be true apostles of mercy:

"We ask ourselves:

What does it mean for disciples to be merciful?

*Jesus explains it with two verbs: "**forgive**" and "**give**".*

Forgive

The Pope went on to explain that in order to maintain Christian relationships we need "*to suspend judgements and condemnations*" as it is not our role to judge our sisters and brothers. Who are we to judge! Every one of us has been forgiven and will continue to be forgiven by our merciful God, certainly more that "seventy times seven" throughout our lives. As the Pope explained: "*All of us here, today, in the Square, have been forgiven. And because we have been forgiven we must forgive.*"

We have all suffered hurts and losses and will continue to do so throughout our lives. Some of these may have been traumatic and have coloured our lives indelibly. Some may have sweetened us, others may have embittered us. If they have soured us, if they still rankle within us, if we have not forgiven those who have hurt us, then it is important that we come to terms with these sufferings otherwise they have the power to take control of us. We need

to do this while we still have the memory, the intention, and the attention, because we won't be able to if or when we lose these abilities. You may be familiar with the story of the two ex-prisoners of war. They had been in the same concentration camp and shared the ordeal together. After many years they met again and one said to the other:

"Have you forgiven the Nazis?"

"Yes."

"Well, I haven't. I'm still consumed with hatred for them."

"In that case," said his friend gently, "they still have you in prison."

There are two dimensions to forgiveness. One is the experience of being forgiven and the other the experience of forgiving. In forgiving and being forgiven we are restored to the human community, bonds are re-forged, links re-connected. We no longer need to deny our limitations, our failing and our sinfulness. We can let go of our former way of viewing ourselves and others. We all have feet of clay, but sometimes we have to go through a sort of grieving process in order to accept our fragility and the fragility of others. We discover that we are more like, than different from those who have hurt us; we, too, can become angry, and can be hurtful. Now we can accept what we previously denied in ourselves. This acceptance is far different from being weighed down by a sense of shame and guilt; in fact, it frees us from those burdens. The experience of being forgiven by God and by others restores in us a real sense of acceptance and worth.

Everything connected with forgiveness flows from the compassionate Heart of Jesus. It is through the power of Jesus that I forgive, not through my own power. It is important to remember that *forgiveness* is not a feeling – it is a decision that I make, a choice that I follow. This means that *my* heart has to change, not the other person's heart. When both hearts change then we have reconciliation. While reconciliation is not always possible because it involves someone outside me, forgiveness is possible for me with the help of Jesus.

Forgiveness is the key to lasting peace and enduring relationships. Given the fact that we are all human and have an innate inclination to sin, there is no way we can sustain deep and loving relationships without sometimes offending one another. It is only by giving and receiving forgiveness over and over again that one experiences the support and joy of lifelong friendships. To the same extent that I do not allow myself to be forgiven by another, I probably will find it difficult to forgive and accept God's pardon of my sins. One of our Sisters wrote some years ago:

*"To hold each other with reverence requires
that each of us has the courage and humility to travel with her own weakness
and be ready to say sorry and seek forgiveness.*

*To seek and give forgiveness is not simply to resolve a wrong:
it creates community" (Sr Moya Hanlen fdnsc)*

Give

To forgive is the first action; to give is the second action:

"Give to others, and God will give to you.

*You will receive a full measure, a generous helping,
poured into your hands – all that you can hold.*

The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you." (Luke 6:38)

Pope Francis continues:

*“God gives well beyond our merits,
but he will be even more generous with all those who on earth are generous.
Jesus does not say what will happen to those who do not give,
but the image of ‘measure’ constitutes an admonition:
with the measure of love we give,
it is we ourselves who decide how we will be judged how we will be loved.
If we look well there is a coherent logic:
in the measure that one receives from God, one gives to another;
and in the measure in which one gives to another, one receives from God.
Therefore merciful love is the only way to go.
How much need we all have of being more merciful, of not running others down,
of not ‘plucking’ others with criticisms, envies and jealousies.
We must forgive, be merciful, and live our life in love.
This love enables Jesus’ disciples to not lose the identity received from Him,
and to recognise themselves as children of the same Father.
Thus, in the love they practise in life,
that Mercy is reverberated that will have no end (cf. 1 Cor 13:1-12)”*

Let me ask myself these questions:

- Do I have someone in my life that I cannot or will not forgive?
- Do I need to seek forgiveness from another?
- Are there people in my life towards whom my heart is hardened and my hand closed?
- Do I trust in a loving, forgiving, merciful God to really forgive me and all my sins, or do I put limits on God’s forgiveness?
- Do I measure out my love and generosity, or give them only to those I love?

