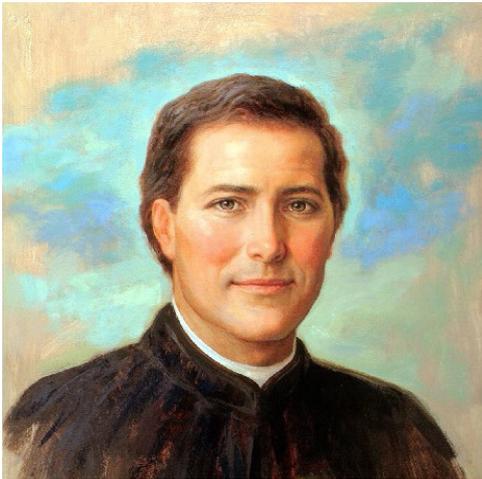




# *ENCOUNTER OF HEARTS*

Newsletter of Reports and Activities from lay members of the Chevalier Family across the world.



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## EDITORIAL

This first issue of the International Newsletter "Encounter of Hearts" is published in several languages. It demonstrates that Father Chevalier's dream about the worldwide spreading of the lay branch of his Spiritual Family is increasingly becoming a reality. For Father Chevalier, the involvement of lay people in the mission of the Society that he had in mind, was certainly as important as the participation of religious. After all, he considered the Devotion to the Sacred Heart to be the best cure for the evils of his time, in particular, the remedy for widespread religious indifference and social selfishness. The spiritual healing process had to take place, first of all, in family and public life, these being the particular domain of the laity.

In Chevalier's time, the many challenges the laity had to face in secular society, made it necessary to unite themselves. Chevalier pointed to, "the powerlessness of individuals when left to their own forces." He also worried about, "Christians, running the risk of seeing the torch of faith being darkened, or even dying out in the hearts of those who are dear to them." In particular, he encouraged Christian women, "to preserve the spirit of faith and religion in family and society." These were for Chevalier, reasons that urged people, living in secular society, to participate in what he called, "the movement of the Heart," and to join the communities that belonged to his Spiritual Family.

Today Pope Francis thinks along the same lines as Fr. Chevalier. In his letter "The Joy of the Gospel", he calls small communities and associations, "a source of enrichment for the Church, raised up by the Spirit to evangelize all areas. Frequently, they bring a new evangelizing fervor and a new capacity for dialogue with the world" (EG 29). And he underlines, "if something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life" (EG 49). Chevalier would have totally agreed with the Pope, who declares that, "the full meaning of human life that the Gospel proposes is the best remedy for the ills" of society (EG 75).

We are all sent to bear witness to our faith, through our way of life, and if possible, through words as well. You don't have to be expressly trained to do that, the Pope says, because you may follow the voices of your heart. So, in accordance with a Spirituality of the Heart, he states: "Your heart knows that life is not the same without Him. So, what you have come to realize, what helps you to live and gives you hope, is also what you have to communicate to others" (EG 121).

Hans Kwakman msc, Spiritual Counselor  
International Lay Council

# REFLECTION ON THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART

It is perhaps unusual to present this text to you on the occasion of the Feast of the Sacred Heart on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 2019.

But I do this because the words of Pope Francis below struck me very much, for they continue to seek out the original Jesus movement to which we are called within our Chevalier family.

**“Let's go out and offer the life of Jesus Christ to all of us. I repeat to the Church what I have often said to priests and lay people in Buenos Aires. I prefer a battered Church, bruised and dirty, because it has taken to the streets, rather than a Church that is sick, because it is locked in itself, attached to the comfort of its own certainties.” (From "Joy of the Gospel" - no. 49 - Pope Francis)**

The homily of one of my friends on the occasion of the fourth Easter Sunday, Vocation Sunday, touched me also deeply. I would like to share with you some of the thoughts that have come out of it. For at this feast of the Sacred Heart, it is an ideal time to reflect on the content of the vocation that each of us has received from God's heart.

I am convinced that God calls every person. First and foremost by creating him/her, but He also wants to entrust every person with a mission. There are plenty of tasks and missions, and we humans are challenged to answer the questions that God asks us.

Vocation is an invitation. We are free to answer what we want. God never wants to force. He can't do that. A compelling God is a contradiction in itself.

Vocation is actually the same as saying that God believes in human beings. He often sees more in us than we see in ourselves. It is as if He knows that, if we dare to believe in the love He has for us, we will become different people, that the best that is in us can come to the surface as a result.

AMETUR !

Blessed Holiday!

Rita Cleuren

Just think of the vocation of the first disciples by Jesus. There were so many scholars, and what does Jesus do: He calls fishermen. How can they get to work, what will they do about it, what references can they provide?

Vocation comes from outside. Vocation is fundamentally always about moving away from your own country. In a figurative sense, that is. By this I mean a leaving of your own plans, your own ideas that you will come across. A person must learn to let go of that. A person must first let go before something new can come. That is not straightforward. It is as if God is trying to lure us out of the safe tent of the ideas we create about a successful life. He can't offer us much, only his love.

Why does God in fact take so many risks of getting a negative answer or none at all? This has at least two reasons. If He is love, then He wants to make people happy and call upon people to be loved and to love others from there. He knows that this is a golden recipe for every human being. Another reason why God keeps calling, is that He can't do without mankind to exist in this world. That sounds strange, but it is true. As it is said that Jesus was the first missionary of God's heart, so are we all missionaries in His way, people who are being sent to others. The statement, that God has no other hands than ours, we have probably heard all too often, but the deep truth that lies in it remains entirely correct.



Therefore - as members of this large international Chevalier family – let us continue to support each other and let us have the courage to say YES time and again **to being called from God's heart.**

# News from the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

*May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere*

## National Councils

Congratulations to the following countries who have notified us of the development of National Councils and Guiding Principles following the Brazil Conference:

Netherlands

Australia

*The next International Gathering of the Laity of the Chevalier Family will be hosted by*

*Philippines*

*In Cebu in January 2023.*

## Meetings of the International Council 2019

Conference Calls:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019
- 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Face-to-face meetings:

- Issoudun 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- Rome 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December 2019

## MSC Justice & Peace, Integrity of Creation

[www.facebook.com/FDNSCJusticeandPeace](http://www.facebook.com/FDNSCJusticeandPeace)

Each First Friday for the Chevalier Family

A day of prayer and action.

*Thank you for financial contributions to the International Council.*

*Trigeneralate  
Australian OLSH Associates  
European Council  
Brazil  
Mexico  
Congo*

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## A COURSE FOR ACCOMPANYING LAY GROUPS IN THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

Since August 2016, lay members of the Chevalier family from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands have met during six weekends for a training program to support leaders of local lay groups. The weekends took place at the Catholic Training Centre "Wasserburg Rindern" in Kleve (Germany) and the program included the following topics:

- Person and charisma of Jules Chevalier and other people who were inspired by a Spirituality of the Heart, such as Mother Marie-Louise Hartzler, Hubert Linckens and Madeleine Delbrêl.
- How does the Gospel speak of the Heart of Jesus and how does Jesus speak of a Merciful God?
- Spirituality of the Heart as following the way of the heart in daily life.
- The mission of the Chevalier family in contemporary society.
- How to start and guide a group?

