



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

No 333 **Ametur** May-June 2019

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

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Dear Associates,

We are now in the life-giving season of Easter and as we listen to the stories of Jesus' appearances after the Resurrection, we notice that He always greets his friends with the words, "Peace be with you". What a wonderful thing is *peace*. If you would like to take your inner peace temperature reflect on the following "symptoms" written by an unknown author:

SYMPTOMS OF INNER PEACE

- 1. A tendency to think and act deliberately, rather than from fears based on past experiences.*
- 2. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.*
- 3. A loss of interest in judging others.*
- 4. A loss of interest in judging self.*
- 5. A loss of interest in conflict.*
- 6. A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.*
- 7. A loss of ability to worry.*
- 8. Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.*
- 9. Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.*
- 10. Frequent attacks of smiling through the heart.*
- 11. Increasing susceptibility to kindness offered, and the uncontrollable urge to reciprocate.*
- 12. An increasing tendency to allow things to unfold, rather than resisting and manipulating.*

peace
BE WITH YOU



Another characteristic of Jesus' Easter-time visits to his friends was that He sent them out of themselves and to others with the message of love and new life. Edwina Gateley captures this beautifully in her prayer/poem:

TELL THEM, MARY

*Breaking through the powers of darkness
bursting from the stifling tomb
he slipped into the graveyard garden
to smell the blossomed air.*

*Tell them, Mary, Jesus said, that I have journeyed far,
into the darkest deeps I've been in nights without a star.*

*Tell them Mary, Jesus said, that fear will flee my light,
that though the ground will tremble, and despair will stalk the earth,
I hold them firmly by the hand through terror to new birth.*

*Tell them, Mary, Jesus said, the globe and all that's made
is clasped to God's great bosom, they must not be afraid,
for though they fall and die, he said, and the black earth wrap them tight,
they will know the warmth of God's healing hands
in the early morning light.*

*Tell them, Mary, Jesus said,
smelling the blossomed air,
tell my people to rise with me
to heal the Earth's despair.*

And, what else have we to do on this earth but to "heal the Earth's despair" through the living out of our vocation *to be the Heart of Jesus to the world.*

Let me finish with some words from Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*,

"We implore her [Mary's] maternal intercession that the Church may become a home for many peoples, a mother for all peoples, and that the way may be opened to the birth of a new world. It is the Risen Christ who tells us, with a power that fills us with confidence and unshakeable hope: 'Behold, I make all things new' (Rev.21:5). With Mary we advance confidently towards the fulfilment of this promise. " par 288

United in the love of the Heart of our Risen Lord, and with Mary

Sr. M. Ancilla Osh

An Easter Reflection

Doris Machado, Deputy Secretary of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, has sent us this beautiful and challenging Easter Reflection. Thank you very much, dear Dora.

Risen for the Love of God

On our way towards Easter, we journey during forty days through Lent. Forty days to reflect on our life, our attitudes, our way of being. We, Christians dedicated to our charism, which consists in revealing that the Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere, must reflect on how much our relationship to others manifests the immense kindness of Jesus' Heart. Lent is the time for us to take a new way. It's a time to listen carefully to and reflect on God's Word. It's a time when fasting, praying, repenting and practising love, are means of conversion and preparation to our celebrating Easter.

We, Lay of the Chevalier Family, must never forget the attitude of the Good Samaritan. He never bothered to seek the guilty. He was just there and at that very moment, the Heart of God for his neighbour.

May we also live out this time of resurrection, as a resurrection of our own hearts. Let's remember those who are afflicted and hopeless. Wherever we find ourselves, let's be the great love of Jesus' Heart.

May our Lent Journey be a Passover for all victims of abuse, of starvation, of separation from their family due to lack of basic means for survival.

May our Chevalier Family show acts of careful attention, smiles and cuddles, making our world better than it is today. Lord, grant us the grace to be less egoistic and show more solidarity towards those in need: refugees, victims of natural disasters, and those marginalized for any reason.

Despite the difficult way we walk through, let's be Passover for the excluded.

With missionary kindness,

Doris Machado

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Progress of the Steering Committee

In the past issues of the Ametur you have been reading about the progress of the development of the Australian National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. The Steering Committee consisting of Fred Stubenrauch (Chair), Therese Poulton, Ellenmary Loman, Jan Clarke, Jenny Missen, Paul Compton, Paul Stinson and Aidan Johnson has met seven times in the past year to develop a proposal for the setting up of this National Council. The group sought the wisdom of Sr Moya Hanlen olsh and Fr Tim Brennan msc, both canon lawyers, and the final proposal was sent to the three Provincials for their consideration and approval. This was duly given.