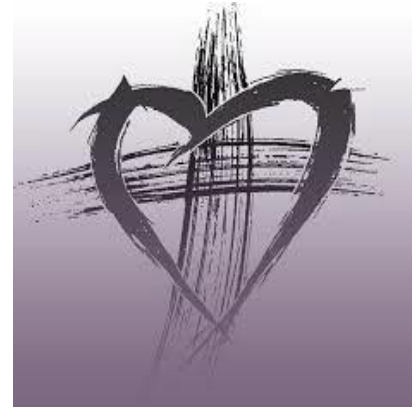
Thank you to all those who faithfully send in their meeting reports: it is a joy to read them. I commend to you Canberra’s report of “Forgiveness” on page 6. To those who cannot attend meetings may I say that you are held in our hearts and that every day in the Kensington Chapel we remember our Associates throughout Australia and beyond. You are such an integral part of our Family.

Blessings and love to you and your families, in the Heart of Jesus with Mary

Sr Ancilla White osh

SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART

in accordance with FR. JULES CHEVALIER'S CHARISM.
An on-line program for members of the Chevalier Family
and for everyone interested in a Spirituality of the Heart.



Section 9 A DEVELOPING VISION OF THE DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART

One of the remarkable features of Chevalier's Charism is his unflagging energy spent on meditating and studying the deeper meaning of a Devotion to the Sacred Heart. Fr. Chevalier did not take for granted the Devotion to the Sacred Heart as already commonly lived and practised in his time. Therefore, his vision of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart was in constant development. Although, he was not a writer by nature, he spent much time in publishing the results of his investigations, and he wanted to share them with anyone interested. Fr. Piperon MSC notes that it took Chevalier not less than 20 years to write his large volumes about the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Through his on-going studies, he came to realize that we meet in the Heart of Jesus the revelation of God's own Heart and of God's powerful love. Where God's love is at work, Chevalier sees a manifestation of Jesus' Heart. So, Chevalier shows us that Jesus' Heart plays a central role in the creation of the universe and humanity. The creation of the universe, culminating in the creation of the human race, is a work of God's love. Chevalier also underlines that "*All things are created for God's Son*" (Col 1:16). While all human beings are created in the image of God, who is Love itself, they are all created in the image of Jesus, the Son of God, who reveals God's love by becoming human, while loving us with a human heart.

Chevalier points out how God's powerful, divine love is already at work in shoals of fish in the ocean and flocks of animals on the land, as a first realization of God's plan that will be completed when the time is right "*to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as Head*" (Eph 1:10).

He also indicates how each human heart is created by God according to the model of the human Heart of His Son. That means that the deepest desires of our hearts live also in the Heart of Jesus, and are actually God's own desires. It means also that, deep inside, our hearts have a similar capacity for love as that of the Heart of Jesus.

He saw Jesus Christ not only as our Redeemer and Savior, but also as the Great Adorer and Thanks-giver. In the midst of creation and in the Eucharist, Jesus Christ adores the Father, the Creator of heaven and earth, giving thanks for the Father's works of love, on behalf of each of us. Chevalier states that, while we are gifted with a heart and a voice, it is our task to participate in these acts of adoration and thanksgiving to the Creator, on behalf of all creatures.

A Reflective Moment

*"Already in matter, there is a sort of knowledge, a beginning of love,
in the atmosphere and in the water.
These thousands of varieties of animals know one another, love one another:
a first draft, a first outline, perfect in itself, wonderful, entrancing,
but only a distant sketch,
a long way unfortunately from its model" Jesus Christ, the Sacred Heart.
"Jesus is Man-God. He reunites the whole of creation:
'I am the life', he tells us, all created life and uncreated life,
plant, animal or material life, spiritual and rational life..." (Jules Chevalier)*

Section 10 A DEVELOPING VISION OF THE DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART (Continued)

The Church, the Eucharist and the other sacraments, but also people taking care of the poor and the sick, people striving for peace and unity, and forgiving one another – Chevalier sees all these events as gifts of Jesus, the Sacred Heart, to us.