In two sessions texts by Madeleine Delbrêl and Jules Chevalier were presented and the participants were asked to choose a text that appealed to them and to tell each other why the chosen text was important to them.

The participants were also introduced to the "Pearls of Faith", where the beads of a small bracelet accompanied them in considering fundamental questions of life.

In another session, through a simple character typology, the participants became aware how much the image of God is determined by each person's own character traits.

They were also pointed out how important it is to have groups work with a purpose and an annual program. They discovered that a step-by-step approach can help to put together a good annual program. The prayer moments in the morning and the texts of the Eucharist were also taken care of by the participants.



Every weekend was taken care of by members of the formation team. They gave introductions and put the participants to work in small groups. The program-modules of the sixth final weekend were led by the participants of the preceding weekends themselves.

In a playful way, the participants were divided into small groups, with the task, among other things, of asking themselves what attracts people to participate in a lay group of the Chevalier Family and what does this mean for working with these groups.

Each part of the program was followed by an evaluation, in which the strengths and weaknesses were reviewed and the participants felt encouraged to be creative themselves as leaders of a group.

During these six weekends the participants experienced how the Spirituality of the Heart empowers people to connect with one another across borders, while giving direction to their own way of life, and to accompany groups in a creative way. For more information on these weekend programs, please contact Elisabeth Hartmann, [elisabeth.hartmann.bibliodrama@t-online.de](mailto:elisabeth.hartmann.bibliodrama@t-online.de) the coordinator of the weekends.

Hans Kwakman MSC, Tilburg, February 20, 2019.

CAMEROON

The Laity branch consists of 3 different Laity Groups: l’Amicale des Parents et Amis des MSC, Lecteurs des Annales and Fraternité NDSC (the Association of MSC Parents and Friends, the Readers of the Annals and the NDSC Fraternity). The latter is active in 5 areas: (Nkoldongo, Nlongkak, Messamendongo, Ndikiniméki and Bourha) and is subdivided into “NDSC Fraternity for the Young” and the “NDSC Fraternity for Adults”.



The three Groups organize their own activities and follow their own action plan, but are all part of a so-called National Laity Coordinating Team led by a Bureau (BURCOORD). MSC Father Jean Calvin MBARGA is the Chaplain; FNDSC Sister Nicole MAIPELE is their mentor/accompanist.

Mrs Alice Marie NGAH is the National Coordinator.

The Coordinating Bureau consists of both elected members and representatives of each Group in order to harmonize the organized activities.



SENEGAL

We, members of the Lay Branch of the Chevalier Family, are lay persons committed to our respective parishes. Throughout Senegal, beside our Fraternity in Dakar, other Fraternities have raised in other regions: Fatick (Foundiougne), Thiès (Gandigal); Kaolack.

In terms of formation, we regularly receive teachings. During our monthly meetings, we share on topical issues, based sometimes on the Annals of Issoudun, and also on themes linked to pastoral year, Pope’s writings and audiovisual media.

Each year, we organize two Fraternity Days. One, usually, takes place on the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception in December, and the other, usually, on the Day of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. During these Days, we usually say Mass of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Our gathering always comes to an end with Marian Prayer.

Other monthly gatherings take place every last Sunday of each month, in the afternoon, at Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart’s house.

The picture below was taken during one Fraternity Day when all Chevalier Family was invited in Dakar at MSC Fathers’ home.

AUSTRALIA

**Introducing the Australian OLSH Associates**

Our first five OLSH Associates made their commitment in the Kensington Chapel on 20 November 1977, the feast of Christ the King. In the space of a few years there were OLSH Associates in every state of Australia.

The OLSH Associates, like the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, were founded for a Spirituality and Charism rather than for a particular apostolate or ministry. The Associates are encouraged to live out their vocation, to be the Heart of Christ to the world in union with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in their own circumstances in life, in their day-to-day contacts with family, friends and chance passers-by. While they do not engage in any joint apostolate as Associates, they bring the love of the Heart of Jesus to the various ministries of which they are a part.



At present there are 508 OLSH Associates in Australia and there are 15 groups which meet regularly in the various states of the country. Those who meet in groups are formed together in the spirit of the Charism. Others living in distant places, unable to join a group are nourished in the Charism and Spirituality of the Heart through the regular Associates' Newsletter, Ametur.

Group Meetings include prayer, input, on-going formation, discussion and sharing, and often adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Annual Retreat days and weekends are offered to the Associates in the various States and are a valuable time for growing in knowledge and love of the Charism and Spirituality of the Heart as well as for meeting up with those from other Associate groups.

New members are usually attracted to the Associates through the experience of seeing the Charism in action in the lives of other Associates. They are invited into a group and after an extended period of formation make their Commitment when ready.



*Australian OLSH Associates at an Annual Retreat*

The OLSH Provincial witnesses this Commitment and presents the new Associate with a medal of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on which is inscribed "OLSH Associate".

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

Sr Ancilla White olsh  
April 2019

AUSTRALIA

**Development of the National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in Australia.**

Here in Australia there are many groups of lay people associated with the Chevalier charism. These include OLSH Associates and Lay MSC.

The work of the International Committee of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, which resulted in the gathering in Brazil in 2017, gave impetus to the development of National Councils of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in each country. At that meeting a set of “General Guiding Principles and Statutes of the Laity of the Chevalier Family” were approved.

On 4th March 2018 at a symposium of members of the Chevalier Family in Australia at St

Mary’s Towers it was proposed that a steering committee be set up to respond to the Guiding Principles.

Since that time a committee consisting of Fred Stubenrauch (Chair), Therese Poulton, Ellenmary Lomman, Jan Clark, Jenny Missen, Paul Compton, Paul Stinson and Aidan Johnson has met several times to develop a proposal for the development of our National Council. Since our original meeting we have been most fortunate that Peter Carroll MSC has joined us.

In our work we have been guided by the wisdom of Moya Hanlen

OLSH and Tim Brennan MSC who both are Canon lawyers.

Our plan is to have the National Council inaugurated at a gathering at St Mary’s Towers in September 2019.

We are in the process of calling for nominations and look forward to a wide response from lay people involved in the Chevalier charism.

We see this as an important development in the spread of Spirituality of the Heart in the world.

Fred Stubenrauch



FIJI

Our MSC Lay/Support Group was formed by Father Simon Mani MSC (former MSC Union Superior) in 2004.

There were eight members together with Father Simon. Although we were a very small group, we did a lot with the help of our friends, church members, parishioners, priests, and seminarians. We met once every fortnight to pray and reflect on the MSC Charism and get to know the MSC spirituality. As a group, we decided to have a specific mission for us. Hence with the MSC spirituality as the driving force, we decided to work for the poor, the sick and elderly in our society. We felt that in this way we would help people experience the

Compassionate Love of the Heart of Jesus. With the help of Fr Simon, we set up a fund to assist children from poor families to pay for their tuition fees, school uniforms, and stationery.

