

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

Ametur

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

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Dear Associates,

So much has happened in our Chevalier Family over the past weeks! The most recent was a Recollection Weekend at Burradoo for the Associates. With springtime weather and amid the beauties of the Hartzler Park gardens Sr Dain Inglis olsh prayerfully led us through a reflection on the words from Isaiah 40:4

“Each morning he awakens me to hear, to listen like a disciple”.

Here is a beautiful quotation from Father Chevalier:

***“Before being an apostle
one must first be a disciple,
a disciple ... of the Heart of Jesus.”***

Sister Dain reminded us of the difference between a disciple and an apostle. The disciple is a learner, a listener, sitting at the feet of the master. The disciple listens closely to the master, drinking in every word, reflecting on whatever comes from the master’s lips. The disciple longs to be like the master.

As disciples of Jesus, we also sit at the feet of our beloved Master, as Mary did in the story of Mary and Martha in their home at Bethany (Luke 10:38). We let Him speak to us, not in audible words or in any way of the senses, but in the depths of our hearts. We take time out to be with him and to learn from His heart. We are silent with Him as we listen attentively with the ears of our hearts.

Sister Dain has kindly given me permission to use some of her material and so the following is taken from her reflection notes:

“To be a truly listening disciples means:

Firstly, that we must deepen our attentiveness to the word of God in the Bible, to the sacraments and to the life of the Body of Christ [the Church].

Secondly, it means learning a level of attentiveness to all persons, places and things, looking at everything with the eye of expectancy, waiting for something of God to blossom with it. It means being in Christ’s company, learning attentiveness from him, and practising that kind of still alertness that it is looking and waiting for the light to break through.

Thirdly, it means being attentive to where Christ is going and keeping company with those He welcomes, among them we will find the most unexpected and unlikely people, the kind of people that Jesus seems to spend so much time with, in the gospels and also today.

Fourthly, and most importantly, we will find Him keeping company with the Father, in whose company He is, always and forever.

As a listening disciple, we have to grow into a “mature stillness” and an openness to others and the world, that can allow the transformative action of God to come through. This will change us, our immediate environment, our world.”

Thank you to Sr Dain for the wonderful weekend and for sharing these thoughts with us all. The quote from Isaiah has long been one of my favourite texts from Scripture, and I have often thought that it would be a good idea to write it on a piece of paper and pin it to the sheet so that I am reminded of it each morning as I awake. Sister Dain also reminded us that whether we arise in sorrow or in joy we can still begin each new day knowing that God’s Holy Spirit is with us, and in the words of the poet Kahlil Gibran:

***“I arise at dawn with a winged heart
and give thanks for another day of loving.”***

Mary, Our Mother, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, was the first Apostle of the Sacred Heart. She learnt the lessons of discipleship from her deep motherly relationship with her Son. She will teach us. One of our Community Prayers expresses this beautifully:

***Mary, our Mother and life-long companion,
stay close to us so that we may be true disciples
of the Heart of your Son. Amen.***

Lovingly United in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Sr Ancilla White Osh

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Lay Gathering and Commissioning of the Australian National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

13th – 15th September 2019 St Mary’s Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park

This eagerly awaited event of which you have all heard so much in the past months, did not disappoint our expectations. It was a truly wonderful gathering of the Chevalier Family with representatives from Father Chevalier’s three religious families and the Laity associated with them in so many and diverse ways. What a joy and privilege it was to spend the weekend with people who were all intent on being the Heart of Christ to the world! The final paragraph of Mary Thorne’s article, *Ministering is at the Heart of Christianity*, (published in the last Ametur and reflected on during our weekend together) provides a fitting comment on the mood of the group as we dispersed at the conclusion of the weekend:

***“In 2019, God’s people are an adult people.
We are ready, willing and able to do God’s work in a world beset by crises.
For us, MINISTER is a verb.
God has no favourites, we are diverse beyond imagining but we are equal,
and we know without a shadow of a doubt,
that we must minister first to the most broken and vulnerable and distressed,
no matter what the cost to status or reputation.”***

The weekend was facilitated by Alison McKenzie and the following is an inspiring and informative account of the weekend. I thank Alison for kindly allowing this to be reproduced in our Newsletter.