We are most grateful for the untiring work of these generous people and for the excellent result of their labours. God bless you.

All that remains now is to seek nominations from you of appropriate members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family whom you consider would be enthusiastic about becoming a member the National Committee. You will find a Nomination Form in this mailing. If you need more than one, please copy it. You will, of course, need to obtain the nominee's permission before returning the form.



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Laity of the Chevalier Family Steering Committee Proposal for the Establishment and Operation of the Australian National Council

The following is a proposal for the inauguration and operation of the National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family of the Australian Provinces of MSC, FDNAC and MSC Sisters. This will be a private association of the Christian Faithful (Canon 215), motivated by and consistent with "General Guiding Principles and Statutes of the Laity of the Chevalier Family". These guiding principles were approved by the gathering of Laity of the Chevalier Family, Sao Paulo, Brazil, July 2017 (see Appendix for an interpretation of these guidelines within an Australian context).

Provincial Administrations of the Chevalier Family include:

- FDNAC: The OLSH Associates, The OLSH Provincial and Council
- MSC: The Lay and Professed Council, the MSC Provincial and Council
- MSC Sisters: the MSC Sisters Provincial and Council

This proposal: refers to the following members of the Chevalier Family

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

Vision of the National Council

The National Council will:

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

Formation:

It is expected that those who belong to the Chevalier Family will have undergone formation in Spirituality of the Heart that may include some of the following:

- Courses and Retreats provided through the Chevalier institute
- Retreats and Programs held at St Mary's Towers, Hartzler Park and/or other MSC/OLSH centres.
- Hans Kwakman online courses
- Identified readings
- Group meetings
- Heart of Life Institute programs

As further forms of Spirituality of the Heart formation are identified, the National Council will be in a better position to:

- direct individuals/groups to existing formation
- identify the best ways to provide ongoing formation

The National Council will assist groups to find Spiritual Companions as requested.

Members of the National Council will select one member to vote on Australia's behalf in the General Assembly.

Relationship with the Provinces

It is important the Council maintains a relationship with the three Provincial administrations. The National Council will ask each Provincial to appoint a liaison person and the National Council may invite that person to attend meetings.

It is suggested that the Provincial administrations may wish to consider inviting an observer from the National Council to attend Provincial Council meetings.

It would be appropriate for the National Council to approach Provincial Councils about the role of the Chevalier Institute in assisting in formation for members of the Chevalier Family.

Operations and responsibilities of the National Council

Council members include:

Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Outreach Coordinator.

A Spiritual Companion (who will be invited by the Council as an observer after consultation with the Provincials).

The suggested membership should be between five and ten in total.

Decisions should be made by consensus of the members of the National Council.

The National Council will meet at least once each year (more often initially) in a pattern that allows people in full time employment to attend (either physically or via technology)

A report of meetings will be sent to Provincials in Council. Any review of the operation of the National Council document needs to be submitted to the Provincials.

Finances

Funds of the National Council may be expended in fulfilment of the objectives and purpose of the National Council. The National Council is to be financially self-sufficient.

Possible sources of income:

- Donations/contributions could come from individuals or groups of the Chevalier family.
- Money from programs, retreats and courses could provide the funds to ensure continuity of these programs, retreats and courses.
- A yearly recommended donation from all involved in the various groups associated with Laity of the Chevalier family.

The Process of Establishing of the first National Council

A database of contact details for those associated with the Chevalier Family as per above groups needs to be developed for communication.

IN ORDER TO FIND COUNCIL MEMBERS, A REQUEST WILL BE SENT OUT CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FROM THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY.

These nominations (written documentation about the nominees will be provided) will be 'vetted' by MSC Lay and Professed Council and lay members of the OLSH Leadership team for the initial establishment.

(A Nomination Form is on page 8. Please give some consideration to who might be a suitable member/s of the first Australian National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.)

Time Frame

There will be an official ceremony of inauguration on the 13-15 September 2019 at St Mary's Towers at which those present endorse on behalf of the broader Chevalier Family the appointment of the National Council and the adoption of the operation of the National Council document.

Invitation to be sent out to all members of the Chevalier Family including the Provincial Administrations.

There will be a need for initial formation for members of the National Council.

