

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



JUBILEE
OF MERCY

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Ametur

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

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Dear Associates,

A new year – and such a blest one! The Jubilee Year of Mercy. On December 8th 2015 Pope Francis initiated this special year by issuing what is called a Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Written in Latin its opening words are: "Misericordiae Vultus". Translated into English they mean:

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy.

Above you can see the official logo and motto for this year. It was designed by a Jesuit priest, Fr Marko Rupnik, and sums up beautifully the theological meaning of mercy. The Good Shepherd carrying wounded humanity on his shoulders is captured within an almond shape known as a *mandoria* – this shape was important in early and medieval iconography as it calls to mind the divinity and the humanity of Jesus Christ. The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization explains the logo as follows:

*"The logo has been designed in such a way
so as to express the profound way in which the
Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity
and does so with a love with the power to change one's life.
One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd,
in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man.
Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ.
Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam,
one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead,
contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father."*

For those who use a computer, you will find more information about the Year of Mercy at this Council's website: www.im.va/content/gdm/en/html/ There are many valuable and inspiring resources available to take us prayerfully and reflectively through this blest year of mercy. May I recommend the following book published just this year: "The Name of God is Mercy" published by Random House and available in large print. It is a record of conversations between Pope Francis and Vatican reporter, Andrea Torielli, which took place in July 2015. In it Pope Francis explains, using personal memories and anecdotes from his priestly experience, his reasons for proclaiming a Holy Year of Mercy. The book also contains the complete text of the Bull of Indiction, "Misericordiae Vultus". In the opening pages of the book Pope Francis says:

*"Yes, I believe that this is a time for mercy.
The Church is showing her maternal side, her motherly face to a humanity that is wounded.
She does not wait for the wounded to knock on her doors,
she looks for them on the streets, she gathers them in,
she embraces them, she takes care of them,
she makes them feel loved.
And so, as I said, and am ever more convinced of it,
this is a **kairós**, our era is a **kairós** of mercy, an opportune time" (Page 6,7).*

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

(The Greek word "*kairós*" refers to the opportune time, the best time, as distinct from "*chronos*", clock time, the seconds and minutes and hours and days in which we live out our lives.)

At the end of the conversations when Pope Francis was asked the following question: "What are the most important things that a believer should do during the Holy Year of Mercy?" he responded:

*"He should open up to the Mercy of God,
open up his heart and himself,
and allow Jesus to come toward him by approaching the confessional with faith.
And he should try and be merciful with others."* (Page 135).

As the holy season of Lent approaches let us take to heart the words of Pope Francis who challenges us in these words:

*"For all of us, then, the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year
is a favourable time to overcome our existential alienation by
listening to God's word and by practising the works of mercy.
In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters
who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited;
in the spiritual works of mercy –
counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer –
we touch more directly our own sinfulness.
The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated.
By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering,
sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need.
.....
This love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness and love
that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches.
.....
Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favourable a time for conversion!
We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who,
encountering the greatness of God's mercy freely bestowed upon her,
was the first to acknowledge her lowliness (cf. Lk 1:48)
and to call herself the Lord's humble servant (cf. Lk 1:38)."*

How do these words speak to your life, your heart? How can you be "Merciful like the Father"?
Could you find a special time each day to listen to/ read God's word and reflect on it?
How do you/could you practise the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in your life?

Finally may these words be a reality for each one of us:

*"I present, therefore, this Extraordinary Jubilee Year dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us. **In this Jubilee Year let us allow God to surprise us.**"* (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, No 25).
United in the Loving Heart of Jesus with Mary,

Sr Ancilla White olsh



Vale, Sr Thérèse Farrell fdnsc.

07.07.1927 – 14.01.2016

Many of you knew Sr Thérèse Farrell and will be saddened to hear of her death on Thursday 14th January. Sister suffered a massive stroke and died a few hours later. While we were all shocked at the suddenness of her passing we are comforted knowing that she went quickly and peacefully to her eternal reward. Sister was the National Director of the Associates from 1993 until 2004. May her dear soul rest in peace. We would like to share with you the Eulogy from her Requiem Mass written by Sr Moya Hanlen FDNSC.

Sr Thérèse Farrell FDNSC 07.07.1927– 14. 01.2016

***I know in whom I have believed, and I am confident
that he is able to safeguard until that Day
all that I have entrusted to him. (2 Tim. 1)***

These words of St Paul to Timothy captured for Sister Thérèse her conviction that despite the difficulties that form part of life, *"All is well, all manner of things are well"* (Julian of Norwich). Last Thursday morning, Thérèse's belief that her Lord would always be there with her and for her was realised when he gently took her to himself. She was in the eighty-ninth year of her age and the sixty-ninth of her religious profession.