Many Hearts United as One

After many months of diligent and prayerful work by a steering committee composed of lay and professed members of the FDNSC and MSC family, a document of National Guiding Principles to underpin the establishment and operation of the National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, was released over the weekend and the Australian Council members were blessed and commissioned during the final liturgy. The preamble to the Guiding Principles describes the identity of the National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family as: "... a private association of the Christian Faithful (Canon 215), motivated by and consistent with 'General Guiding Principles and Statutes of the Laity of the Chevalier Family'. These Guiding Principles were approved by the gathering of Laity of the Chevalier Family, Sao Paulo, Brazil, July 2017. The document also elaborates the Vision of the National Council:



- To look for ways to support and encourage growth of Spirituality of the Heart. This may be through outreach to past students, to parishioners with/without previous connections of Spirituality of the Heart and other newer areas of evangelisation and apostolate where people associated with MSC/FDNSC/MSCSisters charisms are involved.
- To represent all members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family but not every group will have a member on the Council
- To seek to ensure that all members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family are communicated with and their views represented in matters considered by the Council.
- Members have the right and are encouraged to co-opt expertise outside the Council to assist in this process.
- To acknowledge and endorse the administration of each of the aforementioned groups as considered appropriate.

Close to 60 people gathered at St. Mary's Towers, Douglas Park for the weekend. This was a historical moment in the life of the Australian Chevalier Family as the laity associated with the MSC, FDNSC and the MSC sisters came together in a retreat that recollected and celebrated our shared history and affirmed our shared charism as people of the Sacred Heart. The image and symbol of a loaf of bread being created was the thread that tied the retreat together and became the bread we broke and shared at Eucharist.

We articulated our particular spirit as lived by lay people deeply immersed in a troubled but beautiful world as being guided by the following principles:

We must work together to find language and symbol and metaphor that describes our lay experience of God's love.

We must be alert to the possibility of God's call in the lives of our friends and families and not be afraid to suggest that the spirit may be moving in that persons' life.

We must develop relevant and accessible rituals that enable secular people, who may not connect with the institutional church, to give expression to their longings and to deepen their experience of God.

We must form open and welcoming communities, that actively seek to do as Chevalier said: to answer the needs of the people of our time.

We must engage deeply with the Eucharistic and Sacramental structures of our church, but be brave enough to recognise that God's spirit is not restricted to those places, and our call as a Eucharistic people is to be deeply fed and nourished, so we can leave the four walls and go out into the hungry and suffering world, as Jesus did.

At the centre of it all must be a focus on Jesus of the Gospels and his call to us, and on the imperative to develop a deep and personal life of prayer – however we can in our lay lives. The sisters and the priests and brothers have a Novitiate which teaches them to pray and a community life that fosters the on-going practice of prayer. We can do nothing unless we find our own way of deep, daily prayer – and that usually means some form of silent presence to God.

Perhaps these words will begin the discernment towards a set of Constitutions for the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

At this stage the members of the Australian National Council of the Laity are:

Fred Stubenrauch – Chair of the MSC Lay and Professed Council and Chair of the Steering Committee to formulate the Guiding Principles.

Paul Compton – Founding member, Lay MSC.

Margaret Donohoe – Lay member, MSC Sisters

Thomas Hodgson – Past student, Downlands College

Aidan Johnson – Leader, Heartworks Community, Lay MSC member

Ellen-Mary Lomman – OLSH Associate member

Anne Marmion – Chair, Parish Council, St Thomas the Apostle Parish, Blackburn

Chris McDermott – Principal, Chevalier College.

Jenny Missen – Lay MSC member.

Narita Perrotta – Parish Pastoral Co-Ordinator Findon/Hindmarsh parish, member MSC Parishes Committee.

Therese Poulton – OLSH Associate member

Fr Peter Carroll msc - Spiritual Accompanier



We see the following as members of the Chevalier Family

- Formal Lay MSC/OLSH (i.e. those individuals who have been approved by provincial administrations)
- MSC/OLSH school students, teachers and alumni
- MSC/OLSH Parish members
- MSC/OLSH Missions
- Heartworks and MSC/OLSH youth outreach
- Individuals and other groups who identify with the Lay Chevalier Family and who are recognized by others as such.