Some of our members have passed on, and one of our members has become a priest (Fr Kimi Vunivesilevu - ordained in 2017 for the MSC Australian Province).

In December 2018, we had our recollection at MSC Scholasticate and 15 people attended the recollection. The recollection focused on Fr Jules Chevalier, his vision and mission. This reignited in us the desire to continue

to accompany the MSC in spreading God’s love for all people.

We are also hoping to welcome new members in our group.

Some of our recent activities have been to assist the underprivileged families, visiting the retired nuns, visiting the sick and elderly, celebrating the birthdays of the underprivileged students at Chevalier Training Centre (many of these students never celebrated their birthdays), provide assistance to the underprivileged students at the Chevalier Hostel, and supporting any other activities organized by the MSC Community.

INDIA

MSC priests and sisters have been working for more than 35 years in Indian subcontinent, spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart. They are involved in Parish ministry, Social work, Education and Medical work to spread the Word of God. Currently MSC persists are managing 9 Parishes in India and working on mission worldwide along with fellow MSC priests. In India, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Bangalore, Karnataka is the mother Parish with more than 1000 families where the seeds MSC Laity was born.

The families were inspired by the MSC priests -their work in society and their simple way of life. Twelve families came together 8<sup>th</sup> of Dec - 2016 under the guidance of Fr. Charles Babu (Indian Union Superior) and Fr. John Peter (Lay Associate Director) and formed the first MSC Laity community in India. After a year of probation on MSC spirituality and mission, on the 08-Dec-2017, on the feast of Immaculate Conception which is the foundation day of Missionaries of Sacred Heart, the MSC Laity members professed their oath as MSC Laity in India.

The community is currently going through initial teething challenges and trying to pass the infancy stage. We meet monthly every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the premises of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church (OLSH), Bangalore. In the gatherings, we learned about the history of the MSC

congregation and spirituality. We also discuss about our involvement with MSC priests on their mission.



Mission: Along with our MSC congregation, we busy lay people always try to make God’s love and compassion visible and real; be it in our personal relationships, professional occupations or social engagements. We try especially to ease the burden and pay attention to the brothers and sisters of our society who are poor, marginalized and treated unjustly.

## Our defined activities

- Spreading the devotion of the Sacred Heart through family prayer services.
- Coordinating with MSC Priests in their mission and activities in India.
- Supporting the seminarians of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart towards their formation programs and extend support through material and financial means.



- Charity towards the poor in remote villages, especially the aged and those without financial support.
- Monthly gathering – prayer service to the devotion to the Sacred Heart, monthly planning, fellowship sharing.

Being a part of the MSC Laity for the past two years, we are happy and privileged to associate with the MSC Fathers and Sisters. Inspired by our founder Jules Chevalier's charism, we are growing more deeply and closely with the MSC Fathers and extend our presence and support in their mission. We are happy to see more and more families coming forward to join us in the MSC Laity.

With lots of love in Jesus Christ

Thomas P Saviour      Fr. John Peter  
President, MSC Laity    Spiritual Advisor, MSC Laity  
India                      India

Web Site: <https://www.laymscindia.com/landing>

Contact: 9972584505 (Thomas Saviour)

## INDONESIA

### Activities of "Team Ametur Indonesia" and the Laity of the Indonesian Chevalier Family

*Based on a report of Br. Mathias MSC, member of "Team Ametur Indonesia."*

Lay Chevalier Family Assembly in Merauke-Papua diocese (October 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

A Spirituality of the Heart seminar was recently held in Papua. The people worked hard to fund the event by saving money and collecting money from the sale of produces such as fish and sweet potatoes. It was a four-day gathering, each evening there was a cultural event and a bazaar selling the handicrafts produced by the participants.

600 people attended the seminar. Some travelled for more than 2 days by road and river. It was an impressive effort for many people to get to the seminar. In Merauke they were accommodated in the local orphanage. The participants were very serious during the sessions, listening carefully.

Fr. Hans Kwakman msc, spiritual counsellor of the International Lay Council, presented talks about the Charism of the Chevalier Family, our Image of God according to a Spirituality of the Heart and moral formation in family life.

The Indonesian Lay Chevalier family is a group movement and it is a pity that in Indonesia some regions are not yet familiar with this movement.



*Fr Kwakman in Indonesia*

"Team Ametur Indonesia" hopes that this movement will be supported by all Congregational Leaders of the Chevalier Family, spread across several regions, so that these Lay groups in the regions will grow in numbers. It is hoped that each region will have coordinators of the Chevalier lay groups, taken from the laity and from the Chevalier congregations, present in the region. These coordinators need some training to carry out this mission.

It has been Fr. Chevalier's clear intention that a 'Spirituality of the Heart' should be lived and spread by religious as well as lay people. According to Fr founder, lay people must be involved in spreading Spirituality of the Heart by becoming members of the Lay Chevalier family everywhere. Let us learn from ageing Provinces of the Chevalier Family that once were strong religious Provinces, but did not pay attention to forming lay members. Now they're having trouble spreading our Spirituality even further. If they had had strong lay groups, it would still be possible.

### More news from Indonesia

Recently, 14th march, 2019, in preparation of the ten year anniversary of "Team Ametur Indonesia", a meeting was organized by the Ametur Team with formatters of the Chevalier family, including formators of the Lay members Chevalier Family in Indonesia as well as of MSC, FDNSC, Sisters of Maria Mediatrix and Brothers of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, all belonging to the Indonesian Chevalier Family.

Also present were Leaders and members of the lay groups of the Chevalier Family in Central Java and Purworejo. Several diocesan and MSC priests and brothers as well as FDNSC sisters from Central Java were also attending. Altogether 30 people were present.

Fr. Budi Santoso, MSC presented the ten year journey of "Team Ametur Indonesia" together with the Lay Chevalier Family in Indonesia. He also showed a kaleidoscope of photos taken along the ten years journey. The Supporters of "Team Ametur Indonesia," who had organized "Dinner Parties" for fundraising also received an honorable mention. The lay leaders of the Chevalier Family in Central Java gave also some feedback.

"Team Ametur Indonesia" visited both the eastern and the western part of Indonesia,. Up to now, 500 people are officially registered as members of Lay Chevalier Family, while during the last ten years about 1,500 people participated in meetings organized by the Lay Chevalier Family.