Thérèse was born in Ipswich, Queensland, on 7 July 1927, the ninth of the ten children of James and Helene Farrell. (Helene was the sister of our late Sister M Aidan Kerwick). Her parents and eight of her siblings have predeceased her. To Thérèse's sisters, Rita and Phil, to her nieces, nephews, cousins, and their families, we offer our deepest sympathy and the support of our prayers. You know well her deep love for you, her pride and joy in you, and her gratitude to you.

The Farrell home was a happy one: theirs was a close-knit family. Thérèse's parents were strong Catholics and the practice of the faith was central to family life. She recalled that "Mass, Confession and Rosary (with trimmings) were daily or weekly occurrences". The "old" Memorare to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was a valued "trimming" on the Rosary and Thérèse later wrote, "I loved that prayer". Our Blessed Lady became an important part of Thérèse's life. Not that the family did not know suffering. The death of her brother, James, in 1933 of leukaemia at the age of eighteen years, was a great sorrow, particularly to Thérèse's parents. Also, like many families during World War II, the family had the anxiety of knowing that two of the boys, Bernard and Jack, serving in the Royal Australian Air Force faced constant danger. Thankfully, both returned home safely.

Thérèse's father, James, held a senior position in the meat industry and this resulted in the family moving to New South Wales during her early years. After a few years they returned to Queensland. In 1932 James accepted a position as General Manager of the Wyndham Meatworks and the family transferred to Perth in December of that year, and settled in the then developing suburb of Nedlands. The move to the West meant separation from the extended family in Queensland. Thérèse's appointment to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Corinda, Brisbane, for six years in the 1950's brought her the joy of renewing her acquaintance with her Queensland relatives and she maintained her contact with them until her death.

Thérèse received her early education from the Loreto Sisters in Nedlands. At the age of ten, due to her mother's illness following surgery, she and three of her sisters became boarders at St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. Study presented no difficulty to Thérèse: she was a gifted student. She regarded the Sisters of Mercy as excellent teachers and in later life commented that she modelled her own teaching on theirs. The Sisters of Mercy also had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and this together with her love for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and influence of her aunt, Sister M Aidan, led her to the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Thérèse entered the Congregation at Bowral on 4 July 1945, taking the name Sister M Canice.

Following her profession on 2 July 1947, she trained as a teacher at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Teacher Training College, Kensington, and in 1949 began her ministry in teaching, a ministry which spanned over thirty years. Thérèse taught in each of our Colleges. At a young age she was recognised for her creative and effective administrative skills and she served as Principal in our Colleges at Corinda, Enfield and Kensington.

In 1968 Thérèse interrupted her years in the schools and completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of New South Wales, majoring in English, French and Psychology, achieving a high distinction or distinction in each unit studied. She obtained a Diploma in Education from the University of New England in 1972.

Thérèse was a woman of broad interests and competence. She had a great love for languages – English, French, German and Latin - and enjoyed teaching them. Not a few students attribute to Thérèse their life-long love for English literature. It is not surprising that the works of William Shakespeare and the poems of Frost, Tennyson, Keats, Hopkins and T. S. Eliot, among others, retained their place of importance on her bookshelf. She also had a deep interest in history, particularly European History, and was able to make it come alive. In addition, Thérèse taught Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry to senior classes. Her own great love of learning and her breadth of approach meant that she was a brilliant educator: her lessons were meticulously prepared and interestingly presented. She had a genuine love and concern for her students as individuals and had no difficulty in taking time with less able students until they grasped the topic under consideration. Thérèse found education a richly rewarding apostolate. She rejoiced to watch her students mature and grow in their faith and in knowledge and move into their chosen careers. She kept in touch with many of them well after they had left school, sharing their achievements and their sorrows. In their turn, her pupils remember her with much affection and appreciation.

Vatican Council II (1962-1965) ushered in an era of great change in the Church and consequently in religious life. In 1977 our Congregational Leader asked Thérèse to go to Rome to work with another Australian sister, Sister M Regina Cawood, to revise our Constitutions or Rule of Life. This was a major undertaking. On arrival in Rome Thérèse spent the first year at the Pontifical University of St Thomas where she studied the Documents of Vatican II and the history and theology of religious life in depth before beginning the revision required. After writing an initial draft she travelled to various Provinces within Europe and beyond to consult the Sisters on the draft. While this was at times difficult, it carried the bonus of being able to see much of the world and particularly of Europe, which Thérèse revelled in: it was an enriching and thoroughly enjoyable experience. The revised Constitutions were approved by the Holy See in August 1983 and remained in place for thirty years. In accomplishing this work Thérèse's contribution to the life of the entire Congregation, not simply of the Australian Province, cannot be overestimated.