As we write this article that reflects the on-going emergence of the laity as a movement within the Chevalier Family we honour, respect and give thanks to the witness of the MSC, FDNCS and MSC Sisters who have gone before, and, in particular, to those who have contributed to our growth and formation over many years.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere.

Alison MacKenzie

General Secretary, International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

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BLESSING OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

The weekend concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist and the Commissioning of the members of the National Council in these words:

Laity of the Chevalier Family: ***Will you commit to being people of prayer and reflection on the life of Jesus so that we can follow your lead as people of God?***

Member's response: ***Yes, I will.***

Laity of the Chevalier Family: ***Will you work together to create structures that enable the development of the movement of the Lay Chevalier Family in Australia?***

Member's response: ***Yes, I will.***

Laity of the Chevalier Family: ***Will you courageously commit to contributing to the creation of a new world, flowing from Jesus' Heart, so that His Sacred Heart will be loved everywhere?***

Member's Response: ***Yes, I will.***

Alison then anointed each member.

National Council Members then made their Commitment Pledge together:

***"May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere!
With these words we remind ourselves of our lofty mission
and strive to dedicate our strength to it totally"***

(J Chevalier, Circular MSC 1899),

The final blessing and affirmation were given to the new Council members by the three representations of Father Chevalier's three religious families: *Fr Steve Dives MSC Deputy Provincial, Sr Ros Cairns MSC Sisters Councilor, and Sr Tess Ward, OLSH Provincial.*

***We, the representatives of the other three branches of the Chevalier Family,
MSC, OLSH and MSC Sisters,
are privileged to be here this weekend***

***On behalf of our leadership teams and the members
we affirm and fully support this new venture
emanating from Jules Chevalier's dream.***

***May God's Spirit of love,
which moved Father Chevalier to acknowledge this love in his life,
be with you.***

***May you become ever more aware of this driving force within
as you move forward
with compassion, gentleness and kindness. Amen.***

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MEETING REPORTS

Alice Springs: At our August Meeting we began with Paul Gurr's hymn, *The Lord Delights*, followed by a reflection on Mary. We are looking forward to the unveiling of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Memorial Window on October 12 and the Golden Jubilee Mass on 13th October.

We met on Our Lady's Birthday and began by looking at the many roles of Mary – daughter, cousin, wife and mother – and the experiences she had throughout her life. Sr Kathleen provided readings from various sources such as *Laudato Si*, Jules Chevalier and *That Wound was Necessary* (from MSC Anniversary Novena), for each of the decades of the Rosary. We concluded with a discussion about the newsletter, *Encounter of Hearts* and our own parish activities for the Jubilee celebrations.

Paula Thornton

Bentleigh: 18 of us met at the Convent on 27th July and we had a special guest, Sr Wendy OLSH, who works in Southern Sudan, and Sr Mary Batchelor once worked there with her. The theme of the day was the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on 20th July 1969. We recounted the great faith of these three men and their desire for peace for all mankind. Pope Paul VI was able to give them a special blessing on landing on the moon. All the world was united at that moment. We then went on to talk about what other things are "awesome" in our lives. These included childbirth, nature, science and modern medicine. Father Chevalier found that what took his breath away was God's unfathomable love, especially the wonder of Jesus - God made man. We concluded that we should focus more on the positive, awesome happenings in the world.

Patricia Mirabile

20 of us met on 30th August at the Convent and Sr Liz Taylor talked to us about the origins on the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Father Chevalier met Marie Louise Hartzler when her two sons entered the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Her husband had died some years before and Marie Louise was interested in the new Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart that Father Chevalier had commenced. He soon found that Marie Louise was a woman of deep faith and love. He asked her to lead the newly found Congregation and she soon proved herself to be an inspiring and capable leader. She claimed that all she knew was “how to make a home” and she did this with great love, uniting the Sisters in community and being especially helpful to those in the missions with her regular letters of advice, encouragement and motherly concern. She is a wonderful example for all of us.

