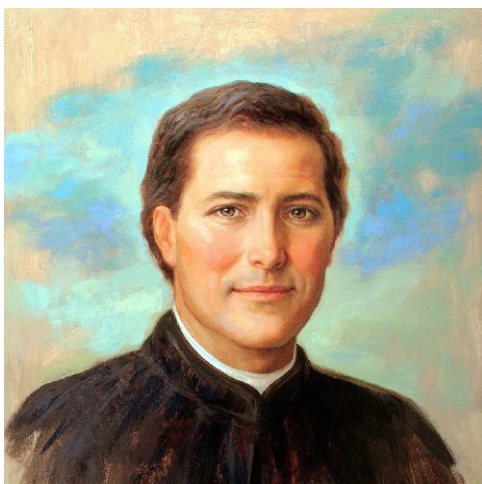




ENCOUNTER OF HEARTS

A Newsletter that features articles on justice, peace and ecology and reports from the Laity of the Chevalier Family on initiatives being undertaken in their countries.



'Spirituality of the Heart leads us from our own hearts to the pain and suffering of the world in which we live. We are called to be God's Heart on Earth and to offer ourselves to be used as a source of healing for the wounds of the world. We believe, as did Chevalier, that love in action is the remedy for the ills of the world.'

Chevalier Institute



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EDITORIAL

When in 1854, Jules Chevalier was appointed assistant priest in Issoudun, he met Emile Maugenest as his colleague. Chevalier had known Maugenest from the Major Seminary in Bourges. There, they had shared their dreams for the future with one another. Even before their ordination, the two priest students were worried about the increasing inequality in society between rich and poor. In Issoudun they continued their conversations and they shared the conviction that, *“two evils are destroying our unhappy world – indifference and selfishness – an effective remedy is needed and such remedy lies in the Sacred Heart of Jesus who is all love and charity”* (PN p. 107).

In 1857 Chevalier wrote Rules for the new congregation. There, he stated as an objective of this new foundation: *“to make known the treasures of the Heart of Jesus, to spread everywhere the sacred fire of his love and to combat selfishness and indifference”* (DR December 20). To achieve this goal, he wanted to bring together as many people as possible - religious, priests and lay people - in, what he called, *“the movement of the heart.”*

Remarkably, we find a similar vision in the writings of Pope Francis. He, too, speaks of indifference, indeed of a *“globalization of indifference”* (EG n. 54), and of selfishness, which, he says, takes the form of *“collective selfishness”* (LS n. 204), rooted in an ever-increasing social inequality. *“Inequality is the root of social ills,”* he writes (EG n. 202). Only *“social or pastoral practices”* that are inspired by *“a spirituality which can change hearts”* (EG 262) are capable of healing these social illnesses.

The promotion of justice, peace, and care for the integrity of creation belongs therefore to the core of a Spirituality of the Heart, as promoted by Father Chevalier and Pope Francis and practiced by the Chevalier Family. For Pope Francis, justice, peace and care for the integrity of creation are closely linked to one another. He writes: *“Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.”* (LS n. 91).

Justice is about promoting solidarity in society with a clear aim of overcoming the inequalities between rich and poor, as far as possible. We are called to do justice to every human being, especially to those whose rights are violated. Justice creates peace between people and nations. But justice and peace can only come about when every human being has access to the natural resources, the Creator has abundantly given us. We are urged to deal sparingly with water, energy and the fruits of the land, while showing respect for the flora and fauna in their environment. We have to be prudent with nature. After all, we are not possessors, but guardians of nature and are called to share the treasures of nature with one another.

Both Father Chevalier and Pope Francis remind us that we can only heal the ills of society if we begin by healing our own hearts. Pope Francis writes, *"The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume"* (LS 204). An empty heart puts people at risk of becoming self-centred, he states. Father Chevalier writes: *"It is the heart that gives value to our thoughts, actions, intentions. Good comes from the good treasure of our hearts"* (SC p. 105. DR June 25).