In 1993 Thérèse was appointed National Director of our OLSH Associates, a group of lay women and men who share our charism, spirituality and mission and who work to make the Heart of Jesus loved in their own circumstances, according to their particular vocation. In this role, as in all others she held, she worked with generosity and devotedness to support the Associates in their commitment and life-journey. She travelled all over Australia, visiting groups; she published the bi-monthly magazine, *Ametur*, to offer spiritual reflection and guidance. She found her work with the Associates very gratifying. Thérèse maintained an extensive correspondence, writing to numerous Associates, sharing their joys and sorrows, and offering spiritual counsel. Not that her correspondence was confined to the Associates: family, Sisters, former colleagues and former students have appreciated her interesting, newsy and beautifully written letters.

Over the years Thérèse served as Leader of our communities at Bentleigh, Randwick and Mascot. Whether as leader or as a member of the community, she was keen to participate fully in the life of the community. She was a loved and respected community member.

The above words speak of Thérèse's achievements and they were significant. But behind the achievements is a woman who cannot be captured in words. Thérèse had a simple yet deep spirituality: she was a woman of prayer. She was wise and was a respected mentor to many, a gifted woman who put

her gifts at the service of others with humility and magnanimity of heart. Thérèse appreciated beauty wherever she encountered it - in nature, music, language, and particularly in people.

She maintained a keen interest in life whether it be at the local level or on the international scene and was careful to keep informed. She was a dignified lady who aged gracefully, a faithful and much loved Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

We praise God for his many gifts to Sister Thérèse. We thank God and the Farrell family for their gift of her to our religious family. We honour you, Thérèse, and thank you, and we give you back to God, grateful and privileged that you have been our Sister and our friend. May your noble soul rest in peace.

Moya Hanlen FDNCS
OLSH Convent Chapel, Kensington
21 January 2016

ON-GOING FORMATION IN OUR CHARISM

During the past two years we have reflected on and shared our thoughts and prayers on Father Hans Kwakaman's book, *Jules Chevalier's Charism and the Identity of the Chevalier Family*. As a follow-on we would like to continue our study and reflection using an on-line program by Father Kwakman around the theme of a Spirituality of the Heart. You can find this program on the internet at www.olshgen.com/chevalier. As many are not able to access a computer we will print these sessions in the *Ametur* for personal and group sharing during the year. We are most grateful to Father Hans and the International Committee of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. The introduction to the program includes the following:

"A SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART in accordance with FR. JULES CHEVALIER'S CHARISM

An on-line program for members of the Chevalier Family
and for everyone interested in a Spirituality of the Heart.

AMETUR!

Welcome to a program of on-line sessions around the theme of a Spirituality of the Heart. The "International Committee of the Laity of the Chevalier Family" presents these sessions to all members of the world-wide Chevalier Family; more specifically to its lay members and other people, interested in a Spirituality of the Heart.

The Spirituality of the Heart, presented in these sessions,
is rooted in the Charism of Fr. Jules Chevalier MSC.

Fr. Chevalier lived in France from 1824 to 1907.

He is the Founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
and of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,

as well as the Spiritual Founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart
and of the International Branch of the Lay members of the Chevalier Family.

His process of beatification has already been introduced.

Each month, we will publish one section of these sessions on-line.

The sections can be utilized for personal reflection,
while coordinators or facilitators of groups might use the sections during their groups' gatherings,
dependent on the program of the group and the needs of the members."

Contents of the Program

This program is divided into short sections, each followed by a reflective moment.

1. Some brief annotations concerning a need for Spirituality, the existence of different kinds of Catholic Christian Spiritualities and a variety of Spiritualities of the Heart.
2. A brief presentation of the charism of Fr. Chevalier: the special Gift of the Spirit that shaped his vision and mission as the Founder of "the Chevalier Family".
3. Inspired by his charism, Fr. Chevalier developed his own vision of a Devotion to the Sacred Heart in such a way that today it is appropriately called a Spirituality of the Heart, clearly rooted in Jesus'

own spirituality. We present this biblical Spirituality of the Heart as a mainstay to family life and social involvement.

