

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

Ametur

(May He be loved!)

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

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

Dear Associates,

Here in Australia the beautiful season of spring is with us, and how better to begin this edition of Ametur than by quoting a whimsical poem by our Australian poet, Michael Leunig, (from his book, **The Prayer Tree**, Collins Dove 1991)

*Dear God,
We rejoice and give thanks
for earthworms, bees,
ladybirds and broody hens;
for humans tending their gardens,
talking to animals, cleaning their homes
and singing to themselves;
for the rising of the sap, the fragrance of growth,
the invention of the wheelbarrow,
we give thanks.
We celebrate and give thanks. Amen!*



In one of his lovely prayer-poems the Australian, Bruce D Prewer, wrote:

*For the deep-down springtimes of heart, mind and soul,
spiritual insights and new joys,
music, art, prayers, books – and the holy Bible –
and the uplift of a congregation
singing the new songs of faith
we thank you, most resourceful and generous God.
(Australian Prayers, Open Book Publishers, Adelaide, 1983, Page 107)*

May we always give thanks to our gracious, all-giving Father, for the many gifts of nature and grace that are bestowed upon us. Our Spirituality of the Heart calls us each day to renew our hearts by using God's gifts of nature and grace. Let us be especially mindful of this as we celebrate Spring.

The name of our little publication is "**Ametur**" – a Latin word meaning, "**May he be loved**" and meaning for us "**May He, Jesus, be loved**". The word in itself is a beautiful prayer which encapsulates the meaning of our motto: "**May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.**" Let us take this word into our hearts and repeat it often with love.

At the Third International Conference of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in Brazil, July 2017, each country was asked to present a Report on the Associate Movement. The Australian Report is printed below with some additional information on developments since July 2017.

Following this Report, you will find two very important articles. The first is the presentation given by Father Hans Kwakman msc at the Third International Conference of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in Brazil, July 2017. I know that you will find it most interesting as it explains very clearly the **essential role of the Laity** in the vision of Father Jules Chevalier for the MSC Family, which we now know as the Chevalier Family, and future directions about its structure and administration.

The second article is a Report from the first Meeting of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (LCF), held in Issoudun (France) from 12th – 15th July 2018. It should be read in conjunction with the *General Guiding Principles and Statutes of the Laity of the Chevalier Family*. You will find these in the No 328 Ametur, May-June 2018 issue.

After you have read and reflected on these articles please share your thoughts in your group meetings. For those unable to attend meetings please reflect upon them, and together let us all pray that the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family will continue to grow and expand throughout the world so that the ***Sacred Heart of Jesus may be everywhere and forever loved!***

We are at a pivotal point in the history of the Laity of the Chevalier Family and the evolution of Father Chevalier's vision and dream for the MSC Society of the Sacred Heart. The Laity are an essential part of this founding vision. We are living in exciting and challenging times for the Chevalier Family and YOU have an important, essential part to play in it!

Sr Ancilla White OLSH



REPORT ON THE OLSH ASSOCIATES IN AUSTRALIA



The Associate Movement officially began in Australia on the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart 1977. It was authorized by the 1975 General Chapter having been presented as a proposal from the Australian Province at the instigation of Sr Francis Mary Walsh fdnsc. The first five Associates made their Commitment in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Kensington on 20th November 1977.

A. NUMBER OF ASSOCIATES

As at August 2018, there are 509 Associates on the Australian Mailing List. The geographical distribution of the Associates is as follows:

ACT: 34, NSW: 211, NT: 79, NZ:1, QLD: 56, SA: 34, TAS:13, VIC: 79, WA: 2.

Since January 2014 until the September 2018, 52 Associates have gone to heaven, and 36 women and 2 men have made their commitment as Associates of the Daughters Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and members of the Chevalier Family.

B. THE "AMETUR"

The "Ametur" is our main organ of communication with our widely scattered Associates. It is published 5 times a year. Approximately 620 copies of each issue of the "Ametur", including 75 copies to members of the Chevalier Family overseas, religious and Lay, are mailed, emailed, handed out.

C. FORMATION

New members are usually attracted to the Chevalier Family through the experience of seeing the Charism in action in the lives of other Associates. They are invited into a group and encouraged to attend regular meetings to learn more about the Associates Movement. Usually they are ready to make a Commitment after a year. We have a special Ceremony then, and it is usually the Provincial (or, if she is not available, the National Associates' Director) who witnesses this Commitment. It is at this Ceremony that the new Associate receives a pin-on medal of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart inscribed with the words: OLSH Associate.

The document, *A Common Vision of Formation for the Chevalier Family*, issued by the Tri-Generalate in April 2009, is the main resource for our planning of an updated Formation Program for our Associates.

1. Key Themes

- Spirituality of the Heart – a way of life,
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – Mother, Disciple, Sister and Companion
- The Eucharist
- The call to be an Associate of OLSH - a Vocation within the Christian vocation - is a call to be the Heart of Jesus in the world today.
- The Charism
- Scripture, particularly the Gospels
- Formation – Initial and Ongoing
- Father Jules Chevalier and Mother Marie Louise – their lives and example
- Internationality – the Chevalier Family

2. The Ametur is our primary formation tool. It consists of an Opening Article, an Ongoing Formation Section, Group Reports, Prayer Requests, as well as local, national and international Chevalier Family news items. The groups are encouraged to use the material for their group sharing and personal reflection. Reflection questions are included to assist this process.

In March 2013, under the title of *Journeying Deeper into the Heart of Our Charism*, we began a study of Fr Hans Kwakman's book, *Jules Chevalier's Charism and the Identity of the Chevalier Family*. This entailed personal study, reflection and group sharing for those able to join a group. This study concluded in October 2015. We then began a study of the On-Line Formation program, again by Fr Hans Kwakman: *A Spirituality of the Heart in Accordance with Fr Jules Chevalier's Charism*. This is continuing. We have found Father Kwakman's material excellent and know that it has given our Associates invaluable information concerning our Chevalier Family's history and heritage, a challenge to continue the story, and a deep renewed love for their vocation as Associates.

An Annual Weekend Retreat is held for all able to attend. A Retreat Day, or Afternoon, is usually held each year at Kensington, Corinda, Canberra, Melbourne and Alice Springs.