Patricia Mirabile

14 Associates met at the Convent on 26th October for our annual retreat. Sr Dain Inglis led us in a reflection entitled “*Gold in the Dust: Seeking and Finding God in the Ordinary*”. We realized that most of our lives are fairly ordinary. Most of the Church year is Ordinary Time and a large part of Jesus’ life was ordinary. These are the times when we must slow down and allow our souls to be nourished and built up as did Jesus. Then we have more spiritual strength to face the extraordinary or challenging times in our lives. We will also be better able to celebrate the highlights in our Church year – e.g. Christmas and Easter. We looked at some lovely images showing ways that we can make more time for God to help us be better disciples of the Heart of Jesus. We then spent some quiet “ordinary” time in reflection and adoration.

Patricia

Mirabile

Canberra: With the weather here in Canberra being bitterly cold and the fog not lifting until late in the day there were only five of us at our August meeting – sickness also kept some away. We continued reading from the *Encounter of Hearts* reflection for the feast of the Sacred Heart. “Vocation is an invitation “brought forth discussion from all and from different points of view. We could all see that God sees more in us than we see in ourselves, and we decided that we would try to move outside our own comfort zone more and be God’s hands and ears and listen more closely to what He is calling us to do – to be the Heart to Christ to all we meet.

At our September meeting Catherine Bird gave a meditation on *The Magnificat*. It was lovely to be reminded of how beautiful Mary’s Song really is and how we, as Associates, can live our lives with Mary through this prayer. Catherine had a few questions at the end which led to much discussion: Do you trust enough to leave things to God? Do you think that you are doing what God has called you to do? How do we serve others as an Associate?

Christine Casey

Corinda: Our 15th September meeting was held at the Convent with 14 Associates and 1 “first-timer” in attendance. With Sr Rita Clancy leading us, we considered the article, “*Ministering is at the Heart of Christianity*” by Mary Thorne, which was included in the last *Ametur*. (We did this in union with the members of the Chevalier Family who gathered at Douglas Park on that weekend). Each section was discussed, and we were generally in whole-hearted agreement with the views put forward by the author. We also focused on our own experiences of, and the importance of ministry (in all its forms) within the Church. As a group we agreed that respect for the unique role of the priest should be paramount, but the laity can and should be involved in so many aspects of church life. One ministry which we felt was most important was the warm greeting of people coming to our churches and so building up a sense of community. Finally, we considered why we continue coming to Mass ourselves when there is a visible decline in attendance generally. Ways of giving witness to our own deep reverence for the Eucharist were also discussed. As it was the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, we then spent prayerful time before the Blessed Sacrament focused on the *Stabat Mater*. Our next meeting on December 1st will be our Christmas Break Up at Shirley O’Leary’s home as has been the custom for many years. (The year gone so fast!)

Mary McMahon

Darwin: The Darwin Associates are enjoying their new meeting place – the MSC residence at Nightcliff, affectionately known as “The Ranch”. We are welcomed there each month by Br Ted Merritt. Fr Peter Hendriks kindly celebrates Mass for us each month. We were very happy to see Sr Tess Ward, the OLSH Provincial, when she visited Darwin recently. We were saddened by the death of one of our Associates, and dear friend, Barbara Gabel. May her dear soul rest in peace.

Anne Davey.

Hartzer Park: We met on 18th August and our reflection was inspired by *The Four Movements of a Spirituality of the Heart* as presented in the last *Ametur*, with the additional of a related hymn and responsorial prayers. Our On-Going Formation is planned so as to incorporate both Section 30 and Section 31 (*Part 4 – Living a Spirituality of the Heart in Daily Life*) spread over both the August and September meetings relating to both Pope Francis’ letter, *Amoris Laetitia*, and our experiences of living mercy, love and compassion in daily life as “Church”.