4. A variety of materials relevant to practicing a Spirituality of the Heart in family life and broader society.

After reading each section, you are invited to spend some time of private reflection.

We wish you fruitful moments of reflection and sharing.

International Committee of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

Section 1

CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS IN SEARCH OF A SPIRITUALITY.

In 2003 the Pontifical Council for Culture and Interreligious Dialogue issued a discussion paper entitled *Jesus Christ the Bearer of the Water of Life*. Cardinal Poupard, president of this Council, wrote in the foreword to this document "*that the success of New Age growth is a response for people's longing for peace, harmony and reconciliation within themselves, with others and with nature.*" The paper remarked that success of New Age thinking and practice offers the Church a challenge:

"The search which often leads people to New Age is a genuine yearning for a deeper spirituality, for something that will touch their hearts and for a way of making sense of a confusing and often alienating world"

("Water of Life" no. I.5 also no 3.3 Quoted by Jim Quillinan, "Shaping an Australian Spirituality" in Compass, vol. 46, no. 4,)

In November 2011, the American weekly newspaper 'National Catholic Reporter' (NCR) published a survey that offered a portrait of US Catholics in the Second Decade of the 21st Century. One of the conclusions of the survey was that US Catholics "*continue to maintain a strong foothold in the Church and to participate regularly in the sacraments*", while the same Catholics easily embrace new spiritual resources. In the same issue of the NCR, in an article entitled "Old and New Spiritual Resources", Michelle Dillon concludes that "*large numbers of Catholics say that they believe in various aspects of New Age Spirituality. Forty two percent believe that there is spiritual energy located in physical things such as mountains, trees or crystals; over one third (37 percent) believes in reincarnation...*"

Linda Woodhead, a professor in the sociology of religion in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion at Lancaster University in England, notes that in the UK, belief in a « personal God » roughly halved between 1961 and 2000 – from 57 per cent of the British population to 26 percent, while over the same period, belief in a "spirit of life force" doubled – from 22 percent in 1961 to 44 per cent in 2000. In many parts of the world, Catholics try to feed their spiritual hunger by searching for resources, different from Sunday worship. It seems that their spiritual appetite is not appeased only by regularly attending Mass and listening to sermons. They are in search of something more. Without being aware of it, they are in need of food for their hearts.

Many go shopping in a market which supplies all kinds of 'spiritualities'. However, because of the great variety of spiritualities on offer, - the World Wide Web under "Christian Spirituality" yields millions of sites - they most probably find it difficult to make the right choice. So, not surprisingly, some of them might be tempted to embrace certain spiritual views and convictions that in our Christian view do not lead toward spiritual fulfillment, and finally will not be able to appease spiritual hunger.

Even committed Catholics are often not aware of the existence of life-giving spiritual resources in our own Christian tradition. Some people assume that these resources are only accessible to men and women in religious life, who spend many hours in prayer and meditation. They are not aware of the fact that most Christian spiritualities, including those in the Catholic tradition, are at the service of everyone, even of people with a busy daily schedule. People longing for a deeper spiritual life will be enriched by these spiritualities. A condition is that they should feel touched and attracted by the path shown by great men and women in the history of Christianity, more specifically also in the Catholic Church.

A reflective moment

*"Human Development must include not just physical growth
but also spiritual growth,
since the human person is a unity of body and soul,
born of God's creative love and destined for eternal life.
We human beings develop when we grow in the spirit,
when we begin to know ourselves
and the truths that God has implanted deep within,
when we enter into dialogue with ourselves and our Creator."
(Liberal translation of Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, no. 76)*

Section 2 IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITIES ARE RELATED TO A PERSON GIFTED BY THE SPIRIT.

Besides all having their origin in Jesus, one of the characteristics of Christian Spiritualities is a special 'Gift of the Spirit' bestowed on a certain man or woman. This 'Gift of the Spirit' is called a 'Charism'. People speak of a Benedictine, Franciscan, Dominican, Ignatian, Carmelite Spirituality, because these Spiritualities find their origin in a special 'Gift of the Spirit', a special 'Charism', lived and practiced by great men and women such as St. Benedict (480-547), St. Dominic (1170-1221), St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) and St. Clare (1194-1253), St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), St. John of the Cross (1542-1581), or St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897).