D. ASSOCIATES' LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Team consists of Miss Janet Clark (Mittagong). Mrs Ellen Mary Loman (Enfield). Mrs Therese Poulton (Mascot), Sisters Claudette Hiosan, Therese McNamara, Ancilla White.

E. GROUPS

There are 15 groups that meet regularly. in the following areas:

Alice Springs, Bentleigh, Callala, Canberra, Corinda, Elmore, Enfield, Hartzer Park, Kilburn, Kensington, Port Keats, Randwick, Roselands. They meet once every month, or two months, or maybe three or four times a year depending on the situation of the group members. Some of them have a Sister as Leader, others have an Associate. Most Group Reports are written for the *Ametur* by an Associate. Group Meetings include prayer, input, on-going formation, discussion and sharing and often Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Many Associates, of course, are no longer able to attend group meetings because of distance, age, mobility and health reasons. Their link to the Associate movement is through the "*Ametur*" and, when possible, visits from the Sisters and/or other Associates, as well as through letters. A large percentage of Associates are in the 70+ age bracket.

F. INTERNATIONALITY / INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLIES

The Lay members of the Chevalier Family are dedicated women and men who have been attracted to Father Chevalier's Charism and Spirituality of the Heart through one of his three religious groups – Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. As members of the world-wide Chevalier Family our mission, as we well know, is "to be on earth the Heart of Christ" by living out a Spirituality of the Heart through prayer, through the promotion of peace, justice and the integrity of creation, and in healing broken relationships and divisions in our own personal lives and in our society.

Chevalier Lay Associates come from 52 countries throughout the world. In 1995 and 1999 they held their first Meetings in Issoudun, France, our founding place and the home of Father Chevalier for most of his life. In 2008 a 2nd International Assembly was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The latest International Assembly was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in July 2017.

As a result of this historical meeting an International Committee has been set up which will eventually have a member from each of the five continents. The General Secretary of the Committee is Alison McKenzie (Lay MSC Australia), and the Deputy is Doris M Machado dos Santos (Lay MSC Brazil), Rita Cleuren, the former General Secretary remains on the Committee as a member and Fr Hans Kwakman msc is the spiritual counselor.

An important Document, *General Guiding Principles and Statutes of the Laity of the Chevalier Family*, was officially approved by the General Assembly in 2017, (this document was published in *Ametur* No 328, May-June 2018), and all countries have been asked to set up National Councils to work on this Document and to use it in composing their own Manuals in accordance with the local situation and cultural needs.

Here in Australia a Steering Committee have been set up to work through this Document and to make recommendations as to how the members of the Australian National Committee might be chosen. There are 4 OLSH Associates on this Steering Committee, Jan Clark, Ellen Mary Loman,

Therese Poulton and Paul Stinson as well as MSC Associates and members of Heartworks (MSC Youth).



It was also decided at the International Assembly, Brazil, that the three Lay branches of the Chevalier Family would be known collectively as the **Laity of the Chevalier Family, (LCF)**, while keeping their individual MSC and OLSH titles. A common logo was designed and presented to the International Meeting as a gift from the artist and will be used on all correspondence etc. concerning the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

May God continue to bless the Laity of the Chevalier Family as, together with the religious families, they seek to be on earth the Heart of Christ and to make His Heart loved everywhere and forever, as Jules Chevalier so passionately desired.

Sr. Ancilla White osh

with the members of the Associates' Leadership Team

Miss Janet Clark (Mittagong), Mrs Ellen Mary Loman (Enfield), Mrs Therese Poulton (Mascot), Sr Claudette Hiosan, Sr Therese McNamara.

Chevalier and the Organization of the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family

by Hans Kwakman MSC, Sao Paolo, July 2017

The Chevalier Family will only have a future if it remains faithful to its identity as shaped by the charism of Fr. Chevalier. By saying so, I just repeat what, more than a century ago, has been said in other words by Fr. Piperon msc: *"If a religious family does not wish to perish, it must lovingly preserve the spirit it has received from the Founder."* What Fr. Piperon called *"the spirit of the Founder,"* today we would call *"the charism of the Founder"*. The charism or spirit of our Founder included the foundation of the Chevalier Family as a spiritual union of religious fathers and brothers, secular priests and groups of laity or individual lay persons as well.

In the first part of the following presentation, I'll try to indicate Fr. Chevalier's original intentions in erecting his Society of the Sacred Heart as being open for religious, secular priests and laity. Following generations misunderstood Chevalier's intentions, but the renewed MSC Constitutions of 1985 restored Chevalier's initial project. In a second part I'll show that, just as in Chevalier's time, today as well, the Chevalier Family needs a clear structure that will support the mutual responsibility of the three branches for each other, with special attention to the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family.

Part I: Chevalier's Original Intentions in Erecting a Lay Branch of the Society of the Sacred Heart

Someone, who clearly understood the originality of Fr. Chevalier's charism, was the Jesuit Fr. Ramière, a friend of Fr. Chevalier and a sincere supporter of his works. He was the director of the "Apostolate of Prayer" in France and Editor in Chief of the French edition of the "Messenger of the Sacred Heart". In 1869, Fr. Chevalier needed the approval of the Archbishop of Bourges and the Vatican for his first draft of the MSC Constitutions. In these Constitutions, Chevalier did

not only describe the spirituality and rules of the MSC Congregation, but also included a place for the Association of Secular Priests and the so-called Third Order of Lay people.

In a letter to a lay-member of this Third Order, Fr. Ramière wrote: "*In case the Vatican is not prepared to include secular priests or laity in these Constitutions, then the MSC Congregation will in no way differ from 'one hundred and one' already existing Congregations.*" Fr. Ramière understood that Fr. Chevalier was searching for something that in those days was new. Chevalier wanted to establish a Society in which people of different ways of life would come together, being inspired by the same charism and mission, either as religious men and women or secular priests or lay people. Chevalier really wanted to cross the boundaries of what was normally practised in the Church of his day.