I'm writing this at a time when we're all facing the impact of the corona-virus pandemic. Perhaps we ourselves have been affected by the virus; we may have lost loved ones, or we are still being hit by the socio-economic consequences of the crisis. This pandemic reminds us that we are all vulnerable people. In that respect, we are all equal. We thank the Lord for living out His solidarity with us through Jesus Christ, in this time, too. The Spirit that comes forth from the Heart of Jesus also lives in our hearts, filling our hearts with His gifts, such as the gifts of heartfelt attention and practical solidarity. We see heroic examples of doctors, nurses and other caregivers, along with the staff of nursing homes, risking their lives in caring for some of our most vulnerable neighbours. Let us also, in the words of Father Chevalier, *"not close our hearts to pity, when along life's road we come across a person wounded by sorrow or a poor person lacking everything"* (MD, DR September 7).

Hans Kwakman msc
Spiritual Counselor International Lay Council.

Abbreviations:

DR = Jules Chevalier, *Daily Readings*.

EG = Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*.

LS = Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*.

PN = Jules Chevalier, *Personal Notes*.

SC = Jules Chevalier, *Le Sacré Coeur de Jésus*

MD = Jules Chevalier, *Meditations*.



Sr Rita Grunke olsh – Well Project in South Sudan



Image: Jo Howard

Letter from the International Council

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus developed out of devotion to sacred wounds, in particular the sacred wound on Jesus' side. It is from this devotion that our Founder starts to express and trust that the Sacred Heart is the remedy for the evils of his time and evidently of our time. Unfortunately, humanity has lived full of wounds, since the time that our Founder lived and until today. Wounds such as abandonment, indifference, poverty, violence, lack of access to health, lack of access to education and others that hurt us so much.

From this perception and trust in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Father Jules Chevalier placed all his security in the Merciful Heart of Jesus and from there our Chevalier Family was born. This family is willing, in various places of the Common House, to witness the Love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

It is this love, which with all its fortress should transform the various realities that have already been mentioned at the beginning of this text. The big question is: are we really witnessing this Love of the Sacred Heart in practice or just theorizing?

I think that we often do not allow our human hearts and souls to soak with a deep conviction of God's wonderful, tender and compassionate love towards us. And if we do not soak deeply, we will be superficial, we will live in theory and we will not truly experience this transforming Love.

A member of the Chevalier Family truly steeped in the Merciful Love of the Heart of Jesus, never agrees with social injustices, with hunger, with war, with the spread of lies, with discrimination, with the lack of adequate health for all, does not live in selfishness. You can never live with a frozen heart.

Let us remember that Father Jules Chevalier proposed to his Missionaries the spirit and example of the Good Shepherd, in the fullness of his Merciful Heart.

May we have in our hands the perfume that enveloped Jesus to be placed in the tomb, as this represents the great love of his followers towards him. Great love for his testimony, for what he did for the excluded. Jesus was always on the side of the needy. It was not anywhere. He knew exactly who needed to defend and it is this message that He leaves us very clearly. According to the Gospel of Mark 2,17: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

This is the Love of the Sacred Heart, which defends the excluded in all circumstances. Who is with them: on the street, having lunch together, lowering themselves in the eyes of the sinner, curing the blind, the paralyzed, and other situations more than humanity claims.

And we Lay People of the Chevalier Family where and how are we witnessing this Love?



MSC Retreat House Australia

Doris Machado dos Santos – International Council of the LCF

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

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere

Welcome to groups we have made contact with or recently heard about:

Namibia
South Africa
Canada
Marshall Islands

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

Philippines

In Cebu 22-29th January 2023

Meetings of the International Council 2019

Conference Calls:

- 6th October 2019
- 9th May 2020

Face-to-face meetings:

- Rome with the Trigeneralate 16th-21st December 2019



International Council Meeting in Rome, December 2019

Congratulations to Australia for the development of their Guiding Principles and Statutes 2019/20

Thank you for financial contributions to the International Council.

*National Council: Australian Chevalier Family Laity
European Council: Chevalier Family Laity*

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TO BE A REMEDY FOR THE ILLS THAT HUMANITY SUFFERS TODAY

In times of the COVID-19, some of the more classic phrases that reflect our Spirituality and our MSC missionary tradition have become more current and relevant.