Some of us may be familiar with the spirituality of spiritual writers, who have lived in modern times, such as Catherine de Hueck Doherty, Russian American, Founder of Friendship House and Madonna House Apostolate (1896-1985); Thomas Merton (1915-1968), the Trappist monk; Chiara Lubich (1920-2008), the founder of the Focolare Movement; Anthony de Mello (1931 - 1987), the Indian Jesuit; Henri Nouwen, (1932 - 1996), the Dutch-born Catholic priest and writer, who authored 40 books about spirituality; or the well-known Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997). Each of these men and women has been directed by the Spirit to live in close relationship with God and Jesus Christ. They practiced the Gospel and served both Church and society in a special way, while showing other people a direction in following a path of life, guided by the Spirit.

Some of us might also feel inspired by contemporary writers, such as Jean Vanier (*1928), the Founder of the l'Arche communities; Willigis Jäger (*1925) and Anselm Grün (*1945), both German Benedictines; Richard Rohr OFM (*1943), founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in the USA; or Ronald Rolheiser OMI, a spiritual lecturer and writer; who each in their own way, offer us a certain kind of Spirituality of the Heart, by teaching "a way of entering into our hearts".

Spiritualities of the Heart can be found in many forms, depending on the special gift of the man or woman living and promoting this kind of Spirituality. Some Spiritualities of the Heart find their origin in the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For example, we can find a Spirituality of the Heart according to the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) and Jeanne de Chantal (1572-1641), the founders of the Visitation Sisters; St. Jean Eudes (1601-1680), the founder of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary; or St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), whose way of practicing the Devotion to the Sacred Heart has been popularized by the Jesuits, based on her writings. All these men and women lived and practiced the Devotion to the Sacred Heart in their own way. They offered to others a model of living a spirituality, more precisely a Spirituality of the Heart.

A reflective moment

*"Being Christian is not a result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea,
but the encounter with ... a person who gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."
Of course, the central person in every Christian Spirituality is Jesus Christ, in whom God has become human.
However, God "encounters us ever anew in the men and women who reflect His presence...."
(Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* no. 1 and 17).*

(If you would like to know more about the above mentioned men and women, and the spiritual path they followed, please look for their names on-line, for example in WIKIPEDIA or THE CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA on-line)



Group Reports

Alice Springs: At the September Meeting we read, reflected on and discussed the readings that Sr Kathleen had prepared from the Australian Bishops' 2015-2016 Social Justice Statement: *"For Those Who've Come Across the Seas- Justice for Refugees and Asylum Seekers."* We look forward to our Retreat in October. Paula Thornton

Bentleigh: In October Fr Paul Castley msc led us in our annual retreat. He had returned from the Camino walk recently and described the beauty and breath-taking views through France and Spain. This made him very aware of the infinite power and goodness of God. He encouraged us to take more time to contemplate God's creation and to see his presence through mindfulness, leading to a richer and lovelier experience of God. We then had some time to quietly meditate on what we had heard. Later we celebrated Mass together in the Convent Chapel. Patricia Baxter

In November Sr Elaine had prepared some notes on the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis. We suggested different meanings for mercy such as kindness, forgiveness, compassion and generosity. We discussed how we could show more mercy to people that we come into contact with. One specific way was to try to listen attentively to people rather than thinking about our own responses. We then had a simple liturgy in the chapel and sang two of Br James Maher's hymns. Patricia Mirabile

Bowral: Our November Meeting was held at Hartzler Park as usual. Though few in numbers we are high in our love of and living out of the Chevalier spirituality. Our discussion centred on Sr Ancilla's article on the forthcoming Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Yes, as members of the Chevalier Family we are very attuned to MERCY! We have much to ponder as Associates during the Year of Mercy. During our prayer time we used the Reflection on the Lives of St Mary of the Cross and Venerable Jules Chevalier. Sr Therese McNamara

Callala: In November we met in Mary Borg's home. We read from the *Ametur* about the Holy Year of Mercy and the beautiful symbol of the Door of Mercy, and how we could remember to say a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of faith each time we go through the door of our Church.

In December we gathered again at Mary Borg's home and were privileged to have our Parish Priest, Fr Pat Faherty, celebrate Mass for us. He then stayed and shared our Christmas lunch. We pray for better health for Sr Marilyn in 2016. We miss her at our meetings. Ann Collier

Canberra: In October Lyn Small led our reflection on the Sunday's Gospel from Mark 10:2-16 - A very informative Gospel on marriage and children. We all enjoyed the reflection and agreed that marriage has its ups and downs but that we all work together through them with prayer and great faith. In reading through the *Ametur* and our Journey with Jules Chevalier's vision of Jesus and the Sacred Heart, we see how he handled his vision as the times changed. We see him growing in his vision of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart to how it is today. We thank Sr Merle Olsh for giving us her vision of Our Lady as "Mother Disciple" a role that is so relevant to us today.