Calendar of Events

March –This document to be finalised and sent to the Provincial Administrations (26th March) and published widely to all members of the Chevalier Family requesting for nominations by 6th June 2019.

June -Nominations Due

August -Nominations for National Council completed

September -Inauguration of the National Council (13-15 at St Mary’s Towers)

October - Formation Retreat for National Council

Suggested Agenda Items for the National Council;

- Selection of office bearers
- Insurance for members of the council: If National Council gives advice, should they be covered by some sort of insurance? Possibly covered under umbrella of Provincials.
- Establishment of bank account/finances
- Date for formation retreat
- Consideration of an appropriate spiritual accompanier
- Review this document put forward by the steering committee

16 March 2019 Steering Committee

Appendix: Interpretation of Part 2B of the General Guiding Principles and Statues of the Laity of the Chevalier Family guidelines within an Australian context

Aim:

To help guide the Australian Province of MSC, OLSH, MSC Sisters and wider Chevalier family in a response to the “**Guidelines**” document approved by the General Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, July 2018. The National Council relies on the support and collaboration of the Provincial Administration(s) of the Chevalier Congregations in each country for its establishment. The National Council consists of one or more representatives of the local administration(s) of the Lay Group(s) in the country, together with one or more officially appointed representatives of the Provincial Administrations of the Chevalier Congregations, present in a certain country.

The task of the National Council is:

- to acknowledge and endorse the administration of each of the aforementioned groups.
- to provide ongoing formation of the members in Spirituality of the Heart;
- to appoint one or more Spiritual Accompaniers for mentoring of the aforementioned groups
- the National council will also need to have its own Spiritual Accompanier
- to assure collaboration of the administrations of the aforementioned groups with the wider Chevalier Family
- to support the continuous presence of the laity of the Chevalier Family in the country;
- to send, if possible, 1 (one) member with right of vote to the General Assembly

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Nomination Form for the National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

Name of Nominator:

Name of Nominee:

Agreement of Nominee:

I _____ accept this nomination to the
National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

Date:

Details of Nominee

Age:

Email address:

Postal Address:

Phone Number:

Previous and/or current Involvement in Chevalier Charism:

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Nominations due by 6th June 2019 to Fred Stubenrauch
Email: fstuben@gmail.com
Post: C/- Amy Parish PO Box 19A Douglas Park 2569

WOMAN OF THE WOUND

There
She stood,
Presence of compassion,
Suffering with her Son, who was her all
All His pain – her pain-
Consuming her.

Woman of the Wound,
His Wound,
Crude chasm from which gushes
Living water,
Springing from deep in the heart of pain,
Whose power is love.

Woman of the Wound,
His Wound,
Foretold by Simeon,
Point of pondering,
Laying open secret thoughts of many –
In puzzling their pain,
Remember her –
She knows,
She cares.

Woman of the wound
Our wound,
Gift of His Heart,
Breaking open hard shell of fear
Or complacency,
Seeing at the heart of things
A passion for living!
Nourishment
From deep springs of living water,
Flowing over our parched days,
Blessing tenderly
New births,
New growths.

Woman of the Wound,
May we learn from you
Compassion
To touch
The wounds of the world.
Carmel Smith olsh



Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

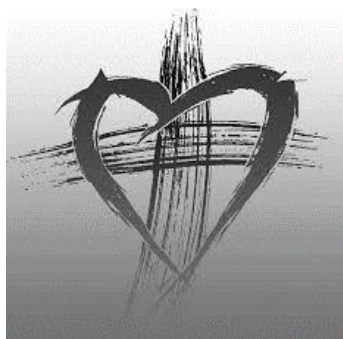
We celebrate this very special feast on the last Saturday in May, 25th this year. Father Jules Chevalier once wrote:

As Jesus was lifted up on the cross, he gave Mary to us as our mother and placed in her heart an immense love for us. (Méditations 11, p.671f.)

May the beautiful poem above, written by Sr Carmel Smith Olsh, inspire you as you reflect on the role of Mary in your life.

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Our On-Going Formation Section



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.

Section 28 "A Preferential Option for the Poor"

After Fr. Chevalier's death, Fr. Claude Hériault MSC, who for many years had been his parish-assistant, paid tribute to Chevalier's special care for the poor: *"The poor knew his charity and the kindness of his heart. They used to come constantly knocking at his door. They knew they would not be refused... How many families ... have been supported by his open-handed generosity and by his advice... Today the poor realize the loss they have suffered with the death of Fr. Chevalier"* (Claude Hériault MSC, Notes sur le T.R.P. Chevalier. MS. Daily Readings, September 14).