Remarkable also is Chevalier's vision of a new world emerging from the Heart of Jesus, pierced on Calvary. The broken and wounded Heart of Christ, seen by St. John as a source of blood and water, the birth of new life, is for Chevalier a great sign of hope that God is at work in our broken world, to restore our wounded society into a new society, and to change this old world into a new world. He sees this new world foreshadowed by the Church, not only in its liturgical celebrations but also in people caring for the poor, the sick and the handicapped, as well as in people who continue to love others, even if they themselves are wounded by a broken relationship or a broken heart.

Through his continuous meditation on the meaning of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart, Chevalier renewed his image of God. Till the end of his life he sought how to reconcile the belief in a God who loves humankind unconditionally, with God's justice; how to square God's love revealed in the Heart of Jesus with the biblical accounts of God's anger towards sinners. He never totally resolved this tension, but he was finally able to write: *"God is love, God is love itself. God looks with immense love on the smallest, the least of the beings created by Him."*

A Reflective Moment

*"God is love itself.
This infinite love... has enclosed itself in a human heart,
the Heart of Jesus... his living sacrament.
The Heart of Jesus is the Heart of God, the centre of divine love;
the image of the Heart of God.
It is through the Heart of Christ that the love of God, God himself,
pours himself out on the world and on the human race." (Jules Chevalier 1900)*

MEETING REPORTS

BENTLEIGH: At our August meeting, on 27th August, Sister Delia spoke to us on the “Art and Inspiration of Seiger Koder”, a priest and artist who died last year. His paintings all had deep meanings which Sister explained to us. We looked in particular at The Last Supper, which was a reflection on the Eucharist. It showed the wounded hands of Christ, open and giving, and the people around the table who told of their journeys to come to the presence of Christ.

We remembered the birthday of Mother Marie Louise Hartzer on this very day in 1837. Several of the Sisters joined us for Exposition in the Chapel. We then enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea and fellowship. We look forward to our Retreat Day on 25th November which will be given by Sister Gerardine Doherty.

Patricia Baxter

BOWRAL: We opened our September meeting with the song, *Alive to Be Your Love*, by Brother James Maher msc. In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament we reflected and then each shared a word or phrase that had touched her.

Then we shared our thoughts on the article on the Lord’s Prayer which reveals the mystery of the Oneness of Jesus and his Father. We found it a most beautiful prayer to be prayed with thought and love.

We then looked at Session 7 of our ongoing formation program. Father Chevalier shares his charism with us that we may be the heart of God on earth. We are closely connected with each other in our prayer and living out of our charism and identity as members of the Chevalier Family. In our final prayer, the Memorare, we remembered our absent members and all deceased OLSH Associates. We then sang, *Called by the Father*, another beautiful song written by Brother James Maher.

Sister Annabella

CANBERRA: Christine led us in a meditation on “*Forgiveness*”. Forgiveness is a gift we give ourselves so that we do not remain stuck in the past and in our pain, living as victims of some big hurt or injustice. When we are able to forgive we move on from being a victim of our story to being the hero. Forgiveness is a process (which may take a day, a year or a lifetime) during which we seek to eliminate from mind and heart all resentment and hurt feelings that we have because of what someone said, or did, or failed to do. Sister Mary Ruth gave us all the community news and added her thoughts on forgiveness, which were appreciate by all. We are all blessed to have her travel down to see us each month, or whenever she can, and her direction in our lives is so appreciated.

Christine Casey

CORINDA: Seven Associates came for the July meeting, including two new members who have joined our group. We had time for prayer before we shared on Session 1, *Catholic Christians in Search of a Spirituality*, which everyone enjoyed. Sister Gerardine joined us and we were able to talk about a reflection day which Gerardine will lead on 7th September. As usual we enjoyed chatting over afternoon tea.

Sr Merrilyn

ELMORE: Our August meeting held on 15th was the feast of the Assumption and we gathered at OLSH Church for Mass which was well attended. We then prayed the Rosary and our Associates' Prayer before adjourning to Chevalier Centre for a shared lunch. Sister Lee Davison was warmly welcomed and gave us a talk about her life in South Africa. Many questions were asked and great interest shown. Sister Shirley spoke on the life of Sister Mary Lenaghan, who was so well known in Elmore. May she rest in perfect peace. We spoke of the many OLSH Sisters who have spent years with us here in Elmore – all fondly remembered.