While remaining in their parishes and dioceses, the Secular Priests of the Sacred Heart would carry out the same mission as the Religious of the Sacred Heart. The lay people, united in a Third Order, would perform that mission, while staying in secular society and continuing to perform their daily occupations. By officially approving Fr. Chevalier's design of the Constitutions, both the Archbishop of Bourges and the Vatican accepted his wide-ranging plan for this new kind of Society.

From an earlier correspondence with some Jesuits in Paris, it became clear that Chevalier was searching for a structure which should function as an umbrella for people living either in or outside religious communities, with or without vows, while the religious Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, would form the core group of this big Society. The Jesuits offered a general plan for such a society, but recommended Fr. Chevalier, as the founder, to draft a more detailed plan himself.

So, in 1864, Fr. Chevalier came up with his own "Plan of the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart," in which he pointed out a basic principle of his vision: "*In order to fulfill its mission the Society must spread as much as possible, but it will spread only so far as it answers the various aspirations of the people.*" Chevalier wrote several documents to explain this vision in detail.

Each document opened with a description of the ills of the time. This fact clearly shows Chevalier's conviction that each of these three "branches" should participate in the same mission, in such a way that their presence and activities would be relevant to the renewal of society. In a comment on this, Fr. Murphy notes:

"Reading his early publications, about the nature and mission of his Society, I have the strong impression that (Fr. Chevalier) would have found it unthinkable, or perhaps even impractical, to speak of changing the world and its values without involving laity, for they were the ones more intimately immersed in that world. Religious priests, brothers, sisters, together with secular priests, had an essential role to play, and Father Chevalier stressed that. But if Christ's mission was to be continued in the world on all levels of society, the role of the laity was at least equally as essential and at times even more essential."

Chevalier emphasizes that the members of the Third Order should remain in their families, while continuing to occupy their regular positions in secular society. If those who were single would like to form communities, they should avoid "*anything that gives the appearance of a religious house ..., as being against our aim and harmful to the sort of good that this work is called to do.*"

In March 1869, the Vatican granted the MSC Congregation a "Decree of Praise", and by doing so, officially acknowledged the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart as a pontifical, religious congregation, with "the Association of Priests of the Sacred Heart" and "the Third Order of the Sacred Heart" as integral parts. In the first MSC Constitutions of 1877 the Association of the Laity is included in the chapter, entitled "*The Aim of the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart*". That means, as Fr. Murphy notes that Fr. Chevalier, "*wanted to incorporate laity into the specific life and mission of the Society.*"

During the rest of his life, Fr. Chevalier attempted to carry out this broad vision with unflagging energy. In January 1878, he could write: "*Today, (the Third Order) numbers about three hundred members spread through France, and also in Italy, in Belgium, England, Austria and Canada: every day new people join up.*" However, Chevalier had to admit that his own confreres did not always understand the importance of the Third Order. In a letter of 1900 to the Superior of the Province of the North, who complained about a certain confrere who did not support the Third Order in the Netherlands, Chevalier expressed his amazement by writing: "*I wish that in our provinces and in our houses, everyone supports the Third-Order of the Sacred Heart... It would be more than strange that Missionaries of the Sacred Heart refused their collaboration and dedication to our works of the Sacred Heart.*"

In spite of difficulties in finding confreres, who were willing to become "directors" of the groups of lay-associates, Fr. Lanctin msc, the new General Superior, in a letter to the Vatican of 1904, could report that at the time the Third Order of the Sacred Heart numbered "*nearly two thousand members spread throughout most of the Catholic countries of Europe*".

However, in 1907, a far-reaching change happened. An extraordinary General Chapter - not attended by Fr. Chevalier, due to reasons of health - introduced a comprehensive revision of Chevalier's Constitutions, in use since 1877. In two ways this revised version of the MSC Constitutions deviated from Fr. Chevalier's original Charism and intentions. First, no longer was the Devotion to the Sacred Heart presented as a remedy for the ills of the times; and second, no place was given to the accompaniment of secular priests and lay people, who wanted to share in the charism and mission of the religious members of the Chevalier Family. Due to these radical changes, the laity were no longer seen as fellow members participating in the same mission and practising the same Spirituality. Fr. Ramière's fears had come true: the MSC became a congregation that in no way differed from so many other existing congregations that carried the title "Sacred Heart" in their name.

Finally, after the Second Vatican Council, the MSC Constitutions returned to the original inspiration of our Founder: "*Our Founder wanted the fullness of mission to be realized in a global project with religious men and women, diocesan priests and lay people. He especially wished to have an association of lay people closely united with the professed members in their spirituality and mission (Constitutions of 1877). For this reason, the Provincial Superior will promote this Association of Lay MSC. He will also encourage the members of the Province to collaborate in this work. He will appoint a coordinator to help in the development of this Association in relation to us, while respecting its lay character.*"

In 2009, the three General Administrations of MSC men and women and Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart together with the Coordinator of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, issued a "Joint Communiqué" in which formation is indicated as a top priority of the whole Chevalier Family. In this document "*the religious are encouraged to continue to devote time and energy to the formation of the laity.*" In the same Communiqué the hope is expressed "*that more and more*

laity themselves will become formators for lay members of the Chevalier Family". Totally in line with Fr. Chevalier's intentions, the "Joint Communiqué" emphasizes that what is especially needed is "formation in our common spirituality," a Spirituality of the Heart.

Part II: The Organization of the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family

In a document of 1865 concerning the Lay Branch, Fr. Chevalier stated that everyone, married or not, who, in accordance with her or his social status within the world, wants to grow in love, is welcome as member of the Association, also called the 'Third Order'. Members of the Third Order will attend an initial program of formation in a Spirituality of the Heart and observe some basic rules. However, they should remain in secular society, with or without vows or promises, either as a single person, family member or in community.

Regarding the organization of the Third Order, Fr. Chevalier speaks of Directors and Superiors. The General Superior of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart or his delegate is the General Director. There might be also a need for diocesan and local Directors. The directors have only an advisory function and are chosen from among the religious or secular Priests of the Sacred Heart. The administration of the Third Order consists of a General Superior as well as diocesan and local Superiors, each with their own councils, all chosen from among the lay-members.