One of the first pastoral projects of the newly erected MSC Community was the celebration of Masses only for men. At the time, in general, men did not attend Mass, not even on Sundays. In 1857, Chevalier, Maugenest and Piperon started visiting all the families of Issoudun to invite the men to attend the "for men only" Sunday Mass. Then, around 1858, during Lenten sermons for about fifty men, Fr. Chevalier spoke about the two main evils of society, namely Egoism and Indifference, which he considered to be the main causes of wide-spread poverty. These evils, he said, could be healed by following Jesus, who, as revealed in the Gospels, loves with a human Heart.

No less than four of his eighteen Lenten sermons, Chevalier dedicated to the practice of charity for the poor, not just the poor in general, but the poor in Issoudun. Chevalier told the men of Issoudun that there were many more poor people in their neighbourhood than they realized. There are two reasons, he said, why we should love the poor. First, they are human beings like us, created in the image of God. Even in the most pitiful condition, a poor person still shows us *“a portrait of our Father in heaven.”* Secondly, the poor are *“our brothers and sisters, since we are all together children of the same Father. Therefore,”* he said, *“we should treat them as brothers and sisters, by visiting them personally at home.”* (Combattre l'Égoïsme et l'Indifférence par la charité et l'amour du Sacré-Cœur de Jésus, 10. Sur le Pauvre, sa Dignité. Manuscrits sur le Sacré-Cœur de Jésus, Fontes MSC 1,4).

The renewed MSC Constitutions of 1984 declare that *“the spirit of our Society”* implies *“a preferential option for the poor”* (MSC Const. 1985, n. 48). That is totally consistent with the way our Founder practised a Devotion to the Sacred Heart. Also the Spirituality of the Heart, as practically lived and promoted by Pope Francis, clearly involves a *preferential option for the poor*. *“The Church has made an option for the poor,”* he writes, *“because God shows the poor his first mercy... This divine preference has consequences for the faith life of all Christians, since we are called to have ‘this mind... which was in Jesus Christ’ (Phil 2:5).* This is the reason, the Pope continues, *“why I want a Church which is poor and for the poor”* (Evangelii Gaudium n. 198).

A Reflective Moment

*“ Our commitment does not consist exclusively in activities or programs...
What the Holy Spirit mobilizes is ... above all an attentiveness,
which considers the other in a certain sense as one with ourselves.
This loving attentiveness is the beginning of a true concern for their person....
This entails appreciating the poor in their goodness,
in their experience of life,
in their culture,
and in their ways of living the faith. ...
Only on the basis of this real and sincere closeness
can we properly accompany the poor on their path of liberation.
Only this will ensure that
in every Christian community the poor feel at home.
Without the preferential option for the poor,
the proclamation of the Gospel
... risks being misunderstood...”*
(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium n. 199)

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One Person's Love for the Church

Francis Sullivan most recently was CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council. He has degrees in Theology and Politics and lives in Canberra.

FRANCIS SULLIVAN. Why stay? Posted on [11 March 2019](#)

Since the conviction of Cardinal Pell, I have been asked why I remain a Catholic. It is an obvious question. The extent of criminal behaviour and the active cover up by bishops and religious leaders of perpetrators has been breath-taking. Ordinary Catholics have been played as mugs by the Church leadership. Why stay?

My answer is why not! The abuse scandal has rocked my confidence in the clericalist management of the Church but not my sense of the collective journey I walk with other Catholics. I believe the "assembled walkers" are the Church! I feel no compulsion to leave them. I feel participating in a faith community a vital aspect of my self-expression. Being Catholic for me is less a religious tag or a member of a religion and more a chosen pathway of personal and spiritual discovery best undertaken in community. It is my way of living the Gospel.

I have found deep comfort in and direction from my faith tradition. I feel nurtured in the sense that I am part of a pilgrim people, ever moving into a better understanding of the divine in my life and an appreciation of what that means for me as person in society.

The clerical sex abuse scandal is a crisis primarily about the culture of the Church. It may well cause some to rethink their beliefs and practices, but for me it has been a call to deepen my spiritual practice. To commit to daily meditation and reflection. To draw on the sacramental life of the Church and the richness of scriptural practices like lectio divina. It has been a time to become mature in my faith development, less dependent and literally more adult in my engagement with the institutional Church.