In November Jean Tierney led us through a meditation on the Gospel reading from St Luke for 1st November. Many people worry about what kind of world we are leaving to the young people of today. This Gospel and Pope Francis are calling on us to "care". Care is more than stewardship. Stewards take responsibility and manage goods for someone, but one can be a good steward without feeling connected

to another. Cardinal Turkson, from Ghana, and someone we will be hearing a lot more of in the future, once said: "To care is to allow oneself to be affected by another so much that one's paths and priorities change."

For our final meeting for 2015 we met at St Matthew's Church, Page, for 12 noon Mass and then proceeded out for a delightful celebration lunch during which we had much discussion of the events of the year. We send our Christmas greetings to our OLSH Sisters at Kensington and our thanks for producing the *Ametur* and helping us grow spiritually during the year. Christmas and New Year greetings to all our fellow Associates near and far.

Christine Casey

Corinda: At our October Meeting we met in the Convent Chapel for a reflection on the anniversary of the death of Jules Chevalier, our Founder. In his meditations Jules speaks to us about how we should carry out our mission. We had these thoughts to ponder and pray about:

1. We should try to imitate the Good Shepherd who goes searching for the lost sheep.
2. Always following in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd we will entice his sheep by kindness and will draw them by bonds of love.
3. Chevalier speaks of the human heart as the seat of our passions, emotions and virtues, more specifically the virtue of love - love as an affection and a force.
4. What do we desire in the innermost depths of our hearts? We desire to meet God, to live his life, to identify ourselves with him and to plunge forever into the source of goodness that takes its rise from his Heart. Our heart is made for his Heart.

After sharing our prayers we adjourned to the meeting room and continued listening to the CD on the life of Mother Marie Louise Hartzler, "A Life of Love". This CD is very inspirational and helps us journey through the life of Mother Marie Louise.

Sandy O'Donohue

Enfield: We met on 7th September and the birthday of Our Lady centred our thinking on Mary and we reflected on Joseph's response to Mary's pregnancy. How did he deal with this dilemma? He turned to God and learnt about Emmanuel, God-is-with-us. We reflected on how we can deal with hard times. Do we remember that God is with us? Marie Roberts then led us in a discussion using the points from *Ametur* on Chapter 8 from Fr Hans' book. We looked especially at the cultural background and Mary as Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the indissoluble bond between Jesus and Mary. We concluded with the prayer from page 8 of the *Ametur*, No 316. We strive "to be on earth the Heart of God."

Margaret Baker

Hartzler Park: Our journeying this month of October took us into "A Mission Together with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart" and sharing our response to some of the questions posed for this chapter in the *Ametur*. Our discussion culminated in the appreciation of Mary as "disciple" and the call for us to likewise be "disciples" in becoming actively aware of and responding to the needs of others in our world today. Most especially at this present time "Those Seeking Asylum in Our Land", which was the theme of the reflection led by Sr Ancilla at the beginning of our meeting, are in urgent need of our support.

Leading up to Remembrance Day in November Sr Ancilla led us in prayer and reflection on those who gave and continue to give service in the cause of freedom. Our prayer also recalled Mary, "Beneath the Cross" and the Holy Souls "whose faces we love and those whose spirits we treasure". We rejoiced with the six Hartzler Associates who made their Commitment the previous week at the Associates' Retreat at Douglas Park. It was a special blessing also for many of us who shared the event with them. As this was our final formal meeting for the year we made plans for our Christmas Stall and Christmas Brunch in December. Our "Journeying into the Heart of Our Charism" will continue into the final chapter in 2016. May Advent and Christmas be a blessed and holy time for all our Sisters, Associates and their families.

Jan Clark

Notre Dame: Because of the upcoming meeting in Canberra of Australia's religious leaders and our political leaders, our October meeting focused on the plight of asylum seekers. What is my attitude to asylum seekers? Is it one of "there but for the grace of God go I" or am I worried about how much they are going to cost the government and, in turn, cost me? We are fortunate not to be in the same situation as these sisters and brothers of ours, but we do need to do some soul-searching and answer the question as to what we can do to help them.