Jakarta, April 10th, 2019



JAPAN

The MSC activities in Japan cover part of the Nagoya Diocese, an almost central region of Japan, including Aichi prefecture, the capital of which is Nagoya, located in between Tokyo and Osaka. The MSC is in charge of some of the parishes in the Nagoya Diocese – including Johokubashi, Gifu, Ogaki, Konan, Kagamigahara, Tsuruga



and Fukui. Initiated by Fr. Quirk, who passed away to our regret, in 1995 if I remember correctly, the MSC Lay Associates Japan began its activities with four groups organized in each of four of the parishes taken care of by the MSC – Johokubashi, Ogaki, Konan and Fukui. I am afraid I have no idea of what specific activities these groups have conducted as MSC lay associates. I am a member of the Fukui MSC Associates group, which, when initially organized in Fukui Church, used to comprise of quite a few of its parishioners, but now only a few of them. Notwithstanding this, however, we normally have a gathering once a month after Sunday Mass, which consists of a few prayers including the one for beatification of Father Chevalier, followed by reading and sharing of passages from the Gospel, over about one hour on the average for each such gathering. I hope that you will be able to get a glimpse of our activities, small in scale, but meaningful.

KOREA

In Korea, the LMSC is divided into MSC and Sisters of the MSC. But we live in one spirituality.

LMSC of the MSC are meeting in Seoul, Incheon, Busan, and Ansan city. Every month the groups meet for Eucharistic Adoration and Prayers, lectures and masses. On February 18th, 2019, we saw a documentary about the spirituality of the MSC and the life of Father Jules Chevalier (1824-1907) in France. LMSC (Sisters of the MSC) went on a pilgrimage with their final promisers in Korea from November 24th to 25th, 2018. We took a commemorative photo at Yeosan Cathedral.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Photos taken during a one-week seminar on the Spirituality of the Heart held at the MSC Center, Kopkop, Kavieng, New Ireland province.



## Philippines

The Chevalier Family Lay Associates in the Philippines started when Fr. Ben Roquero of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) and Sr. Nayda Macayana of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (DOLSH) in Cebu, gathered all the lay partners in their different field of ministry. They reviewed, discussed and shared their faith journey with the Fathers, Brothers and Sisters which was participated by lay men and women from the three major island groups of the Philippines, namely Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

From there, they appointed an ad-hoc leader in the person of Mr. Bonifacio “Boni” Dano from Surigao District. As time passes by, the Lay partners evolve and grow. It was during the First National Gathering held in Surigao that the name “Chevalier Family Lay Associates” (CFLA) was conceived and later was approved by the assembly. Mrs. Deborah “Debbie” Mellijor being the second elected National Coordinator up to the present, she leads in the overall animation of the Vision, Mission and Goals of CFLA along with the direction of Rev. Fr. Bernard Corpuz, MSC., the National Spiritual Director. Fr. Bernard is also the current parish priest of Nuestra Senora de Regla Parish National Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Philippines.

**NATIONAL CONGRESSES - Celebrating our connection and closeness**

Recorded as part of the history on April 8 – 10, 2002, the first National Congress was held at Sto. Nino de Cebu Parish, Mactan Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu. The theme “Joyfully Gathering and Rediscovering” challenged the CFLA members that on the first gathering, they would acquire a meaningful and joyful experience.

The second National Congress was well participated by old and new members alike as it was held at Chevalier School Angeles City, Pampanga on April 23 – 25, 2004. One of the highlights during the congress was the encouraging thought of the theme “To Remember, To Celebrate, To Renew”. It was truly an opportunity for the CFLA members to spend time for self-reflection to remember and to renew oneself.

The third National Congress was held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Marigondon, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu on April 21 – 23, 2006 and was a success. In fact, the theme which is “The Flame of God's Compassionate Heart: Loving and Uniting the Chevalier Family” significantly stirred up the hearts and minds of the CFLA members to be united and reach out to others in need.

It was a worthwhile and meaningful experience to all the CFLA members who participated the fourth National Congress at MSC Mission and Spirituality Center Canlanipa, Surigao City on April 17 – 20, 2008. Mainly because, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart celebrated its centenary anniversary of their presence in the Philippines with the theme “We have come to know and believe in the love of God for us.” Notably, all the Chevalier Family which includes the MSC Fathers, MSC Brother, MSC Sisters, DOLSH Sister and Lay Associates joyfully gathered together in love and unity in spite of its diversity.



Indeed, the fifth National Congress that was held at Central Luzon State University Munoz, Nueva Ecija last May 9 – 13, 2011 was a manifestation of God’s presence. The theme “Becoming the Heart of Christ on Earth” compelled the CFLA members to encounter God’s presence in the midst of the realities that are happening around us.



The sixth National Congress with a theme “Empowering Chevalier Family Lay Associates for Evangelization and Mission” was held at San Lorenzo Ruiz Pastoral Center Ampayon, Butuan City on April 4 – 7, 2013. This was well participated by more than 300 CLFA members as each district expanded its membership. One of the highlights of this congress was the input on Lay Empowerment wherein all CFLA members were challenged to establish a sustainable apostolate in each district.

The seventh National Congress that was held at Communication Foundation for Asia Sta. Mesa, Manila on April 23 – 27, 2015 was the latest Congress. A thought-provoking lecture on the theme “Collaboration and Partnership in Being and Doing Mission with the Poor” was done by Rev. Fr. Diomedes Burgos, MSC. The CFLA members actively participated during the seminar and workshop. It was undeniably a fruitful event.

Currently, the Chevalier Family Lay Associates have an estimate of 400 members spread across the three major islands in the Philippines. We have 105 Associates in Luzon, 84 in the Visayas and 204 in Mindanao.

#### VISION

We, the Chevalier Family Lay Associates, inspired by the charism and spirituality of our founder, Fr. Jules Chevalier, is rooted in the integrity of life and creation.

#### MISSION

In order to achieve our vision, we commit ourselves to:

- Live the spirituality of the Heart of Jesus;
- Advocate in the nurturance and defense of mother earth;
- Strengthen our families and the Basic Ecclesial Community;
- Be in solidarity with the poor and other sectors in their struggle for life, peace and justice;
- Participate actively in the formation of a culture that promotes life and social transformation.

#### GOALS

- To strengthen the existing organizational structure and deepen our relationship in serving one another.
- To regularize on – going formation and follow – up members
- To promote the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
- To have a continuous awareness and education on waste management. Example: 3 R’s – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- To live and deepen the spirit of BEC in the family and community.
- To be sensitive in the signs of times especially on ecology, justice and peace
- To tap and develop the potentials and gifts of the members.
- To work and coordinate with other church and civic groups in spreading the love of God

#### CFLA ACTIVITIES AND APOSTOLATE

In spite of the diverse culture of each district whose locations are separated by seas, what makes CFLA united and dynamic are the following activities and apostolate which include:



- ✓ Monthly meetings, reflection and sharing of faith experiences
- ✓ Annual celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart that fall on every last Sunday of May
- ✓ Celebration of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Commitment of New CFLA members after complying all the requirements and series of formation



- ✓ Annual Recollection in preparation for the annual renewal of commitment



Annual Renewal of Commitment within the Eucharistic Celebration together with the parishioners at Nuestra Senora de Regla Parish National Shrine



- ✓ Formation of aspirants

Topics include:

- *Spirituality of the Heart*
- *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*
- *Life of Fr. Jules Chevalier*
- *What is CFLA?*