I have benefited by being raised as a Catholic and being involved in social and spiritual apostolates of the Church. I have found the wisdom of the teaching and spiritual tradition a rich source of inspiration, information and discernment.

At the same time, I understand that participation in the Church is a continuum of engagement. For some the Church is a mainstay or safety net providing moral and social certainty. For others it is more a launching pad for confident and competent engagement come storms or calm waters.

So, if others are asking whether it is worth hanging in there with the Church, I say now is the time for lay Catholics to claim their rightful place within the organised expression of the Church. If nothing else the scandal has demonstrated the massive power imbalance that lays at the heart of the institution. The clericalism, so bemoaned by Pope Francis, has delivered an

institutional structure too top heavy with clerics, company men and time servers. It has relegated the interests of lay people to a sad second after the organisational demands for financial sustainability, orthodoxy and the maintenance of social conservatism.

Being Catholic has always been a mix of the identification with a religious tradition and a personal integration of faith and reason. When this development is healthy Catholics gain confidence of their place in the Church and become more articulate in the revealed truths the faith. The abuse scandal has clouded the atmosphere for Catholics but not the imperative to seek the Beyond and join with others in pursuing truth, goodness and beauty.

I believe the wisdom of the Gospel tradition has much to offer postmodern society. Not as a bulwark against secularism or a last bastion of traditional values. More as a font for personal freedom and agency in a society that prizes human rights and autonomy. A reclaiming from the Catholic tradition of the primacy of personal conscience would be no small thing in how Catholics navigate life with its competing philosophies, social narratives and identity politics. For to be Catholic is to be attentive to how our society becomes more human, more compassionate and creative in prizing the dignity and inherent value of everyone. Virtue ethics is far from being outmoded and prudence in discerning our times and circumstances remains an essential life skill.

For me that makes my faith real, practical and important. It compels me to be less self centred and precious. It implores me to move from my comfort zone to places that open my spirit and hopefully my heart. It shows me that God is forever creating, and I can participate in that. So, why leave?

These days I am energised by a spirituality that seeks to promote human flourishing. This is a far cry from my childhood catechism, with its obsession over sin and undertones of a judgemental and exacting God. For today's Catholics an authentic spiritual pathway does not need to involve a constant struggle to deny healthy instincts and desires. We can and should celebrate the embrace of love as it arrives in our lives and not demonise human nature when it presents inconveniently or challenges us to rethink our set ways.

This spirituality leads to an ever-deepening acceptance of myself as the place God comes to me. A self-centeredness that by its nature is expansive and transcendent. It gives religious expression in that it personalises the way forward in someone like Jesus and seeks to search for an evolving depth to our reality in a consciousness named as Christ. This is my catechism today. If I have that wrong, then so be it. If it means somehow, I have drifted from elements of the institutional Church, or they have left me, I can live with that. Otherwise let's stay and keep going!

JESUS

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Thank You

From your generous donations for the International Committee of the Laity of the Chevalier Family we were able to present a cheque for \$1,800. I received this letter from the three members of that Committee:

Dear Sr Ancilla and dear OLSH Associates,

I write to you to thank you sincerely for your generous contribution to the International Account. As we build up the account, we will be more able to reach out to people in isolated places – particularly in our Asia/Pacific region and Africa. We are hoping to sponsor people to the next International Gathering in the Philippines in January 2023.

We are preparing the first International Newsletter to be published in June, 2019, around the feast of the Sacred Heart. The newsletter will contain reports from as many groups as we can contact, photos and accounts of their groups. I hope you also will be featured in the newsletter. I send you love and blessings from the International Committee in the Heart of Jesus

Alison, (McKenzie), Doris (Machado), Rita (Cleuren).

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Fiji Gathering in 2020

Alison McKenzie, the General Secretary of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, has also written with this wonderful news:

“We are in the very early stages of planning the first regional gathering of Laity in Asia/Pacific region. We are hoping that it can be in Fiji at the same time as the next APIA gathering of the MSC next year. Fr Tamati MSC Provincial, Fiji, has not yet informed me of the date but has said that he agrees with the idea. Numbers will be strictly limited as there is very limited accommodation. We will be saying one {from Australian}”

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Our Used Stamp Project



Thank you very much to those who have sent used stamps.

We need lots more, so please keep up the supply.

You may know someone with a business, and they might help as well.

We are quite happy to cut the stamps off the envelopes.

All proceeds of the sales will go to our missions.