In relation to Fr. Chevalier's view of the organization of the Third Order, we should take into consideration that he wrote this document regarding the Third Order in 1865, at a time when the Congregations of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the MSC Sisters did not yet exist, and the MSC Congregation had not yet been divided in provinces. For us it is important to notice that, despite many difficulties, Fr. Chevalier made continuous efforts to get the Third Order off the ground. MSC would be responsible for the well-being of the Lay Branch by accompanying it on all levels; and the Lay Branch itself would be structured with a strong organization, supported by the laity itself.

Taking into consideration the developments of the Lay Branch in our day, it is appropriate that the role envisioned by Chevalier in the past and entrusted to the MSC, will now be played by the three Chevalier Congregations. That means that they will assign Spiritual Directors or Advisors, while the three General Administrations together will function as General Director. The laity itself will provide for the administration of the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family.

Today the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family is spread all over the world where MSC men and women as well as Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart are present. Groups of lay people of all cultures, orientations and compositions feel themselves a part of the Chevalier Family. Some are more closely connected to MSC fathers and brothers, others to the Daughters, others again to the MSC Sisters. Some groups are more devotional in their orientation, others are more socially oriented, others again put emphasis on reflection, meditation or deepening of faith, while for all the groups socializing is an important element of their gatherings as well. In any case, they all want to follow the way of the heart as shown by Jesus Christ who loves with a human heart. Fr. Chevalier's basic principle is clearly in the process of being carried out. After all, he wrote: "*In order to fulfill its mission the Society must spread as much as possible, but it will spread only so far as it answers the various aspirations of the people.*" We are pleased to see that at present the Chevalier Family is able to offer an answer to "*the various aspirations of the people.*" Or, to paraphrase a saying of Jesus in St. John's Gospel: not only in the Father's house, but also in the house of the Chevalier Family, there are "*many rooms*" (John 14: 2) available.

So, by proposing a well-constructed organization for the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family, it is not our intention to create boundaries or to restrict the variety of activities of the groups. The only intention is to give the "*many rooms*" of the Chevalier Family a solid roof, supported not only by our lay brothers and sisters themselves, but also by the religious members of the Chevalier Family: the MSC men and women and the Daughters.

Therefore, a central element in the proposed organization of the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family is the **National Board** (which may go by any other name). This Board consists of a representative of each Local Group in the country, along with the Provincial Superiors (or representatives) of the Congregations of the Chevalier Family, present in a certain country. Until now such a body only exists in a few countries. Some lay-groups are still dependent on the commitment of some religious and run the risk of disappearing, when the involvement of these persons comes to an end. In other countries, there does not yet exist a well-organized collaboration between the Chevalier Congregations in relation to the accompaniment of the local lay-groups.

The main responsibility of a **National Board** would be to support a continuous presence of lay-groups in the country and guarantee the on-going formation regarding a Spirituality of the Heart of its members as well, "*while respecting its lay character.*" A National Board will also be the body qualified to send official representatives of the lay groups of a certain country to the General Assembly, with the right to vote and to take part in elections. The establishment of a National Board needs the support and collaboration of the Provincial Administrations in each country.

Already the **General Assembly** came together twice before, namely in Issoudun and the Dominican Republic. This year (2017) it meets again in Sao Paulo. The intention is that the General Assembly will become a body which officially represents the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family, with the right to take binding decisions. Therefore, at least a part of the participants should be formally appointed, either by election or nomination, as official representatives of the laity of a certain country.

At present the **International Board** or Executive Board only consists of representatives of European lay groups and meets twice a year. It is normally accompanied by representatives of the Tri-Generalate and a Spiritual Advisor. The proposal is to make it into an intercontinental, executive body of the General Assembly. To that end, at least some of its members should be elected by the General Assembly, e.g. the General Secretary and the first assistant. They should be given the right to invite some other people to become members of this Executive Board, preferably from different continents, in order to guarantee the intercontinental character of the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family. We imagine that, due to the distances, communication among the members of the International Board will mainly be carried out by communication media, such as email, Skype and WhatsApp.

Finally, regarding our **Spirituality and Mission**, we purposely propose Guidelines, which are very basic. Every family of national lay-groups or even a local group might feel free, if they want to do so, to formulate their own Guidelines in agreement with their own cultural customs, as long as they remain faithful to the basic orientation of these general Guidelines. In fact, our common Spirituality and Mission, inspired by Fr. Chevalier's charisma, is what brings us together, all over the world.

Hans Kwakman msc, Brazil, 2017

Report of the meeting of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

Issoudun

12th – 15th July, 2018

Present:

Alison McKenzie, General Secretary

Doris Machado dos Santos, Deputy

Rita Cleuren, member

Fr Hans Kwakman msc, Spiritual Counsellor

Fr Paulus Polce msc, Representative MSC General Council

Sr Nicola Sprenger msc, Representative MSC Sisters General Council and translator

Excused: Sr Merle Salazar olsh, Representative OLSH General Council

Invited: Ranulfo dos Santos

Introduction:

We met in Issoudun as a group, each day from 12th – 15th July. We began each day with prayer that had been prepared by one of the committee members. There was significant work to be done to learn to work as a team communicating without shared language, and we are extremely grateful to Sr Nicola for her skillful translation and her lessons in the protocols of decision making without a common language. Despite these difficulties we were able to discuss issues deeply and come to agreement on many important matters.

International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

Composition of the International Council:

We resolved to leave the membership of the International Council at three lay members with Fr Hans as our Spiritual Counsellor. According to the Guiding Principles and Statutes of the Laity of the Chevalier Family there must be five members, representing each of the Continents, but we decided that it was too early to expand the membership at this stage, and we will work together for another year before we reconsider this decision.

Responsibilities of Council members:

We recognise the importance of information being sent out regularly to the members of the international family. We recognise that to undertake this effectively we need to establish communication networks with those who have national responsibility in each country. We are aware that our data base of national contacts is incomplete.

We have decided to allocate regions to each council member as their specific responsibility:

* **Alison – Australia, Pacific, Asia, India**

* **Doris – Central and Southern America, Caribbean**

* **Rita – Europe, North America and Canada, Africa**

The task of each member will be to establish contact with groups in each country; to identify contact persons and to encourage the development of National Councils including representation from MSC Fathers, OLSH Sisters and MSC Sisters. We will communicate with each country through their contact person and ask that the information be disseminated by the national contact to their members.