Can I give up some of my "comfort zone" for them? Our beautiful paraliturgy gave us much food for thought and action. The refrain from the song, "A Language of the Heart" was well worth pondering:

*"There is a language of the heart we all can understand,
That reaches cross the boundaries of all peoples and all lands.
The deepest things we know by heart when all is said and done,
It's a language of the heart can make us friends, can make us one."*

We then read the Judith Carroll's wonderful preparation for the Gospel of the "The Rich Young Man" for 28th Sunday. Could we change the word "poor" in this Gospel for "asylum seekers" and see what our answer is to Jesus when he says to me/to us "go and sell all you own and give your money to the asylum seekers and come follow me."

Maureen Maher

Our final meeting for the year took the form of an Advent reflection on the Mercy of God as we prepare for the Opening of the Holy Door in Rome for the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy on 8th December. This was followed by a Christmas afternoon tea with the Sisters. We all enjoy our monthly get-to-togethers and thank the Sisters and especially Sr Marilyn for the loving welcome we always receive to their Convent home.

Maureen Maher

Randick/Daceyville: Sr Ancilla joined us for our October meeting and led us in a most beautiful and thought-provoking paraliturgy "For Those Seeking Asylum in Our Land". The song chosen reminded us that while our language, customs, beliefs and skin colour may be different what we share is more important – the language of the heart, our tears, our sorrow, our joys. The Scripture reading from Matthew reminded us that we will be judged on our loving actions towards others. The final prayer reminded us that Jesus, Mary and Joseph sought asylum from persecution in a foreign country. After a period of quiet reflection we shared how these issues relate to us personally and as members of the Chevalier Family. Hospitality is one of the distinguishing features of our Charism.

In November our reflection centred on the feast of Christ the King. We looked at the two opposing concepts of kingship - Pilate with its pomp and power, and Jesus whose kingdom was not of this world. Truth and love, not force will lead us to the important dimensions of our lives. Next we proceeded to discuss the Jubilee Year of Mercy and then the final chapter of Fr Han's book. The articles in the *Ametur* guided our discussion. Particularly significant was the fact that Jules Chevalier's understanding of devotion to the Sacred Heart was not fixed but was a lifelong journey of personal discovery and consequent development. The final Chapter, "The Fire Within", summed up his spiritual journey convincingly and beautifully.

Pauline Roberts

Roselands: We began our meeting with a hymn. The focus of our discussion was on the Holy Father's letter proclaiming an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy commencing on 8th Dec 2015. We shared our thoughts on the significance of the forthcoming opening of the Holy Doors of the other Basilicas and a Door of Mercy in churches and Shrines as a visible sign of our direct involvement in observing this Holy Year. We also welcome with gratitude this extraordinary time of grace and spiritual renewal. As we enter this year we are reminded of our need to extend compassion to our families, friends and people we meet in our daily lives. We want to emulate the example of our Lord Jesus who served his disciples with humility, love and mercy. Our group also discussed the importance of taking part in pilgrimages to deepen our faith. At the end of our meeting we feted Pat Cosgrove for her 90th birthday and we thanked God for the blessing she is to our group with her faithful presence. A delicious meal followed to celebrate this special occasion.

Helen Di Vincenzo

We began our November meeting with a prayer and hymn, "Woman". We shared our thoughts on the questions in the *Ametur*. As members of the Chevalier Family we have a responsibility to try to be Jesus to our family members and all those we meet, especially the children to whom many of us teach religion in the state schools.

Myrna dela Pina

Congratulations

and welcome to our new Associates who have joined our Chevalier Family recently:

Yolanda Banzon (Notre Dame),

Judy Coxhead, Wendy Froome, Julianne Halpin, Iris Hanney,

Mary Roberts, Christine Sivewright (Hartzer Park)

Jenny McMahon (Canberra)

who made their Commitment at Douglas Park on Saturday 30th November.

Margaret Butler and Mary Gallagher (Randwick/Daceyville)

who made their Commitment at OLSH Shrine, Randwick, on Monday 21st December.

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

OLSH News

Jubileee Bells rang out in January when the following Sisters celebrated their anniversaries of religious profession:

80 Years	6 th January 1936	Sr Berenice Twohill	St. Joseph's
70 Years	6 th January 1946	Sr M Jane Frances Dempsy	St. Joseph's
60 years	6 th January 1956	Sr Claudette Hiosan	South Africa
		Sr Carmen Savage	Kensington
		Sr M Ancilla White	Kensington
50 Years	12 January 1966	Sr Delia Donahoe	Melbourne
		Sr Elizabeth Little	Kensington
		Sr Carmel Smith	Kensington
		Sr Tess Ward	Port Keats

The Sisters are full of gratitude for God's goodness in their lives and thank you all for your kind wishes and prayers. You are in their prayers as well.

