

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

Ametur

(May He be loved!)

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

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Dear Associates,

Another calendar year is almost over with all the joys, sorrows, triumphs, failures, hopes and despair that have woven their colours throughout its course. But then another year has already begun – our Church's Liturgical Year which began on December 2nd, the First Sunday in Advent. I recently read a beautiful article in which the author states:

"The church year is most meaningful, most formative, and most transformative when we embrace its seasons and their rhythms, allowing the life of Jesus to speak again and again into our own lives, seeking always to follow in the way Jesus leads us, year after year. ... Because each season has a special emphasis, I have opportunities to focus on specific areas of spiritual growth as I live out that season."
(Redeeming Time, Kimberlee Conway Ireton)

The special emphasis during Advent is a joyful and expectant "waiting". We know, all too well, that Advent can also be one of the busiest times of our year. So how could we make this season a time of growth in our spiritual lives? The author suggests that we might try "waiting" with patience and self-control in the midst of this busyness. In the pre-Christmas rush of this season we will have many opportunities to do this. Our "waiting" is also about hope as we look forward with trust that Jesus is coming even when our world seems to be in darkness. The Carmelite poet, Jessica Powers, expresses this so beautifully in "Advent":



*I live my Advent in the womb of Mary
And on one night when a great star swings free
From its high mooring and walks down the sky
To be the dot above the Christus i,
I shall be born of her by blessed grace.
I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place,
With hope's expectance of nativity.
I knew for long she carried me and fed me,
Guarded and loved me, though I could not see,
But only now, with inward jubilee,
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:
Someone is hidden in this dark with me.*

Can you sense that someone, Someone, is hidden with you in your dark times?
Can you wait, this Advent, in Mary-darkness, with faith that Jesus is always with you?

A little girl was standing in front of the crib one Christmas night. Her father heard her musing to herself, "I wonder if God enjoys being a baby?"

*"A trusting God risked placing a powerless baby in human hands
to reveal and 'earth' the essence of divine, vulnerable and unconditional love.
Astonishing thought this mystery is,
we still need sacramental moments to keep reminding us of it.
Otherwise, because we are congenitally forgetful of our destiny,
the miracle would grow dim and distant."*

(Daniel O'Leary, **Already Within**, the Columba Press Dublin, 2007, p135-136)



MARANATHA
COME, LORD, COME

The focus of the Christmas season is on the Incarnation of God in the person of Jesus – a mystery to be treasured in its absolute and overwhelming wonder. Each of us is caught up in this mystery through the Divine Indwelling, where our delighted and trusting God lives within us and calls us "Home". Jesus told us so: "*If you love me you will keep my words, and my Father will love you and we will make our home with you.*" (St John 14:23).

May your Advent preparation for and your Christmas celebration of the wonder of the Incarnation bring you and your loved ones blessings of joy, peace and family love. Thank you for your support, both spiritual and financial during 2018. It is much appreciated. Know that you are in the prayers of the Sisters and that you are an integral and much-loved part of our Chevalier Family.

United in the Loving Heart of Jesus with Mary

Sr. Ancilla White OLSH

MEETING REPORTS

ALICE SPRINGS: Our group met on 20th October and acknowledged father Chevalier's Anniversary of death by singing and then discussing Br James Maher's hymn, *Two Hearts of Love*. In November we will meet for our Christmas get-together and our final meeting for 2018. **Paula Thornton**

BENTLEIGH: 16 Associates met on 20th October at the Convent for our annual retreat day. Fr Paul Castley msc led us through the day. He spoke about progressing from Devotion to Spirituality of the Heart, a Spirituality which has three movements: acceptance of Jesus into our heart, presenting our heart to Jesus who then gives guidance through his Spirit and lifting our hearts to give hope to others. After this process we can be the Heart of Jesus to all we meet. Fr Paul encouraged us to listen to God often through other people, and to be aware that sometimes we should accept thanks from God. We then had some quiet time and then sharing time before celebrating Mass in the Chapel.

17 Associates met at the Convent on 24th November. Sr Elaine suggested that we revisit the story of Christmas. We looked at its simplicity and how important it is to have the gift of faith to fully appreciate the mystery of this event. We reflected on the Visitation and the importance of relationships and offering hospitality, to be turned away from the inn and being homeless. From the miracle of birth in a stable to the simplicity of humble shepherds being the first to see Jesus, the Word made flesh, the first Christmas was so humble and uncomplicated. Now hopefully we will enter the Advent season with a simpler and more generous attitude toward our family and friends as we look towards celebrating Jesus' birth. **Patricia Mirabile**

CALLALA: At our October meeting we farewelled long-time member, Mary Caruana and her husband, Tony, who have moved to the Penrith area to be closer to their families. Mary has such strong faith and we will miss her input at our meetings. The "Spring-time" Ametur gave us many topics for discussion. **Ann Collier**

CANBERRA: We met At St Matthew's, Page, on 3rd November and discussed from the Ametur "*The Prayer Tree*". All present liked the poems and gave our many thanks for the gifts given to each of us by Our Lord. Our thanks go to the Associates' Leadership Team for the reports in the *Ametur* on the

Number of Associates, the meaning of the word *Ametur*, the Formation etc. All this has helped us to realise that the group of people we are associated with comes from far and wide, in our wonderful country and overseas. It is so nice to be able to catch up with some of them at retreats during the year. We are all so grateful to have come into contact with the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred heart, especially here in Canberra.