Jan Clark

Our 15th September meeting was on a lovely spring morning. After 8 am Mass and sharing tea and toast with the Sisters we went to the Prayer room which was filled with sunshine and daffodils. We had a very special reflection prepared by Wendy and Julie. Part of it was based on the story of “*Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*”. We began with the song, “*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*”, during which time each of us chose from the Prayer Table a beautiful little paper crane made by Wendy. May we all remember for our world today, the words on the statue, in honour of Sadako from her school friends in the Hiroshima Peach Park: “*This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world.*”

We then continued with our On-Going Formation Program from Sections 30 and 31, sharing together what is written there especially about mercy and compassion in relation to Pope Francis’ words and in our daily lives. Then we said together, as we always do at the end of our meetings, the lovely Memorare. **Julie Sadlier.**

Kilburn: The meeting was held on Saturday 19th October at the Convent. We examined some highlights from the recent Provincial Chapter of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, with special reference to what concerned the Associates and other members of the Lay Chevalier Family. Since the following Monday was the Anniversary of Father Chevalier’s death, 112 years, our prayer and prayer space centered on him. Our next meeting will be on 16th November and it will be our Annual Retreat Morning commencing with 9am mass in the parish church.

Sr Patricia Smith

Notre Dame: We met at Kensington Convent on 11th August and since it was only days since St Mary MacKillop’s feast on 8th, Sr Ancilla led us in a prayerful reflection on the many similarities between Fr Chevalier and St Mary MacKillop. They had many beautiful spiritual gifts in common. We reflected on the humble beginnings of the two Congregations – Mary’s in a disused stable and Jules’ in a tumbledown barn disguised as a chapel. The Cross is something that played a large part in their lives. Mary wrote that “... the little crosses are harder to bear than the thumping big ones!” Jules experienced the Cross in his life in so many forms – he accepted them lovingly and found his inspiration in the pierced Heart of Jesus. They both accepted and embraced the Will of God and had a strong devotion to St Joseph. Mary placed her new religious family under his protection and Jules told his men to go to St Joseph with confidence. We are truly blessed to have these two wise and holy people for example and inspiration in our lives.

We then shared a reflection on the Gospel for 19th Sunday beautifully prepared by Judith. The Gospel is telling us to be alert and watchful. While the message may seem more appropriate to the Advent season, it is positioned in the middle of Luke’s gospel and halfway through Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem, thus reminding us to be alert so that we may recognize the Lord when He comes. His arrival will be as unexpected as a night thief. The Eucharist is the sacrament of vigilant hope that nourishes and strengthens us for service to the poor and marginalized, which is what we will be judged on when He comes – when I was hungry you gave

me to eat etc. On page 8 of the last *Ametur* there is a list of ordinary ways in which we can show Jesus to others. They are not mammoth actions, but ordinary things done in love. We can examine our own lives and see the small things that we often do to show the love of God to others. We can also see where we fail in these small everyday actions.

Maureen Maher

Our October reflection centred on praying for the Homeless. What can I do for the Homeless one might ask? Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live? Why are they homeless? We must remember that we will be judged on "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers you do to Me."

We pray: Lord God, You who so mysteriously call upon us to share in the sufferings of Christ, fill our hearts with compassion for those who lack the warmth of a home."

Judith then led us in our meditation and discussion for the 29th Sunday – the Ten Lepers. The theme of the Gospel is gratitude. We should put as much emphasis on gratitude as we do on petition. As one, the ten lepers call out for Jesus' mercy. He does not touch them, or raise his eyes to heaven, or pray over them. He gives them an instruction to go to the Jewish priest, and, as they leave they are healed. The only one to return and give thanks is a Samaritan, the race hated by the Jews! The Samaritan was the only one open to receive the salvation of Jesus even though His compassion was given to the ten. The healed one saw in Jesus the power and presence of God and threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him. We, as disciples of Jesus, need to learn how to "see" and be moved with the compassion of Jesus and the gratitude of the Samaritan. After a lively discussion we said our closing prayer and had afternoon tea with the Sisters. **Maureen Maher**

Randwick: Our August meeting took place at Ventnor in the parish complex and it was lovely to meet up with each other and Sr Terie in our common spirituality and friendship. During the meeting we read from the On-Going Formation Section from the *Ametur*, Spirituality of the Heart, concentrating on this "... as a source of inspiration for our daily life". This resulted in a moving and comforting introspection into whatever our individual lives lead us in relationships with others, and the presence of God in our hearts. Our Prayer Session, led by Sr Terie, began with the hymn, "*Be Still and Know that I am God*". This was followed by a reflection from Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia*, another reflection by Michael Morewood, and then the lovely hymn, "*You Are the Centre*". A wonderful prayer time and much appreciated.