Australia Day Award 2016

Congratulations to Sr Tess Ward who was awarded the Order of Australia (OAM) for her ***Service in Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory, particularly as linguist and educator.***

National Kiribati Award

On 24th October, 2015, the President of Kiribati, Anote Tong, came to OLSH Convent Kensington, and presented Sr Nora Hanrahan with a National Kiribati Award for her work ***in advancing the lives of Kiribati people during her long years in education there.*** He noted particularly her role in setting up the first 6th form school in Teoraereke, Tarawa, with very few resources.

A thought from Jules Chevalier on “Mercy”

The Heart of Jesus is essentially merciful, because it is the Heart of God; mercy is his very nature.

His role on earth was not to condemn but to forgive; not to spurn those who suffer but to comfort them; not to alienate sinners, but to enlighten and convert them; not to turn away the sick, but to heal them; not to abandon a lost sheep, but to bring it back to the sheepfold;

not to quench the smoking wick, but to make it burn brightly; not to break the crushed reed, but to strengthen it.

That is the Sacred Heart. What kindness, what mercy! (Meditations II, from Daily Readings, Feb 26)

We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart:

Sr Margaret Kennedy (Bentleigh)
Sr Noelle Albert, Sr Thérèse Farrell, Sr Benedicta Carroll (Kensington)
Sr Kibaria Maritino (Kiribati)
Sr M Damiana Ohoitumur (Indonesia)
Sr Anne Kelleher, Sr Imelda Boyle, Sr Teresita Scanlon (Ireland)
Sr Lucia Bonni (Rome)
Sr Mary Craddock (USA)

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart :

Brother James Maher (Kensington)

OLSH Associates:

Robyn Pitt (Tasmania)
Patricia Burleigh (Bentleigh)
Scholastica Kinthari (Port Keats)
Mary Zammit (Kensington)

Relatives and Friends:

Fr Peter McGrath, Maurice Moore, Bella Ryan, Joan Casey, Garry Dai, Desmond Kerwick, Robert Sharpe, Maria Becks, Brian Woodruff, Eve, John Gleeson, Jo Tutton, Michael Grimes, Bob Goalsworthy, Tony Bonnano, Mary Rose Fanzon, Louis.



We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

Sr Marilyn Knolder, Sr Pauline Pitman, Sr Lorraine Denier, Sr Bernadette Koning, Sr Patricia Crowe, Tom Foley, Fr Hampton, Fr John Shalvey, Patricia Woodruff and Family, Richards Swords, Findlay Family, Jean Large, Trish and Chris Pearce, Baby Will Pearce awaiting a liver transplant, Kath Myers, Don McDeed, Francis Lloyd, Mary Lloyd, Patrick Trone, Andy Galea, Joseph Stoakes, Margaret Keen, Lesley Cheeseman, Adrienne Hemsley, Grace Corbitt, Hazel Bailey, Christine Casey, Gennelle McCarthy, Mark McMahon, Lyn Small, Grace Altinger, Frank Mines, Jeremy Keen, Rebecca Sexton, Neville Venables, Margaret and Richard Hawkins, Kathleen Webster, Ros Bailey, Sr Mary Ruth, Danielle Heffernan, Lois Kerwick, Clare Hickey, Celine Doherty, Veronica Howard, Gordon Simpson and Family, Marilyn Barnes, Michael Sarich, Cathie Lilles, Laura Hinds, Peter O'Sullivan, Bernadette Farrugia, Michael Poulton, Ruth Kelly, Margaret Tate, Bryan Butler, David Chung, Monaliza and Adorada Casco, Florence Lumberio, Henry Harwood, Jhonalyn Ulep, Esme Elefante, Yolanda Reyes, Rita Di Vincenzo, Floro Lumberio, Loreta Ramon, Eleanor Endrenal, Kelly Hool, Bessie Chung, Helen and Franco Di Vincenzo, Ruther and Yolanda Aquilar, Joyce Lumberio, Antonieta Pantuosco, Julie Sadlier, Geoffrey Crockett, the suffering souls in Purgatory.

We pray in Thanksgiving For:

- The Golden Wedding Anniversary of Margaret and John Keen (Canberra)
- The Inspiring Annual Associates' Retreat at Douglas Park
- Our Nine New Associates
- Pat Cosgrove on her 90th Birthday
- Intentions granted to Julie Chung, Alyssa Ito & Yolanda Aquino