- ✓ Mass sponsorships
- ✓ Celebrate the death anniversary of Fr. Jules Chevalier on October 21 with a holy mass, visitation of the sick at Lapu-lapu District hospital, distribution of food stuffs to patients and anointing with our MSC fathers.
- ✓ Visitation to the dying destitutes, Gasa sa Gugma, house for the elderly in Cebu City
- ✓ Bought food stuffs and diapers and donate cash, our way of expressing our compassion to the helpless elderly
- ✓ Advent recollection every first Saturday of December, to nourish our spirituality and reflected our life as CFLA.
- ✓ Medical mission
- ✓ Education drive to the women in the red-light district in Angeles City
- ✓ Tutorials for out-of-school children
- ✓ Tree planting in Bataan
- ✓ Christmas Fellowship and Gathering

## EMPOWERMENT IN THE DISTRICT LEVEL

It was unanimously decided during the Seventh National Congress held at Communication Foundation for Asia (CFA) in Manila held last April 23-26, 2015, that a gathering will be made to empower and strengthen the District Level. The tri congregations, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Provincial Superior, the Superior of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the MSC Sisters evaluated our activities. A gathering will be made in the District Level annually while in the National Level, it will be within four (4) years.

The following are the agreed ways of strengthening CFLA in the different districts:

- \* Dialogue
- \* Stable apostolate
- \* Good funding
- \* Annual Assembly (evaluation and planning)
- \* Faithful to monthly meeting
- \* Invite new members
- \* Initial and on-going formation
- \* Vocation campaign to religious life

The journey of the lay associates of the Chevalier Family is always highlighted with an initial and on-going formation program, monthly meetings, celebration of the feast days, annual district gathering and national congress. The gatherings prove to be very effective in articulating the role of the members thus strengthening the spirituality and at the same time enhanced the camaraderie and cemented friendship among each other.

As Chevalier Family Lay Associates, we realized the deep devotion of our founder, Fr. Jules Chevalier to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, as his children, we should also have this deep devotion to our Mother.

Mother Mary is fully committed to the Lord in her response of "Yes". She listens with her heart and we believe because of her, nothing is impossible with God. Mary welcomes the Spirit into her life to lead and guide her onwards. We fervently pray that her "Yes" lives on in each and every one of us.

## SURMOUNTED CHALLENGES

One district in the far north of Luzon after sometime was quite inactive. After taking all the necessary steps to revive the active participation of the CFLA, when God intervenes, He manifests His graciousness through our sincere collective efforts.

Moreover, the positive influence of Rev. Fr. Diomedes Burgos, MSC, paved the way for the CFLA members to elect somebody to occupy the seat of the district coordinator and the sets of officers.

## PROJECTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING YEARS

Our focus now is to intensify the district advocacies.

Surigao:

- ✓ Promotion of integrity of creation

Agusan:

- ✓ Bokashi technology

Manila:

- ✓ Urban poor tie up with MSC center for the poor and indigenous in Bataan

Cebu:

- ✓ Care and education of street children

## ENDING

We lay people have been at the forefront of evangelization. We need to be passionate about the Lord, to give up in order to serve Him and His church. Passion of course is good as long as it does not remain personal. Passion must flow out into the community so that it can expend its energy in creative service for all.

Let us be passionate in our love for the Lord and allow this passion to flow into service. We are never a Christian for ourselves alone, for our family, not even for the Church. We are a Christian for the World. We are sent to build communities and to make the world a community fostering communion, participation, and mission imparted to us in the life and teachings of Fr. Jules Chevalier. We are called to live the spirituality, charism, and mission we have personally chosen as our way of life.

We pray for the success of our Eighth National Congress which is expected to happen on May 16-19, 2019 in Cebu City. Blessings for a renewed vigor in our lay apostolate as we make flesh our faith in continuing our mission in our respective parishes and communities in our district. We entrust our meritorious efforts to the loving inspiration and maternal care to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and paternal care of her chaste spouse, St. Joseph.

"MAY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS BE LOVED EVERYWHERE, NOW AND FOREVER!"

VIETNAM

Young Lay MSC

Our first Lay MSC group was gathered in 2008, called G7. At the moment, we have four different groups of Lay MSC with their own gathering and activity:

Young Lay MSC, including young people, they are students and those working, named Damien group. The number of members is about 15 persons. They are from different provinces, some living in Saigon, some studying or working in Saigon. They have a yearly program planned by the core group. They gather monthly with some activities such as:

- first gathering was in Oct 2009, with about ten young people. Aug 2013, 18 of them took first public commitment on 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MSC in Viet Nam. Aug 2015, some of them repeated their public commitment. At the moment, many of them have their own family, some go back to their provinces. Thus, they do not gather as often as before in Saigon. Most of the members now are new comers. Two of our MSC scholastics are working with them.
- topic sharing (relating to MSC, life of the youth, etc), followed by Eucharistic celebration, mixture of reflection and fun, sometimes having meal together,
- celebrating some special events (feast of saint Damien patron of the group, Christmas),
- retreats twice a year on Lent and Advent,
- doing work of charity (apostolic excursion) twice a year,
- vacation out of the city to enhance group's bondage,
- occasionally saying rosary in small groups in different areas,
- gathering with other MSCs from time to time, called Big Day with the presence of all MSC family's members,

- attending some special celebration of MSC as profession, ordination, ...

Lay MSC group of 7 ladies living marriage life (called G7), Thoi is working with this group:

- first official gathering was in 2008. Nov 5, 2010, they made first public commitment. Then on 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MSC in Viet Nam 2013, they repeated their public commitment.
- gathering every first Friday monthly with Eucharistic celebration, sharing about MSC charism and Spirituality,
- doing charitable work (apostolic excursion) twice a year during Lent and Advent,
- attending some special celebration of MSC as profession, ordination,
- gathering with the Damien group and other MSCs from time to time.
- Lay MSC of young people and ex-MSCLiving marriage life, about five couples. In fact, this group recently is separated from the Damien group in 2016 because of different dynamics. They gather every two months in each family house, sharing topics related to family life and having meal together. Actually this group is very recent, thus they are working on their own yearly program.
- Lay MSC group of some MSC' parents in Bao Loc Province far away from Saigon about 200 km, first gathering in 2016. There are about ten of them. Their activity is somehow the same with the group of young people and ex-MSCLiving marriage life.

Each group is accompanied by one particular MSC. They do not have a special day to gather all Lay MSC groups. Yet they are about to discuss this to have some occasions of gathering all lay groups with some activities. We do not have a formation yet. We have recently started to use the online-course materials for all Lay MSC groups. This is like a frame-work shared differently in each group according to their own dynamics. We do not have a logo yet.

BELGIUM



Here we are...a group of ordinary people (adults, youngsters and children) who share a heart for their fellow men based on the conviction that “Love with an open heart” can bring warmth in society. Each and every one of us tries to be active in its own working and living environment.

MSC Flanders consists of two congregations (MSC and FDNSC) and of one lay movement. Three branches hanging on the same tree: The Jules Chevalier Family, named after our Founder.