Meeting and Communication between Council members:

The committee members are already communicating most effectively by email using Google Translate as a translation service. We recognise that we cannot meet face-to-face very often. We have scheduled 2 – 3 face-to-face meetings between now and 2023. Most of our work will be undertaken by remote communication platforms and we are experimenting with Facebook Messenger for the first conference call scheduled for October 6th. We have invited Hannie Jansen from the Netherlands to join the first conversation as a facilitator.

Finances:

There is an urgent need for those countries of means who have not already begun to develop systems to collect finances to support the work of the National and International Councils to begin to undertake this responsibility. There is also the need to support those countries of limited means so that we are contributing fairly to the costs. We recognise that the \$1.00 membership fee proposed in Brazil is too low. We also acknowledge and commend the significant financial contribution of the Europeans over the past 20 years to establish the international movement and ask, as a matter of urgency, that all countries begin to accept responsibility for the cost of the lay movement, according to their means. We will move a motion to amend the Guiding Principles and Statutes at the 2023 gathering.

Process for depositing funds:

An International Account has been established under the auspices of the Australian MSC Province. In some countries there are significant bank charges incurred by depositing money into international accounts and we have decided, in the short term, to retain the Lay accounts that already exist in Brazil and Europe, as well as a centralized account in Australia. Hopefully, this will provide alternative options for depositing money that has been collected so as to minimize bank fees. There is an urgent need to develop accounting processes to ensure that all our financial activities are transparent. This is currently under consideration.

We thank the people of the Congo and Mexico who have collected funds for the International Committee and we thank the Australian OLSH Province for their donation. There is currently enough money in the International account to pay for the next face-to-face meeting of the committee but not enough to begin the planning and preparation for the next International Gathering in 2023.

EDITOR'S NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Many thanks to those who have already donated funds for the setting up and general running of the International and up-coming National Committee.

As you can see more finance is needed and will continue to be needed into the future.

Sr Ancilla White

Relationships with the Tri- Generalates:

Fr Hans Kwakman msc has accepted the invitation to be spiritual counsellor of the International Lay Council. We are very grateful for his generosity and the wisdom and insights he brings to this role. We have received documents from each of the Generalates with regard to how we will work together as branches of the same family, independent but interdependent. Each General Council has offered us support with finances, with appointing members from their Councils to sit on the International Council and in ongoing support. Their support in the formation of the laity as a discrete vocation in the global Chevalier family is greatly appreciated as is their willingness to appoint professed members to walk beside the laity in each Province.

INTERNATIONAL LAY FAMILY

Adoption of the Guiding Principles and Statutes:

It appears that the Guiding Principles and Statutes have been widely circulated amongst the global Laity of the Chevalier Family and the Council was pleased to see the joint National Councils in many countries. A task of the Council members is to encourage this ongoing adoption of the Principles and Statutes.

Formation:

The formation needs, as expressed at the Brazil Conference, will be on the agenda of the October 6th meeting of the Council. We will also try to locate some of the formation material that already exists.

We commend to members of the laity world-wide the online course that has been developed by Fr Hans as an excellent resource for the formation of members. We are also interested in considering the possibility of formation exchanges between countries in the future. We also recognise as a matter of urgency the need to reach out to young adults in our countries as we know our spirituality has much to offer young people.

Communication:

There has been a suggestion to develop a Facebook page for the laity. At this stage we feel we do not have adequate personnel to manage and oversee such a page, but it may become a good forum of communication in the future

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

We recognise the central importance of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation as central to our lay vocation. We are just beginning to discern how best to contribute to this mission as laity. Rita Cleuren has been appointed to work with The JPIC Committee in the Generalate.

General Assembly

We are currently considering where to hold the next General Assembly of the Laity, scheduled for 2023. We recognise that it is essential to have good working relationships between the International Council and the organizing committee of the hosting country and we will develop a set of protocols to assist in this process in the near future.

Conclusion:

It is just over one year since the establishment of the International Council. As can be seen by this report much work has already been undertaken and many of the structures and processes that will support the ongoing development of a world-wide movement have begun to be implemented. The Council members are united in their belief in a God who is love and their personal commitment to be God's Heart on Earth, as best as we can, and we are honoured and privileged to be able to contribute to that mission by our work. We are very pleased to see a developing solidarity growing between the members of laity across the globe.

In the Heart of Jesus
Blessings

Alison McKenzie
Doris Machado Dos Santos
Rita Cleuren Council

General Secretary, International Council
Deputy
Member

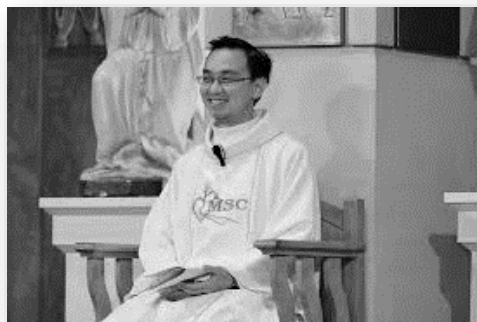
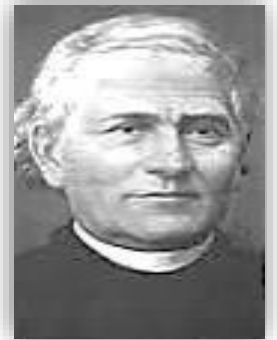
Having read the articles above what impressions have you?

You might like to reflect on the following questions. Share your responses at a group meeting if you attend a group:

1. What gave you new insight into the depth of Fr Jules Chevalier's original charism which included the Laity?
2. Why did Fr Chevalier put so much emphasis on the importance of incorporating the Laity into the specific life and mission of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart?
3. What did Fr Chevalier envisage for the Laity? In what ways has that vision become a reality in Australia?
4. What is my part in this wonderful Family and how can I assist as new structures are being set up to help Chevalier's Charism and Spirituality of the Heart be spread throughout the world?