Margaret Krijnen

The highlight of our September meeting was the presence of Sr Helen Warman who is on leave from PNG and graciously came to our meeting to speak of her experiences there during the past 50 years. She went there as a young Sister, and her great affection for the country and its people was obvious. Helen is a very entertaining and effective speaker and her presence and talk were greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks, Sister, and also to Sr Terie for organizing the visit.

Margaret Krijnen

At our October meeting reports were given on the Associate presence at the OLSH Provincial Chapter at the Holiday Inn, Mascot in late September. This was a most impressive experience with a number of inspirational speakers, Associates and Partners in Mission, co-workers with the Sisters, who spent some hours with the Sisters, sharing their experiences of being members of the Chevalier Family. We were very grateful for the opportunity to attend and to enjoy the special hospitality and company of the Sisters and fellow Associates. A report was also presented of the Reflection Weekend at Hartzler Park given by Sr Dain Inglis with the theme "*Each morning He wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.*" This was greatly appreciated.

Sr Terie, as is always the case, led us in a spiritual session and time of quiet reflection, which is a special time for us always. Thank you, Sister, and for commemorating the Anniversary of the Death of Father Chevalier with us.

Our final meeting for the year will be in November as our Christmas Get Together. It will be held at the Kensington Covent on Saturday 14th December, 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm.

Margaret Krijnen

Roselands: Our group was very small today when we met at Anna Tomc's home in September. We began with our Meeting Prayer and then reflected on our lives and the experiences that each of us had had in relating to God and others. We were grateful for the friendships that have come our way and for the gift of faith in our Loving God.

Myna dela Pena

At our October meeting we were very happy to welcome two new members, Lily and Maria. Our reflection time centred on *Homelessness*. as it was the International day for Homelessness during the previous week. Some of our members were refugees and they shared with us their stories of hardship and fear when arriving in Australia with no English and no idea of where they would be living. Sr Ancilla then shared with us the happenings of the weekend at Douglas Park, *Bringing the Family Together*. We concluded with our Final Prayer than enjoyed afternoon tea together, grateful, as always for Anna's warm hospitality. We look forward to our next meeting in November.

Sr Ancilla

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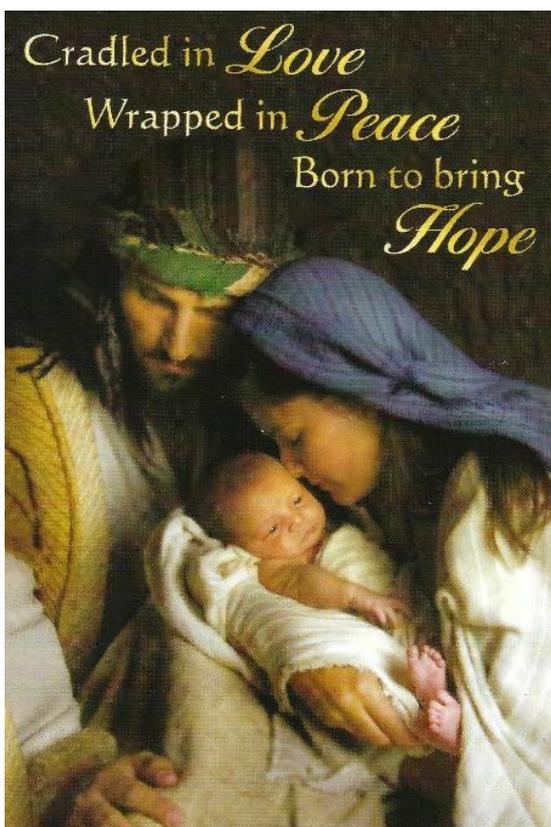
Some Thoughts for Christmas

As this will be the last Ametur for 2019 we want to wish each one of you God's loveliest blessings for Christmas. May it be a time of deep peace and joy for you and your loved ones, and for all those of our sisters and brothers who suffer in any way. Thank you for your friendship and prayerful support and for your financial support during the year, for faithfully letting us know of your group's doings through the meeting Reports, which we read with great interest and which are always a source of inspiration. The following may bring you some cause for reflection over the next weeks.