But as time passes by, we realized that the MSC Lay

movement urgently needed a new name: An Open Heart Movement. A life built on the openness of the heart, that is what we need now! Being able and being allowed to feel a heartfelt and cordial spirituality, that is what makes our movement so special: people can be whoever they became, they can share things from their own lives, stop the time and reflect upon their worries and the things that are important to them ... Jesus is our main inspiration with a great openness to carefully and empathically listen to people who have another faith, to

celebrate our faith together, to take small steps towards our deepest core of life, with ups and downs ... a road towards the happiness of your soul.

Our movement offers a variety of activities to the different age groups. On the European and International level, we are closely connected to the entire Chevalier Family. Whoever you are, whatever you have experienced in life, we will be very happy to welcome your Open Heart!!

[www.openhartbeweging.be](http://www.openhartbeweging.be)

ENGLAND

Celebration of the Spirituality of the Heart October 2018 Ss Alban & Stephen, St Albans

Between 11th and 16th October, the Chevalier family in Ss Alban & Stephen, St Albans, aimed to raise awareness in the parish of the Spirituality of the Heart, the ethos of Fr Jules Chevalier, founder of the MSCs. As well as providing general information, this was an opportunity for more in depth reflection. This was a follow-up to our formation weekend in June.

To prepare the parish, a series of articles were published over five weeks in the parish weekly bulletin. The church was decorated with posters displaying quotes on God's love; an eight page information booklet titled 'Spirituality of the Heart – A guide to the ethos and principles of the MSC was produced. A simple pamphlet containing prayers to the Sacred Heart and 'Heart to Heart', the official MSC prayer book, were also made available.

The host Chevalier Family prepared for the event through an evening of prayer and reflection on Thursday which focussed on 'the Heart'. We have two groups in St Albans who meet regularly to pray and reflect on how to live out the Spirituality of the Heart in the world today.

On Friday 12 October, we welcomed Fr Charles Sweeney MSC, as our guest speaker, and Hannie Jansen from the Netherlands Chevalier family. After evening Mass, Fr Charles explored various types of Spirituality, how we encounter and experience the Love of God, the fundamentals of Spirituality of the Heart as lived out by MSCs both religious and lay.

Hannie opened the afternoon session reflecting on the 100th name of God. Fr Charles then invited us to reflect on our "Image of God" while considering traditional stereotyped versions (False Images of God: Distant God; Ideal God; Testing God; Fatalistic God;

Philosophical God; and Santa Claus God) and discussed their limitations. He concluded that the mysterious nature of God goes far beyond human thinking but the unconditional love perpetrated by the Sacred Heart was evident in all creation.

During the weekend Masses, the congregations were invited to write a personal prayer from their hearts which were then prayed over during the days of the celebration. The children's' liturgy group prepared chains of expressions of love. Displays and prayers remained in Church until after the feast day of Blessed Jules Chevalier on 21 October.



*Fr Charles continued our meditations on Sunday afternoon looking at 'Images of Ourselves and How God sees us'.*

On Monday morning, Hannie updated the lay Chevalier family on other European groups. One of our group plans to attend the next European council meeting in May, in Lyon, France.

Our evening focus was on South Africa and the missionary work of our priests there. This was highly relevant because of the long-term support of our parish for MSC charities in Tshwaranang and Bakhita village.

Eric Harber, a parishioner who is a South African citizen and lived through the Apartheid era, gave a fascinating context to the background and culture affecting the university, where he worked, and church activities. Fr Jimmy Stubbs MSC spoke enthusiastically about his experience of ministry of more than 20 years in SA and the challenges he encountered. A lively Q&A session ensued with all reliving key moments and regaling us with stories from their recent history.

To conclude our events, Mass with the theme 'Our love of neighbour should be tender-hearted and compassionate' was celebrated on Tuesday evening.

The talks and liturgies were meaningful, thought provoking and well attended with about 80–100 different people attending at least one event. Our

parishioners were very supportive, many praised the displays and quotes and the response to the 'prayer hearts' was tremendous with at least 300 prayers offered. The organising group were delighted with the reaction of parishioners to the whole celebration.



*Lay Members of the Chevalier Family in St Albans with Hannie (3rd from right) and Fr Charles (2nd from right).*

## FRANCE

Our Fraternity "Alain de Boismenu" consists in one group of five Lay members of the Chevalier Family based in Le Mas Rillier at Miribel (near Lyons in France).

Each Friday, a day focusing particularly on the Sacred Heart, we offer Eucharistic Adoration from 3:00PM to 5:30PM. We close with Vespers and Mass.

On the First Friday of each month, the Mass, said by the MSC who accompanies our group, will be celebrated for the sick. After Mass we have a meal together and a time of spiritual sharing on what makes our life.

We share on what we live out, on the formation online course, offered by Fr. Hans Kwakman, and on the Newsletter of the Chevalier Family issued quarterly in France and Switzerland.

These moments of review, sharing and formation help us in our daily life. We strive to live out day after day

the feelings of the Heart of Christ, being more loving, more peaceful, more welcoming towards one another, and we share both the fruits and the challenges we may encounter.



Jesus' command "Love one another as I have loved you" brings about its entire signification and enriches us through fraternal life.

GERMANY



*German participants at the Whitsun meeting in Kleve 2016*

There are two lay groups in Germany. In Duisburg/Dinslaken we have 20 women and in Pfaffrath a smaller group of three women came into being. The groups have monthly meetings and at least once a year they have contact together. Both groups are accompanied by MSC sisters. The lays are responsible for the organisation and the contents of the meetings.

The participants come from different cultural and denominational backgrounds and they meet in the social

centre St. Peter, which is situated in a multi-cultural part of Duisburg. In winter we meet in a community-centre along the Niederrhein. All members live in different towns and districts and are working there in the parish, in hospital, make home-visits, and are with their families and in their neighbourhood. Together we have taken up sponsorship for a children’s village in Haïti.

At our meetings there is intensive sharing and normally working with the Bible or discussions about/with texts and impulses that touch our spirituality.

Most participants practise contemplative prayer.

Sr. Stephani offers weekends to deepen the contemplation. Once a year we offer a spiritual week on an island; this is open to all, who are looking for spirituality.



ITALY

The Group of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was born in Oleggio (No), Italy, on December 7th 1993. The original nucleus composed of twelve people who began to pray invoking the Holy Spirit and became in a short time very numerous. Since that day we have been meeting on Tuesday evening, at the parish church of the SS. Peter and Paul in Oleggio to thank and praise our Lord.

The fraternity has Father Giuseppe Galliano msc as its spiritual assistant (he has been elected Italian Superior Provincial in January 2018).

In August 1995 the group received the pleasant visit of Father Emiliano Tardif msc who joyfully accepted the invitation to celebrate a Mass of intercession for sufferers in our parish.

Fr. Emiliano Tardif, on that occasion, envisioned that the small prayer group would become a large community, a reference point for many people in search of God. This really happened, so that we all have grown in number but also spiritually.