Associates' Retreats at Hartzler Park in 2019

"Come aside and rest awhile." Jesus

Sr Dain Mary olsh will be giving two retreats at Hartzler Park this year for members of the Chevalier Family – each on a different theme. You are invited to join one or both. As there is now a lift at Hartzler it is easy of access to all and I know that many will be very happy to return to their "heart" home where for so many years previously the OLSH Associates have had their annual retreat. During the past few years we have been blessed to be welcomed at Douglas Park, another special "heart" home, and we have received many graces from the beautiful contemplative experiences and talks that the gifted Retreat Directors there have given us. We thank them most sincerely.



The dates for these retreats are:

Friday evening 17th May – After lunch Sunday 19th May

Friday evening 18th October – After Lunch Sunday 20th October.

The cost: \$200 for the weekend. \$100 per night. \$60 per day.

Those living locally may wish to return home in the evening. The Saturday is the main content

of the Retreat and some may wish to attend only on that day.

Please ring Sr Ancilla on 0296621777 or email her ancilla.white@olshaustralia.org.au, or associates@olshaustralia.org.au for more details and an enrolment form.

Please have your forms back by May 6th for the first retreat.

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Meeting Reports

ALICE SPRINGS:

Our first meeting was on 23rd February when we planned our meetings for the year, including a retreat Day in June. Sr Kathleen led us in prayer and reflection on Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. We read an extract from Father Jules Chevalier and discussed what Our Lady of h Sacred Heart means to us. Sr Kathleen provided 'reflective' cards which we used to talk about our feelings and thoughts on Our Lady. **Paula Thornton**

BENTLEIGH: There were 16 Associates at OLSH Convent, Bentleigh for our meeting on 30th March. Sr Elaine led us in a discussion of, “What Lent means to us”. We realized that rather than only practising self-denial and sacrifice, we could offer more time, help and kindness to each other. We were reminded of the symbols of the Holy Triduum – water, oil, the cross and bread/wine. Through these three days we are reminded of the “*memorial of a drama of love that gives us the certainty that we will never be abandoned in life’s trials*” (Pope Francis).

We then looked at the Lenten Gospels in the context of “the Heart of Jesus” and talked especially about the Prodigal Son parable illustrating the humanity of God’s love and forgiveness.

Patricia Mirabile

We began our April Meeting, 27^t, remembering the people of Sri Lanka and the terrible recent bombings. We then talked about the variation in experiences of the Easter services even within our small group. For example the way the different churches used the various symbols throughout the Sacred Triduum such as the cross/ crucifix on Good Friday. We noticed that church attendances seemed to be up in all our churches over the Easter period. It was also noted that later in the week, ANZAC Day seemed to have a strong spiritual flavour. We then discussed the Gospel for Sunday about doubting Thomas and were reminded of Jesus’ words, “*Happy are those that have not seen and yet believe*”.

Patricia Mirabile

CALLALA: Our final meeting for 2018 was held at Anna’s home where Father Patrick Flaherty celebrated Mass and stayed for a festive lunch. In February we met in Gabriella’s home. We read the *Ametur* each month and find many items there for discussion. During Lent we met each week and followed the Wollongong Lenten Program, *Trust*. As we came to our meeting following the Ash Wednesday Mass, we discussed the symbol of the Ashes and felt the old saying very apt, “*Those who are marked with the sign of the Cross must ride gaily in the dark*”.

Ann Collier

CANBERRA: At our March meeting we used the Gospel of Luke 6:27-38 – Be merciful as your Father is merciful. The passage begins with the words: “Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I say this to you who are listening ...’ – it tells us about love and compassion and concludes with the message,” Be compassionate as your father is compassionate”. We felt that this was a very relevant Gospel to reflect on, considering what we have all, as part of the Church, experienced in the last few weeks. For our reflections of this Gospel we considered what this might mean in practice, as everything Jesus mentions involves responding to injury or unreasonable demands with nothing but generosity and claims to recompense. We had a great discussion on the words, “Be compassionate as our father is compassionate”. We concluded with the prayer by Thomas Merton, taken from *Thoughts in Solitude*, 1958. We then went to the mid-day Mass. **Hazel Bailey**

We met on 6th April and Annette led the meeting with the article from the *Ametur*, “Spirituality of the Heart”. Comparing Father Chevalier’s thoughts with those of Pope

Francis on our understanding of the Spirituality of the Heart brought on a deep discussion by all present. Thank goodness we now realise that the Spirit is powerfully active in the hearts of all people in our society and in all religions. May we, as Associates, truly live our motto: *May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved*, then maybe we can change even just a little bit of society one step at a time. We then made plans for the celebration of our 40th Anniversary of Commitment as Associates. **Christine Casey**

Apologies from the Editor: This Commitment was made on 10th March 1979, not 3rd March as wrongly mentioned in the last Ametur.