United in the Love of Jesus' dear Heart and with Mary

The OLSH Associates' leadership team

Sisters Claudette, Therese and Ancilla, Jan Clare, Ellen Mary Loman, Therese Poulton.



Keeping Christmas

Henry Van Dyke

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day,
and that is, *keeping Christmas*.

Are you willing...

to forget what you have done for other people,
and to remember what other people have done for you;

to ignore what the world owes you,
and to think what you owe the world;

to put your rights in the background,
and your duties in the middle distance,
and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground;

to see that men and women are just as real as you are,
and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy;

to own up to the fact that probably the only good reason
for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life,
but what you are going to give to life;

to close your book of complaints against the management
of the universe, and look around you for a place where
you can sow a few seeds of happiness—

Are you willing to do these things even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider
the needs and desires of little children;

to remember the weakness and loneliness of people growing old;

to stop asking how much your friends love you,
and ask yourself whether you love them enough;

to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts;

to try to understand what those who live in the same home with you
really want, without waiting for them to tell you;

to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke,
and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;

to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings . . .

Are you willing to do these things, even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—
stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—
and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago
is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

Six Days of the Week, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1924 and 1952.

For Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Marina O'Donnell (Kensington)
Sr Julia Guinebertiere (Issoudun)
Sr M Agatha Yabarmase (Indonesia)
Sr Juliardina (Brazil)



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Father John Rate

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart

Sr Jacquelyn Bender (Melbourne)

OLSH Associates

Phyllis Thompson (Randwick), Barbara Gabel (Darwin), Francey Kelliher (Randwick), Netty Veringa (Matraville), Dorothy Thomas (Mascot), Barbara Croyden (St Joseph's), Joan Yates (Bentleigh).

Loved Ones

Noreen Marks, Tony McKee, Eileen Rate, Desmond O'Hearn, Maureen Finney, Mary Smith, Tong Duggan, Sr Joan Brennan OSU, Fr Michael Sullivan, Caroline Thomson, Greg Baker, John Holmberg, Jeanne MacPherson, Paul Gallagher, Nan Glanfield, Valda Dodd, Jan Greaves, Phillip Large, Bill Wither, Victoria Salazar.

For Those in Need of Our Prayers

Ros Sexton, Thomas Cosgrove, Esme Elefante, Guy McBride, Barbara Walsh, Audrey Trehwella (aged 2), Frankie (aged 3), Kerry Davidson, Vonnie Meyer, Paul & Dean Camelotti, John Tomc, Liana Molina, Sr Joan Bird, Eileen Burwood, George and Bernice Brady, Bernadette Coffey, Anita Herley, Margaret Keen, Margaret & John Toye, Hazel Bailey, Katie Casey, Ailne Eyles, Helen Stark, Paul & Lesley Cheesman, Annette Barbette, Kate Bird, Claire Small, John Gabler, Kay McCarthy, Myrna Healy, C Leure, Helen Selinger, Annie Little, Kimi, Elenda Kotzue, Dalio Viscovi, Jelen Jeffe, Rayma Weaver, Ray O'Neill, Alex Bards, Diane & Monaliza Casco, Jonalyn Ulep, Freyce Biscarra, Charlette & Yolanda Aquino, John Ito, Kim Foo Seeto, Franco Di Vincenzo, Kiro Boya, Henry Harwood, Families in need of employment, Rain for our parched country,

THANKSGIVING

Safe arrival of baby Angus,
Successful surgery for Peter Butler who is progressing well.
Golden Jubilee of OLSH Church, Alice Springs
120th Anniversary of St Joseph's Primary School in Queenstown, Tasmania.