CHEVALIER FAMILY NEWS. OUR GROWING WORLD-WIDE FAMILY



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST AUSTRALIAN MSC PRIEST FATHER KHOI NGUYEN

who was ordained on September 8th at his home parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bonnyrigg, Sydney. Our prayers and thoughts are with Father Khoi as he begins his new life of spreading the love of the Heart of Jesus through his priestly ministry.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST ASSOCIATES

LEONIE MOORE-SMITH

who made her commitment on Saturday 25th August at
OLSH Convent, Alice Springs, and

MARY MCMAHON, MAUREEN DOHERTY,

AILEEN POTTS, HELEN SELINGER, BILL JEFFS

who made their Commitment on Sunday 16th September
at OLSH Convent Chapel, Corinda, Queensland.

Welcome to the Chevalier Family,
dear Leonie, Mary, Maureen, Aileen,
Helen and Bill.

May you be richly blessed as you live out our Charism
to be on earth the Heart of Jesus.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 50 YOUNG INDONESIAN WOMEN AND MEN

Who recently joined the Chevalier Family in Indonesia.

News from Fr Hans Kwakman msc telling us of this wonderful event

Father Kwakman was in Indonesia during September assisting the Brothers of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (founded in the Netherlands by Mgr. Andreas Schaeppman in 1873) at their General Chapter. Father writes about an experience during this time:

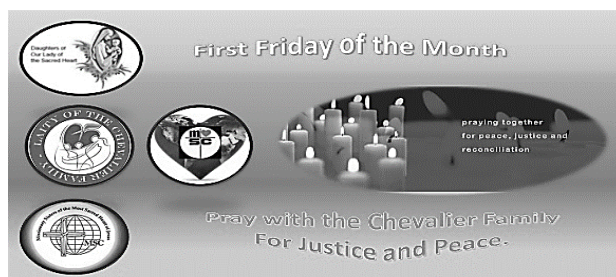
"During the weekend the Brothers invited me to present some sessions on the Spirituality of the Heart for the teachers and coworkers at their schools as well as for the lay members of the Chevalier Family in Malang and surrounding areas. More than 200 participants attended the sessions in which I talked about a Spirituality of the Heart in the writings of Pope Francis: his image of God, Church and society, mission of the heart, family life, education of children and the formation of conscience. Fr Budi Santoso msc, Director of *Ametur Indonesia*, assisted me.

The highlight of the workshop took place during the closing Eucharist on Sunday morning, when in the presence of all the participants, more than 50 young men and women for the first time made their promises as lay members of the world-wide Chevalier Family. Their promises were accepted by Br Dominikus BHK being the spiritual director of the local lay groups. I presided at the Eucharist and on behalf of the International Council, congratulated them and welcomed them as members of the world-wide Chevalier Family, emphasizing that not only persons who make promises may join the laity of the Chevalier Family, but anyone who wants to grow in love."

This impressive ceremony of commitment was the fruit of the dedication of the Brothers of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart supported by the Formation team of *Ametur Indonesia*. The Team consists of members from MSC, FDNSC, BHK and TMM of Indonesia. This Team has on several occasions given formation programs to the Brothers of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Malang and the laity interested in our Spirituality of the Heart. We thank Father for his permission to share this inspiring event and pray that many more young people will be attracted to our Charism and so enrich their lives and the lives of those to whom they minister in their everyday living.

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FROM THE TRI-GENERALATE IN ROME JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION



On 13th June the yearly Tri-Generalate Meeting was held in Rome. One item on the agenda was to find a way in which the whole Chevalier Family could participate in common projects towards Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC). The Lay Associates in their July Meeting at Issoudun decided to join in and together all agreed upon the following proposal:

*"Let us choose one day each month to reflect and pray
with all the Chevalier Family on JPIC issues.
This will help us to grow in solidarity and foster our commitment.
In our communities the **First Friday** is already such a day,
perhaps it is the most suitable day to add this intention."*

Here in Kensington, as well as in our other Convents throughout the Australian Province, we have taken up this challenge and during the month of September we prayed especially for the situation on Nauru and Manus Islands, that a just solution would be found for the detainees there and that host countries would welcome these asylum seekers with love and generosity. On the last Sunday in September, Social Justice Sunday, the Australian Bishops issued their Social Justice Statement, entitled, "A Place to Call Home".



THE HOMELESS JESUS

Please join with us in praying our October Intention:

For our homeless sisters and brothers in Australia and throughout the world, that may they find generous and loving support and a place to call home.

There are so many Social Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation issues in our world today. We read and hear and see them in our newspapers, radios, Tv's and internets. Perhaps you could choose a one each month and pray daily for that situation to be resolved for the good of all, beginning on each First Friday. Know that all over the world our international Chevalier Family will also be praying for some JPIC aspect as well.

MEETING REPORTS

ALICE SPRINGS: In June we met and were privileged to have Father celebrate Mass for us. We also recited the Rosary for our deceased members, families and friends. In August we had our Annual retreat day conducted by Therese Poulton and Sr Ancilla, with the Theme - *God's Plan/Dream* for us. Therese also gave us an account of the happenings at the Third International assembly in Sao Paulo. How blessed we are to be a truly international organisation. Therese also shared with us her work on the Steering Committee which has been set up to help our Australian Laity of the Chevalier Family set up the National Committee. **Paula Thornton**

BENTLEIGH: At our July meeting we read through the Gospel story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand and discussed aspects that spoke to us. Overall this great miracle showed us Jesus' care for his people which enhanced their faith in him.

Sr Elaine showed us a PowerPoint presentation of the visit of our Superior General, Sr Marife Mendoza, to the African countries of South Sudan and Angola. Here the Sisters are involved in Education, Health Care, Hygiene and Spiritual Guidance. Conditions are very demanding, but the Sisters seem to be very happy in their work. Sr Elaine emphasized that wherever we are based we can contribute positively.

At our August meeting Sr Delia gave us some history of the early days of the foundation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. She described how Father Chevalier convinced Marie-Louise Hartzler to replace Sr Felicity, the original leader. Sister then led us in a discussion on the Plenary Council of Australia to be held in 2020, the preparation of which has already begun in parishes across the country. It is an opportunity for all of us to listen, share and suggest important changes for the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. It is important for us to be in contact with as many people as possible, including non-Catholics, so that we can get comprehensive feedback. We must pray that the information is analysed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Patricia Mirabile

CALLALA: At our August and September meetings we discussed at length the Plenary Council 2020, and we hope that through our prayers we might "help to re-ignite our Church in Australia". Our group is now quite small as some members have moved away and some have health problems. **Ann Collier**

CANBERRA: The discussion at our July meeting centered on the Ametur and the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. There was much talk about the quote from John Stott – it moved us, and we are using it for our meditation this month.