Christine Casey

CORINDA: We met at the Convent on 21st October. We shared our reflections on the Plenary Council 2020. Sr Marilyn will put our thoughts together and will distribute to the members for reflection, consideration and prayer in preparation for our next meeting.

Mary McMahon

ENFIELD: What a privilege it was to have Sr Tess Ward, our Provincial, with us for our September meeting. Sr Tess led us in a reflection on St John 15:4-8 which concludes with the encouraging words, "*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.*"

We were then given a wonderful insight into the Literacy Program at Wadeye in Northern Territory. This has involved the writing of many books in the Murrinhpatha language, previously an oral language only. These are used in the primary school and have brought about an amazing improvement in literacy in the Aboriginal language and also in English. We were shown some of the books which were captivating and I, for one, wanted to return to primary school! Sr Tess has written many of the books and has also translated 200 Bible stories into Language. There are many other languages spoken in this area of the Northern Territory but for practical reasons one was chosen for the Literacy Program. What an amazing meeting we had!

We concluded with our usual lovely supper and a chat.

Margaret Baker

HARTZER PARK: For our last formal meeting for the year our reflection took the form of *Gratitude* inspired by Sr Ancilla's article in the *Ametur*. Further reflecting on our Formation session on the questions on page 13 brought forth lively discussion and comment. Most comments centred on Fr Chevalier's vision and foresight in the inclusion of the laity (and diocesan priests) in his vision for the order. All considered that the laity need to play an increasing role both in the Chevalier Family and the Church. As Fr Chevalier envisioned, the laity are the 'everyday' missionaries and evangelisers of Heart Spirituality and faith.

Jan Clark

KILBURN: At our October meeting on 29th we revisited the article, "*The Associates ... who are we?*" mostly for the benefit of our new members. We then spent some time pondering on "*A Reflective Moment*" from the July-September *Ametur* – extracts from *Evangelii Gaudium* n 10 and n 274.

Eight ladies attended the annual Retreat Morning on Saturday 17th November. After 9am mass at St Brigid's Parish Church and morning tea we had a short talk entitled, "God, so close, so intimate ... like each one's shadow that cannot separate itself from us". We then had an hour and a half prayer time before sharing lunch together ... a beautiful, prayerful morning which was enjoyed by all. This was our final meeting for the year.

Sr Patricia Smith

NOTRE DAME (KENSINGTON): We met at the Convent on 10th November. In our meditation for Remembrance Day we reflected on St John's Gospel 12:23-28, "*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies it yields a rich harvest.*" May the peace Jesus left us, the peace You gave us, be the peace that sustains us. We prayed that Our Lady of the Sacred heart would stand by and strengthen those who are called to share in the sorrows of the Heart of her Son, especially those victims of war.

We then reflected on the Gospel for the following Sunday, 32nd in Ordinary time. Judith's article on *The Three Generous Givers* from Sunday's readings: The Old testament widow of Zarephath, the new testament widow in the Temple and the most generous Giver of all, the Christ who sacrificed His life for us. Elijah and the widow minister to one another. She shares the poor meal she has and, in return, while they are sharing this meal Elijah gives her God's assuring word that she and her son will have enough oil and flour to survive the famine. In the Gospel Jesus sits "opposite the treasury", in the Women's Court of the Temple. Jesus listens with the ear of his Heart to the whisper of the two small coins dropped in by the poor widow. Both stories are examples to us of how to be generous, and also how to trust in the providence of God.

We then shared afternoon tea with the Sisters.

Maureen Maher



Prayers from Our Hearts

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Scholastica Rustantinah (Indonesia) Sr Angelica van der Klauw (Holland)
Sr Christine Aplang (PNG) Sr Marie-Sylvia Binot (Issoudun)

OLSH Associates

Patricia Minehan (Canberra), Ruth Kelly (Malabar) Nancy Hall, Amanda Nugent (Bentleigh)

Relatives and Friends

Sr Kathleen Conlan OLN, Joan Benbow, Bryen McMahon, Oswald Agius

We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

Peter Canavan, Charles Mirabile, Patricia Baxter, Sheila Sheehan, Barbara Bretherton, Noel Reid, Gabriella Padovan, Esme Elefante, John Toye, John Keen, Grace Corbitt, Maria Hribar, Nancy Pitman, Helen Selinger, Maureen Doherty, Meg McGrath, Valerie, Greg Baker, Rayma Weaver, Jena Clancy, Pamela Tipanan, Lynette Allan, Gemmabel Garcia, Dorothy Garcia, Emma Jensen, Fr Laurie Rufo, June K. the Unemployed, the Homeless, Relief from Drought, Sale of Homes.

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From the tri-Generalate in Rome

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

*"Let us choose one day each month to reflect and pray
with all the Chevalier Family on JPIC issues.*

This will help us to grow in solidarity and foster our commitment.

*In our communities the **First Friday** is already such a day,
perhaps it is the most suitable day to add this intention."*

This is a renewal of our invitation in the previous *Ametur* to join with the world-wide Chevalier Family on the First Friday of each month to reflect upon and pray for a Social Justice issue. You may choose one for yourself, or if you belong to an Associates' meeting group then maybe the group could choose one. In the Constitutions & Directory of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart we read:

*"We are attentive to emerging needs,
particularly those resulting from poverty, violence, oppression,
the degradation of the environment, and the dislocation of peoples.
We give special attention to the unjust treatment of women and children."* No 59