ENFIELD: Our first meeting for 2019 was kindly hosted by Ellenmary. As Sr Pat was away Marie Roberts led us through a lovely evening. We spent time with Psalm 139 reflecting on where we found God speaking to us. It was a gentle time immersing ourselves in God's love for us. We were pleased to hear from Papua New Guinea how our small fundraising efforts have been dispersed to assist two young people with their education. This has been facilitated by our friend from school days, Sr Marlene Dewar Olsh. We are grateful for the Notre Dame Kensington Associates for including the poem "The Short Sermon" by Bishop Morneau in the October Ametur about St John the Evangelist in his old age. A great reminder to us about being the "Heart of Christ on earth".

We prayed and then sang "Woman of the Sacred Heart" before concluding our evening with a shared supper.

Margaret Baker

HARTZER PARK: We met at Hartzler Park on 17th March and as the feast of St Joseph was to be held in two days' time. Sr Ancilla led us in reflecting upon St Joseph, a man of silence and strength, who heard God's voice in his dreams. Like St Joseph, once we have heard God's voice "we must arise from our slumber and act".

In preparation for this meeting we had been reflecting on Section 27 of our Formation Program. At the meeting discussion centred around our life and times today and the realization and appreciation of the reality of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, in a way that was not possible for Father Chevalier because of the theological climate of his time. We now recognize the way "God's love is powerfully at work among us through the presence of the Holy Spirit in the universe, secular society and people's hearts" regardless of race, faith or culture – and this in order to make Jesus and the yearning of his Heart everywhere known and loved.

We closed our meeting with some Irish blessings in honour of St Patrick, and our prayer, through Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, for the needs of the world and those suffering, especially in New Zealand.

Jan Clark

NOTRE DAME, KENSINGTON: We met at the Convent Kensington on Saturday 8th March. Many of us were participating in the Wollongong Lenten program, *Trust*. One cannot but be touched by the art work depicting the desolate figure of Jesus in the desert accompanying the meditation on the Gospel for the first Sunday in Lent. We

were reminded that Jesus was tempted as we are tempted though he is without sin. The devil tempts Jesus when he is at his most vulnerable – at the end of forty days of fasting. Maybe this is our experience also? The devil arrives just when we are at our “lowest”, maybe during an illness, loneliness, or it could be that we are grieving the loss of a loved one. We pray that we will be true to our resolutions. Our strength comes only from God. We need to give time to prayer. Our Lenten resolutions are not easy to accomplish but when we look at Jesus crucified, we know that we must give of our best. It is by doing this that we will truly become Easter people. **Maureen Maher**

We began our meeting with a reflection on some thought-provoking pictures of Jesus and Mary during the Way of the Cross. We shared how these pictures spoke to us. Mary suffered intensely during Jesus’ Passion, but through it all her faith stood firm and strong. May we always look to Mary during times of suffering and pain and know that she has trod the path of suffering ahead of us and is always with us.

We then reflected on the two Gospels of Palm Sunday. In Luke’s story of the entry into Jerusalem we are told that the people threw their clothes on the ground rather than palms. What is the sin, the bad habit that I just don’t seem to be able to let go of, and throw away? In the Gospel during Mass we hear of the betrayal of Peter. We could reflect on Jesus’ gazing at Peter at that moment, then let Jesus gaze on me. What are his eyes saying to me? Such questions for reflection will help us to pray through Holy Week. **Maureen Maher**

RANDWICK: Our April meeting was held at Ventnor as usual. Sister Terie was not with us, being on Retreat, but she left us some articles to reflect upon and discuss. One of great interest was by Francis Sullivan, most recently CEO of the Catholic Church’s Truth, Justice and Healing Council. It was entitled, *Why Stay*. He discussed why he did not contemplate leaving the Church after the recent Royal Commission and its ensuing results, and how it affected his spirituality. I highly recommend this to all Associates. Our spiritual reflection covered the events of Holy Week and the role of Mary in all these events culminating in Jesus’ death on the cross, when he gave her as mother to John, saying, “Woman, this is your son”. This led to a moving discussion on our relationship with forgiveness in our lives, not only receiving forgiveness, but forgiving others, and particularly forgiving ourselves. Thank you, Sr Terie, for your help. We look forward to the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Kensington on 25th May. **Margaret Krijinen**