For our August meeting Catherine Bird prepared a meditation on the Good Samaritan parable. With input from all who attended a lively discussion followed with everyone agreeing that they could see themselves at various times relate to all the travelers present. What sort of relationship do you have with Jesus and others? Is it the Levite, or the Samaritan, or the innkeeper, or the priest? A lot to meditate on.

At our September meeting Christine shared with us a very old prayer of Associate Daughters of OLSH that she had found. In part it said: "*We come as your Mother's Associate Daughters to*

renew our commitment to your Sacred Heart. We want so much to be your heart to our Heavenly Father and to all men for whom you laid down your life. Your Heart's desire is to lead us to your Father, to live with you in his love. We unite ourselves with all Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart the world over, pledging ourselves, by your power within us, to live the spirit of the Congregation and fulfil its mission of making your Sacred Heart everywhere known and loved." We then moved on to our on-going formation. "*A Spirituality which can Change Hearts*", from the Ametur. Much discussion followed with everyone contributing. Then we attended midday Mass together.

Christine Casey

CORINDA: Our September Meeting was a prayerful, joyous gathering as our five new members made their Commitments as Associates of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred heart. There were many tears of gratitude and awe as we came out of our Chapel here at the Corinda Convent. Congratulations Aileen, Bill, Helen, Maureen, and Mary. Our sick aspirant, Clare was not forgotten.

Sr Ancilla told us two stories. The first began with creation and the gift of God's love in the person of Jesus. The second was that of Jules Chevalier and his desire to spread the love of God throughout the world. We are part of the continuing of that story by our life and mission to be on earth the Heart of God. Sr Tess, our Provincial, spoke to us of the importance of living the Gospel in our daily journey. At our next meeting in October we will reflect upon and share our thoughts for the Australian Church of the future in preparation for the Plenary Council 2020.

Sr Merrilyn Lee

ENFIELD: The Enfield group continue to meet in the warm and welcoming home of Ellenmary. We spent a stimulating evening centering on The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). Sr Pat Irvin shared with us aspects of the homily delivered by Fr Claude Mostowik msc. A time of private reflection was followed by a lively discussion. It was something of a surprise to learn that a number of political regimes in history had banned public recitation of the Magnificat. It was amazing that these beautiful words from St Luke's Gospel were seen as a threat to these governments. The words of verse 52, "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly" gave encouragement to the poor and the converse to the powerful. May they be encouraging for us. We closed by singing the Peter Kearney version of The Magnificat.

Margaret Baker

HARTZER PARK: Our July reflection was led by Julie Sadlier using passages from "*The Hiding Place*" by Connie ten Boom and associated verses from the Psalms. The faith of Corrie and her sister Bessie was shown in their unwavering faith in God. They were true examples of being "on earth the Heart of God" both through their work and the time of their imprisonment during World War 11— although they would never have heard these words as we know and hear them today. Our On-Going Formation was from Sr Gerardine Doherty's book, "*In the Company of Marie Louise Hartzler*", Chapter 5: Ametur - Yesterday, Today and Forever. Discussion and comment were invited based on the following: "*How the changes that have accompanied the different emphasis on the Gospel values of equality, hospitality, right relationships, justice, compassion, human promotion and interdependence*" have impacted on our faith journey, our understanding of the Gospel and life in general.

Following on from the Feast of the Assumption during the week Christine Siveweight's Reflection at our August meeting was based on the story of a young girl growing up in a Protestant household, being attracted to a statue of Mary, then being introduced to the Litany of Loretto by her Marist teachers and later becoming a Benediction nun. We reflected upon and discussed her journey of faith and the beautiful symbolism that was used in the writing of the article.

Our On-Going Formation Section was from the Ametur, Section 26:

*"Every person is worthy of our giving.
Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness ...
Consequently, if I can help at least one person to have a better life,
That already justifies the offering of my life ..."*
(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* n 274)

Our reflective sharing centered on these words and the ways in which we can or have become more attuned to the words, "every person is worthy of our giving", and their needs. Family, friends, those not previously known to us – God is present in all, and, as the title of the chapter describes, what we have is "A Spirituality Which Can Change Hearts" ... it can and has done this, and when our hearts are changed lives can change – both our lives and the lives of others.

Our September meeting began with a reflection on the following:

*"The Heart of God in you recognizes the Heart of God in the other person.
When you stand before one another in this way, you are on holy ground."*

These words led us into a Reflection and a time of prayer on "Compassion" – a requisite for all desiring to live the Charism of Jules Chevalier and be "on earth the Heart of God."

For our On-Going Formation time we examined and explored the question posed in the Ametur in relation to the Plenary Council on "What matters to you and what do you hope for, for the Church?" Only time limited the lively and animated discussion. **Jan Clark**

KILBURN: Our Meeting was held on September 18th. After initial prayers Sr Jenny Seal gave us a very informative and entertaining talk about her role as Family and Parish Based Catechesis Consultant for the Archdiocese of Adelaide. Jenny also described her involvement in St Brigid's School as Chaplain. We enjoyed Jenny's input and hope that she will join us again some time. After a final hymn we enjoyed afternoon tea with the Sisters. **Sr Patricia Smith**

NOTRE DAME (Kensington): Because we had some new attendees at our July Meeting we began by introducing ourselves and sharing how long we had been an Associate. We then had Shared Reflection time on the Theme: "Called to be on Earth the Heart of Christ." It centered on the following written on St John the Apostle and Evangelist who in his old age had only one sermon to preach. Robert Morneau has captured this in his delightful little poem, *A Short Sermon*:

They say you said, on every occasion,
regardless of circumstances:
"Brothers and sisters, love one another."
A short sermon it was
and eventually tiresome.