ITALY continued

In the autumn 1995 Father Giuseppe Galliano and our group began to celebrate once a month a Mass of evangelization and intercession for sufferers. These masses recalled many brothers and sisters even from distant areas.

In early 1996, our group became Fraternity Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our Laity looks at the mercy and graces that flow from the heart of Jesus, inviting everyone to incarnate the active love of Christ in the world.

It proposes to live the charismatic path and, at the same time, the spirituality of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who worked in the parish of Oleggio until end of August 2015.

In February 2017 we received the precious visit of His Eminence the Cardinal John Ribat, Bishop Rochus Tatamai, Fr. Ben Fleming and Fr. Anthony Arthur whose desire was a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Venerable Enrico Verjus that is situated inside our parish church.



Over the years, thirty communities throughout the whole of Italy have joined the Italian Fraternity. Moreover groups in Switzerland, Germany, Brazil and in the United States (California) are members of our Laity. Each group lives

*FRATERNITA' NOSTRA SIGNORA DEL SACRO CUORE DI GESU'  
Corso del Rinascimento, 23 ROMA*

moments of Prayer of Praise and Prayer of the Heart, the so-called two wings that make the plane fly, to which the Fraternity is compared, and which has as its central body in the broken Word of Jesus.

Every month, in the various Fraternities, Fr. Giuseppe Galliano celebrates the Eucharist of Evangelization with intercession for the sufferers and guides a meeting of the Prayer of the Heart.

Every year, the Seminar for the Effusion of the Holy Spirit is organized; this is a fifty days experiential course and aims to rediscover the gifts and charisms entrusted to the participants by the Lord. At the end of the course, they receive the Effusion Prayer which represents a new departure for a renewed life in the Holy Spirit.

The central moment of every year that unites the whole Fraternity is the spiritual retreat in La Thuile (AO), in August; this is an intense week of prayer and sharing with the brothers, an opportunity for spiritual and human growth for all of us.

Every year since 2017, on the occasion of the feast of Christ the King, a four-days retreat takes place in Paestum (SA) and in the month of March another one in Terrasini (Pa), mainly focused on the practice of the Prayer of the Heart.

Since 1997 the monthly "Oltre" has been printed and given for free. It contains catechesis, testimonies and information concerning the Fraternity that can also be found on the site [www.nostrasignoradelsacrocuore.it](http://www.nostrasignoradelsacrocuore.it) On our website you can find also all the recordings of the events broadcast live on Betanialive.it channel.

It is possible to follow live many events of our Fraternity through the Facebook page "Fraternità Nostra Signora del Sacro Cuore di Gesù Oleggio e Novara" (Fraternity Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oleggio and Novara).

NETHERLANDS



The Dutch laity of the Chevalier family consists of three groups, who meet regularly for prayer, reflection and bible reading. There is also a coordinating contact group (National Board)

Once a year we have our commitment celebration and once a year a national day for the Laity and others, who are interested and want to know more.

Contact with the MSC and FDNSC is excellent and we always can rely on their support, if necessary.

This picture was taken when we celebrated 25 years laity in NI. Therefore some guests from Germany and Belgium.

SLOVAKIA

Nitra and Bratislava

Slovak Community of Lay Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus commenced in Jarok as a very small local group on January 5th, 1996. Since then it has grown and expanded to Nitra and Bratislava. Nowadays we - the Lay Missionaries of the Chevalier Family count 17 members in Nitra and 10 in Bratislava.

Our mission and desire is to live the charism, spirituality and mission of the Chevalier Family in the world wherever we are, we live, work and act.



We stay in close connection with MSC Fathers and Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. We meet in prayer, adoration, meditation, share our joys and difficulties, help

each other spend free time during recreation and festivities, regularly second Sunday each month.



*Merle, Hannie & Rita - May 2018*

Together, reinforced in the spirit, we are able to do charity, support missions, visit old people, care for the sick, educate and look after the children, cure, write, read, evangelize, also support and protect families and nature. But also cook, sing, dance, lecture, do projects, gardening, translate, design, go on pilgrimages and trips to nature. Everyone does according to his or her abilities and talents. We are united in friendship and common effort to live the love of Jesus' Heart in the world:

So that we could become better and more loving people.

For the world to be a better place for everyone.

And so that the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere and forever.

## SPAIN

These two photos show our group of lay people and of some of their activities. They are from a few years ago and are not all the people who make up the LMSC community today. Both are from the annual retreat we always do from December 5 to 8, so that whoever wishes to do it or repeat their commitment to belong to the LMSC community. The place is the house of the MSC in Valladolid, in its community chapel and abroad, and they are representative of all the retreats we made there.

As to what concerns our current activities, they are the same as in the past :

- Prayer sharing every Thursday
- Retreat every three months
- "little market" in November/December. Funds are sent to missions in America, and, more recently, in Africa."



# REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD – NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

## BRAZIL

Brazilian Laity of the Chevalier Family are organized into four Provinces. Originally, groups were attached to following Religious Provinces: MSC Provinces of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Curitiba and FDNSC Province of Brazil. Today we have 35 lay groups in the Chevalier Family, Brazil.

Until 2007, each Province set up a program for their own formation. This changed in October 2007, during the Chevalier Family Assembly, when Fr. Rafael met with lay participants and they decided to reorganize, and in February 2008, all Provinces unified. By November, there was only one lay group representing all Provinces and this group sent participants to the International Gathering in the Dominican Republic. Following that gathering we set up a national structure and held our first National Assembly in 2014, with 120 lay participants, which was a success for such an immense country.

In 2017, we were given the honour of organizing the International Gathering which included participants from 20 countries. During this Meeting, we voted, for the first time in our history, to elect an International Committee and we approved a Logo and our first International Statutes.

The lay groups from the Province of Rio de Janeiro invited Seminarians from Vocations Missions to participate in their groups until the Seminary was transferred. This initiative resumed in 2016, and currently, is in its fourth year.

The Chevalier Family went on mission from January 13th to 20th in Juiz de Fora, at Minas Gerais. Paris San Pio X where we were welcomed with great love. In addition, we witnessed their readiness to love and serve.

We were sent to announce God's love in several homes. As we all know, wherever there is a home, there is a family. Family is a gift from God. Some willingly opened their doors, others, unfortunately, were more defiant or, just couldn't welcome us, because they were occupied with their home business. But what was most important was that we were bringing the message of God's love to these families, even to those who couldn't help us. We were men and women, young and old, some with physical limitations, but each of us wanted to go on, to never give up, to simply to listen to people and share our experiences.

Our mission didn't stop on January 20th, it is still living within our hearts. We need to share God's love in our own homes, in our work place, and in our schools. We need to keep on bringing the welcoming love we found in the Heart of Jesus. This is our Mission to all of us: we're hearing God's voice calling us and we will do it again in 2020 at São Geraldo-MG.

Through these experiences, Chevalier Family Lay members in Brazil are saying to God's people that it's worth it to make that "the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be loved everywhere forever."



# REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD – NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In Dominican Republic, the possibility on having lay groups started to be studied in 1975. In 1978, Fr. Dario Taveras started to accompany the members of a first group, consisting in persons he knew, who were associated to MSC apostolate in Nagua and Santiago.

On December 8, 1979, a first formal meeting of LMSC took place. On January 4, 1982, MSC Provincial Council approved the Group's Orientation and Formation Plan, accompanied by Frs. Dario Taveras and Juan Lambert. In May 1994, the Group became autonomous and set up its own internal structure. This paved the way towards the adoption of our First National Guidelines during our National Assembly.



Throughout the years, lay communities have developed, growing in the Spirituality of the Heart, in the various dioceses of our country. Today, we have 12 communities already settled and two in process. In September 2018, during our Annual Assembly, we celebrated 40th anniversary of the presence of Laity in Dominican Republic.

All along our way, as members of the Chevalier Family, we could always count on advices and facilitation from Missionaries of the Sacred-Heart and we are happy to belong to that large Family.

## ECUADOR

Lay Missionaries of the Sacred Heart aim at sharing Spirituality of the Heart by being witnesses and bringing God's merciful Love wherever they can be found.



The lay group of the Chevalier Family in Ecuador was born out of a Mission experience lived in 2012 when 20 lay members of the Chevalier Family from Curitiba came here.

Initially called LMSC, we were suggested by our International Council, in 2018, to name ourselves Lay of the Chevalier Family.

Lay in Ecuador, we meet once a month to study and share, and organize upcoming activities. We are also working together with our MSC priests in their communities, in vocation ministry, and whatever other mission they send us to.

Each year, in conjunction with Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, we organize the "Chevalier Week", a time for formation and celebration.

# REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD – NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

## GUATEMALA

At the end of 1998 Lenten Retreat, which took place in our Parish, Sr. Monika Grunwald, Leader of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and Fr. Federico Arbizu, MSC formator, invited us to start an MSC lay group.

The date of April 25 of that same year was decided, and Sr Monika and Fr. Fede, as we call them familiarly, became our coordinators. Around 35 persons participated in first meetings. Most of them were young adults, men and women. According to Fr. Joaquin Herrera, our parish priest at that time, this was the second time they tried to involve laity in the MSC family, but first trial was a flop.

In 2000, accompaniers and formators called for another lay group. This time, participants were couples. Both groups would be known as “Communities of Life” and would be identified by roman figure I and II.

In January 2018, Missionaries of the Sacred-Heart called a group of youth to form a third Lay group. This one is still in process, and will consist in around 10 members.

In January 2019, around 10 people replied positively to a new call, and started to form a new group, accompanied by the Formator of MSC Seminarians.



## MEXICO

Our Chevalier Family life’s project reads: may anyone interested in knowing the Sacred Heart and living out the Spirituality of the Heart discover how to serve and witness wherever they live and work.

Any baptized Christian wishing to share in the mission and spirituality may join Missionary Lay Groups.



Lay Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are married or single, young and adults, men and women. We aim at witnessing our Spirituality through our lifestyle in family, at work, at school...in our daily life.

We receive human and spiritual integral formation. Through our bonds with religious missionaries and all

members of the Chevalier Family, we deepen our knowledge and love of that Family which enables us to fully live out our Christian vocation.

We carry out various activities, such as Holy Week Mission, an experience we live each year in the communities of the Sierra and in any place where religious missionaries are present.

We are also involved in social work:

- visiting patients in Hospitals.
- visiting families in need, providing them with some food, accompanying them and sharing in their realities.
- visiting patients at home.
- various spiritual experiences, retreats, formation workshops, conviviality.
- Celebration of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Rosary.
- Sisters religious vows.
- Commitments renewal.
- We have been serving communities and mission for more than 20 years.

# REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD – NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

## NORTH AMERICA

In the photo below, the Laity and religious Priests, Sisters and Brothers were gathered for a Convocation of the Laity in 2015. It was held at Sacred Heart Villa in Centre Valley, Pennsylvania.

Our closing Mass was actually on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. There was representation from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey (Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart), West Virginia, Texas and California.



## PARAGUAY

Chevalier Family in Paraguay counts two groups for a total of 25 lay members: Group San Pio, and Group San Juan. The 19 members of Group San Pio gather in Selva, each Tuesday, from 6:30 to 8:00pm, together with MSC Seminarians, at the MSC Seminary, which is one block distant from our Parish. The six members of Group San Juan gather in their chapel, a little bit more distant from our Parish, each Saturday, from 8:30 to 9:30am. Both groups have always been accompanied by Fr. Jose Antonio Rafael, familiarly known as Fr. Rafa. We usually start our meetings in mid-February, and close our year in December 8, anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation.

Throughout the year, during our meetings, we discuss different topics of formation and spiritual exercises: Online Course, Spirituality of the Heart, Fr. Chevalier's life and spirituality, Liturgy, Bible, and also our national realities, among others. We always start with reading and meditating on next Sunday's Gospel.

Each year, we dedicate our first meeting in mid-February, to preparing our agenda, with activities and celebrations which have been entrusted to us along the year, and two funds raising activities, in order to cover for the expenses related to our annual spiritual retreat. We split activities among sub-groups for a better organization. We prepare celebrations in our Parish, for main events related to Chevalier Family: in May, Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; in June, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, when we renew our yearly commitment; in October, Fr. Founder's anniversary; in November, Day of Martyrs of Canet del Mar; in December, anniversary of the Congregation.



# REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD - NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

## PERU

In Peru, we thank the Lord for this opportunity to live out our faith in Jesús Christ's love, within such a Family, which strengthens bonds already existing between us. We bring God's merciful love to the world through witnessing our faith and our Spirituality of Jesus' Heart.

Following the International Gathering in Brazil, we held our first National Assembly in Peru to comply with newly approved Chevalier Family Guidelines and Principles. Through this meeting, we achieved our goal of unification of all the laity of the Chevalier Family at our national level. All local groups sent delegates to the National Assembly; San Pablo de Trujillo, Acarí, Comas, Corazón de Jesús (Heart of Jesús), AMETUR, Lobatón, Voceros del Señor (Voice of the Lord).

During the Assembly a new Council was elected for a two-year mandate, with Sr. Klara Sietman MSC and Fr. Dario Ircash MSC.

However, we realize that the commitment of laity, within and outside the Church, to radiate the presence of Jesus' Heart in the world of today, where evils are increasing, remains weak. Therefore we decided to set up a second spiritual formation session to help us reflect upon and deepen our Spirituality of the Heart. Indeed, it appeared that, after the first session organized by MSC Sisters, 50%

of the participants concretely committed to live out and witness Spirituality of the Heart in their groups, and wherever they live and work.

We are aware that "better formation grants better commitment and service towards our neighbors".



## VENEZUELA

The lay group of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, founded the 30th of May 30, 2004.

Sr Norma Santos spiritual advisor.



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