ROSELANDS: We met on 11th March with Sr Ancilla at Anna Tomc’s home. We began with a Lenten reflection and shared our thoughts on the reading from Isaiah 53: 2-12. We then discussed our On-Going Formation Section on the Spirituality of the Heart. The Holy Spirit knows what is needed in our personal lives and in our world. He will guide us with wisdom and is present in the hearts of all who are open whatever their race, culture or religion. We concluded the meeting with a reminder about the Hartzler Park retreat in May, and then enjoyed a shared afternoon tea.

We met again on 8th April at Anna's home with Sr Ancilla and began with a Lenten song and reflection on "Turn My Heart". We then looked at the article from the Ametur on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation by Father A Claessens msc. This led to a discussion on global warming and what we can do in our own daily living to counteract this worrying trend.

Myna dela Pina

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Celebration of Commitment Anniversaries.
Congratulations and Thanksgiving!

Many thanks to the Canberra Associates who made me aware of their 40th Anniversary of Commitment on March 10th. (Apologies for putting the 3rd in the last Ametur). I went to the Commitment Book and found that the following Associates also have a reason for celebration and thanksgiving:

Mary Lloyd, Eileen Phillips

made their Commitment on 27th May 1978 in the Chapel at Kensington.

Kathleen Donohoe, Gloria Gallagher

made their Commitment on 31st May 1979 in the Chapel at Kensington.

Valerie Bretherton,

made her Commitment in October 1979 in the Chapel at Bentleigh.

Their companions on those days have all gone to heaven where they have joined the rest of the Chevalier Family in praising and thanking our gracious God for the wonders of His love and the privilege of their vocation, and where they are praying for us as we live out our vocation to be the Heart of Jesus in the world.



Prayers from our Hearts



For our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of OLSH

Sr M Benoit Challandes (Issoudun), Sr Feralinda Wombonggo and Sr Martina Dalsriningsih (Indonesia)

MSG

Fr Adrian Meaney (Kensington)

OLSH Associates

Dorothy Campbell (Coffs Harbour), Johanna Fieledy (Canberra)

Our Loved Ones

Deacon Boniface Pirrimngiparl Perdjert (Port Keats), David York, Mr Mulrooney, Mary Howard, Ted Evans, Desleigh Carlton, Fr Lauro Rufo, Chowki Ysioc, Tom Stack, , David Rolfe Richard Swords (2nd Anniversary), Lucy Saladar, Chita Febrero, Ninfa & Mark Beunafe

For the Sick and Those needing our Prayers

Rani Perera's Family in Sri Lanka, Sr Bernadette Koning, Sr Julian Mack, Sr Rita Torpey, Sr Yvonne Berecry, Fr Paul Gurry, Margaret Zucker, Leone & Paul Hancock, Esme Elefante, Thomas Cosgrove, Rosemary Cooley, Zack, Greg Baker, John Harmon, Frankie (aged 5), Stephen Reddan, John Keen, Margaret & John Toye, Grace Corbitt, Catherine Bird, Lesley Cheeseman, Lyn Small & Family, Clare Hitchcock, Christine Murphy, Phoebe & Zoe Logan, Abby, Debbie & Judi Cosgrove, Bruno & David Chung, John Tomc, Jonalyn & Lilibeth Ulep, Charlotte Aquino, Henry Harwood, John & Grace & Alyssa Ito, Florence Lumberio, Camille Casco, Kiro Borja, Franco Di Vincenzo, Yolanda Aquino, Joan Clark, Tom, Geraldine Ludbrook, Lynette Allan, Kate Gavan, Hazel Bailey, the Carlton Family, Lynette & Poppy, John & Rosemary Goldner, baby Martinez, Janese Walls, Rayma Weaver, Pam Stack, Gail Garnet, Peter Butler, Federal Elections, Jean Clancy, Emma Jensen, Pamela Tipanan, Ray O'Neil, Abraham Romero, Dennis Joseph, for the victims of terrorist attacks, and for those suffering after natural disasters, for the smooth sale of homes and purchase of new homes for Andrew and Pat, Margaret and John, Majella, Josie.

With Thanksgiving

For the arrival of Joseph Daniel, the 43rd great grandchild of our Associate of almost 40 years – Val Bretherton. Congratulations, dear Val and Family.