They asked, your people,
for another topic, a different theme,
to fit differing occasions, new circumstances.
Supposedly you replied:
*"When you have mastered my first lesson,
then we can move on to a second!"*

Judith Carroll then led us in our preparation of the Gospel for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. St Mark describes the disciples as "those whom Jesus wanted, and they came to him to be with him, and he sent them to proclaim the message and to have authority to cast our demons". By our Baptism we are called to be Disciples of Jesus. He has called each and everyone of us no

matter how flawed we are. Like the disciples he is sending us out to be his hands and feet and especially his Heart. Our presence may not always be accepted but we are not to respond with harsh words. All that the inhospitable household was left with when they rejected the disciples was insubstantial dust, rather than the living Word of God.

We began our 8th September meeting with a reflection on Our Lady's Birthday praying Psalm 138 – our God knows every fibre of our being and for this we praise and thank him. Our prayer intention included all mothers, especially those who are in situations of violence, poverty, uncertainty and hopelessness.

Judith then led us in our meditation of the Gospel for 23rd Sunday – Jesus made the deaf and dumb man to hear and speak. We noticed how much physical contact Jesus had with the man. He put his fingers into his ears and touched his tongue with his own spittle. It is a miracle of Jesus touching and feeling the man. The man also felt Jesus healing touch and felt his spittle. By our Baptism we are called to touch and to heal, as best we can, those with whom we come into contact. St James reminds us not to make class distinctions between the rich and the poor. God has chosen those who are poor by the world's standards to be rich in faith. We then shared afternoon tea with the Sisters.

Maureen Maher

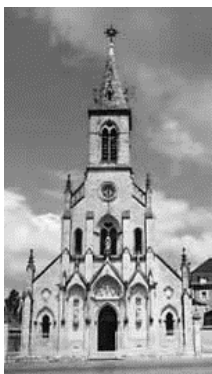
RANDWICK: We met on 20th August in Ventnor, a faith-filled and engaged group. Our meeting was led by Sr Terie who took us through an eye-opening discussion based around the Plenary Council 2020. While some of us who are of a "certain age", including myself, thought that the Council would not relate to us, that it was for the younger and fitter, Sr Terie made us aware that the Church of our younger days is still our Church, warts and all. We are grateful for Sr Ancilla's excellent article in the *Ametur*, which warrants deeper reading and thought. Sr Terie gave us news of our OLSH Sisters, which we always enjoy, plus a reminder of the Associates' retreat which will be held in October at gorgeous Douglas Park. A special part of our meeting was a prayer session beautifully prepared and presented by Sr Terie. We are most grateful. Warmest thanks to all involved. **Margaret Krijinen**

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ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER JULES CHEVALIER'S DEATH - 21ST OCTOBER 1907

At the news of her beloved mentor and friend's death Mother Marie Louise Hartzler wrote to inform the Sisters who were also in many European countries as well as the missions of the Pacific:

"On 21st October (the Heart of Jesus) called to himself our beloved and venerated Father Founder, and the next day a telegram announced the sad news. Like our good Father let us have a passion for the Heart of Jesus, for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and for souls."



The Basilica

Ill health prevented her from travelling to Issoudun for Father Chevalier's Funeral – it was only a few months before she herself died on 22nd February 1908. From the account given her by Sisters present Marie Louise was able to write to the Congregation:

"And so Father Chevalier entered in triumph into his dear Basilica, by the wide-open main doors. After lying in state for a day and a night in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, he now rests in the crypt under that same chapel, the chapel of her whom he loved so much and to whom he brought such great glory."



Chapel of OLSH

Let us pray for each other, and for all members of the Chevalier Family, on 21st October, that we may truly have a passion for the Heart of Jesus, for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and for our sisters and brothers everywhere.



Prayers from our Hearts

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Margaret Atley, Sr Patricia Clarke, Sr M Luke Fay (St Joseph's, Kensington)
Sr Odulpha van de Ven, Sr Helene Backx (Holland)
Sr Cornelia Wijati (Indonesia)
Sr Daniele Boningre (France)

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Fr Dominic (PNG/France)
Fr Peter Woods (Melbourne), Fr Frank Perry (Adelaide)

OLSH Associates

Patricia Anne Dirou (Bowral), Mollie Burgess (Daceyville), Therese Fisher (Randwick),
Cath Grogan (Elmore), Nancy Hall (Bentleigh East), Amanda Nugent (Bentleigh).

Relatives and Friends

Sue Shannon, Miriam Devitt, Odilie Elizabeth, Jeff Riley. Dorothy Hewitt, Joanne Sharpe, Rose, Ray Christie, Betty Evans, John Evans, Anne Candy, Simplecio Oliva, Ninfa Buenafe, Chita Febrero, Mark Febrero, Margaret McKenzie, Fleurette Gray.

We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

Stella Hilton, baby Ellie Martin, Kaitlin, Dominic, Adam, Christine, Lyn Allen, Bruce, Ida (5yr) Ellie (2yr), Sr Catherine Mary, Norma Holmberg, Kate Gavin, David, Jean Beston, Peter Canavan, Hanna Wosiri, Julie Whitton, Ross Meyer, Esme Elefante, victims of Filipino and Indonesian natural disasters, rain and financial help for our farmers, Maria Pellizer, Noel Reid, Mary & Tony Caruana as they move house, Sandra Cowdroy, David Family, Robert Wrightson, John Keen, John Toye, Robert & Keith Wrightson, Violet Duve, Margaret Keen, Margaret Toye, Annette Barbetti, Lesley Cheeseman, Petra O'Donnell, Grace Corbitt, Ros Sexton, Jean Tierney, Joel McMahon, Greg Baker, Rayma Weaver, Jean Clancy, Romelus Saladar, Gemmabel Garcia, Pamela Tipanan, Tess Oliva, Pam and Tom Stack, Carlos Sagkoten, June Pisani, Chris Hensley, Joan Buist, Maureen Maher, the unemployed, Bill V.B., Mary B, June K, Paul Hogan, Hayley Longbardi.

We Pray in Thanksgiving For

All the new members of the Chevalier Family world-wide
Grace Corbitt on her 90th Birthday
Hazel Bailey and John Toye
For obtaining a new venue for meetings
For a successful heart procedure