Norma Holmberg

HARTZER PARK: At our August Meeting Anne Cowan presented a reflection on prayer entitled "Our Lady Help of Kitchens". We reflected on Mary's role in our prayer and life and the opening of our hearts to God's presence in the "everyday-ness" of our lives and activities, not needing to wait until time, space and quiet are available – which they so often aren't! In the Ongoing Formation section of our meeting we focused on the "Reflective Moment" of Section 7. We discussed and shared on how we express **our** Heart Spirituality through and into our life and ministry, and how we observe this in others.

We began our September meeting with a beautiful reflect on "Springtime" using song, prayer and poetry to celebrate the season in praise and gratitude. In Section 8 of our Ongoing Formation we looked at the effect and impact the Gospels have on our life and considered the words in the Reflective Moment: "... Jesus Christ ... as being present in every human being and in the midst of society".

Jan Clark

RANDWICK: We commenced our August meeting with a meditation on the forthcoming Sunday's Gospel. In the discussion that followed Our Lord's injunction/reminder that each of us must enter "through the narrow gate", led to interesting comments. Jesus has won our salvation but He emphasised that we do not automatically reach heaven. We are each one of us, responsible for our salvation. Jesus is our way, our Truth and our Life. As Associates we "endeavor" to be on earth the Heart of God/Jesus. This requires our generosity in small things, daily, and this in turn readies us for bigger issues that may arise.

We considered Sessions 5/6 of our Course. Father Chevalier's Spirituality comprised all aspects of faith, religion and daily life – social as well as personal - and daily work. A lively discussion centred on the simplicity and demands of his simply living what made up his daily life. All considered this a good example of their own lives.

We commenced our September meeting with a hymn, *Canticle of the Sun*, to welcome the Spring. The meditation on the next Sunday's Gospel opened up a long and fruitful discussion on the role of wealth in our lives. How it affects "Rich" people was obvious in both negative and positive ways. However, the comparison between the "Ordinary" person, such as most Associates, and the "Poorer" members of our area, led to a valuable exchange. All have **SOMETHING** to give to others, especially time and interest. Examples of these followed.

The *Ametur* article was greatly appreciated. Consideration of the role of "intimate and silent encounters with His Father" led to discussion of God as "Father". Time limited a very interested and worthwhile discussion on the value of praying the Our Father in its various parts as outlined in the *Ametur*.

Sr Theresa Coleman

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Rosa Huyssens (Belgium))

OLSH Associates

Judith Simpson (Brisbane), Michele Castagna (Alice Springs).

Relatives and Friends

Hunorio Quirante, Kate Zamudio, Fred Marshall, Don Sheridan, Louise Brown, Veronica Pilchen, John Harris, Sr Philomena Burford RSJ, Marjorie Liddy.



We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

Fr Maurice McNamara, Sr Margaret Jennings, Sr Merrilyn Lee, Sr Damian George, Maree Hinton, Madeleine Kendall, Frances Lloyd, Ruth Kelly, Sam and Megan Hunter, Margaret Cherry, Sandra O'Brien, Angie Cunningham, Richard Swords, Helen McFadden, Hamilton Deam, Eric Carew, Peter Reardon, Veronica Brennan, Margaret Toye, Margaret Keen, Jessica Chapman, Kathleen Webster, Jim and Karen Francke, Michael Jarvis, Ewan Hazel, Billy and John Schmich, Jessica Jacobs, safe delivery of a baby, Elizabeth and Paul de Jong, Sandra Wilson, Pat Langton, Hazel Murphy, Anna Jacobs, Mary Roberts and Family, Sr Bridie O'Connell RSJ, Ruth Kelly, Bryan Butler, Margaret Tate, Baby Kristian Hill, Joanna Madrid, Heather Hardy, Baby Ellie, Augustinus Sanhuezza (9 years), 5 year old boy with a fatal condition, Year 12 students, the People of Syria.

Associates' Annual Retreat

St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park

Friday 11th Nov – Sunday 13th November, 2016

Applications available from Sr Ancilla as well as travel directions.

Phone: 96621777. **Email:** associates@olshaustralia.org.au

Costs: Pensioners: \$80 per day.

Non-Concession: \$92 per day. **Day Only:** \$25+ \$10 if staying for the evening meal. If you would like to attend just on the Saturday please arrive by 8.45 am. Please be in touch by **October 30th** at the latest.