Today humanity is suffering a global evil, unfortunately it is not the only one, but the arrival of this virus shows us how other failures in our systems still remain unfixed, many of them hidden, made up, forgotten... This pandemic shows the wounds that humanity and the planet are suffering.

In spite of how devastating and complex this time of pandemic is, for us as MSC (*Editor: where the article cites MSC we read Chevalier Family and that includes all members*) it should be a time to practice solidarity with the victims and at the same time to value the great gift we have in our MSC Charism and Spirituality: in times like the one through which we are living today all over the world "to be the heart of God on earth" and "to love like Jesus who loved with a human heart" are phrases that make more sense, especially when a pandemic comes and reveals our global vulnerability. Ironically this vulnerability is the consequence of global systems that do not place the human being at the center, rather economic and powerful interests.

The 'Common Home' and all of humanity are suffering from the inhumanity of our political and commercial systems, that are even capable of eliminating those whom society consider "disposable". Systems that take advantage, even of the pandemic, to show the world who has more power - this is disappointing.

There is an urgent need for people who truly love with a human heart, and we have the possibility of BEING AND DOING IT from the Heart of the People of God. Our people are suffering from many different "evils", one of them being the Coronavirus pandemic today. There are other "pandemics" that are subtle lies that are not even catalogued as such, but that continue to kill more people in the world, such as misery, inequality, human trafficking, abuse, violence, destruction of the common home, etc.

But today what can we as MSC learn from this time of pandemic?

I believe that something has to change within us, there has to be a change of mentality and commitment to co-creating new attitudes towards life.

Avoiding magical and/or apocalyptic interpretations, this pandemic has shown us some important things.

1. That all that we have is the present and this must be lived to the full. It is the recovery of TODAY, tomorrow is uncertain. And we who are co-dependent, at times, on our programs, agendas and securities, are today experiencing insecurity, feelings of limitation and abandonment to what is uncertain.



2. We need to experience the God of Jesus, to return to that God, who according to the Gospels is not the "God of the Temple". If this terrible pandemic has taught us anything, it is that the God we must follow and to whom we need to commit ourselves, is not limited by the walls of our churches, or by rituals, or by traditions, or by customs, or even by culture. All that is wonderful and good but these days even the unimaginable or what we considered "non-negotiable" has been "cancelled". Today we have been challenged to live and experience the God who is present in the heart of each one, in the heart of the people and, indeed, in the heart of our social networks.

TO BE A REMEDY FOR THE ILLS THAT HUMANITY SUFFERS TODAY

He is the God of the tents, the God who walks with his people on their journey, as in the Old Testament. These presences of God are as alive as the living presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

3. This is a time of changing methodologies, of changes in systems, some of them up to now considered untouchable, for example the liturgy. Today we are being called to pray and experience God within our homes or apartments, to celebrate life online, to deconstruct customs that have made us forget the centrality of the “Domestic Church”. We are now doing what Jesus really proposed in his time and which was therefore prophetic and authentic. As wonderful as the community celebration is in our worship spaces, today even the most famous Basilicas and Shrines around the world have had to change their practice.

4. The pandemic had to come to help us reduce the level of clericalism that has affected us so much in our MSC religious life. Today it is no longer the big and massive events that concern us, but the awareness of being a parish community or another kind, the lowliness of empty and virtually connected temples. This experience poses great challenges that require much creativity especially in the economic field. The pandemic is showing us that it is not impossible to reach the same end in new and more creative ways

Anyway, we could continue to list so many other realities with which this time of pandemic has confronted us and that should lead us to make adjustments such as changing our mind-set and strengthening our sense of belonging. We are also being called upon to be different after this pandemic experience. Let us hope that we will soon see the end of this pandemic, which is neither the first nor the last in the history of humanity, but which is what our generation is being called upon to live through and face courageously.

May we return to Jesus in this time of pandemic, and continue struggling to be authentic followers of Jesus, with more clarity and independence, freed from any pre-conceived ideas about what following Jesus entails.

Today, more than ever, the People of God need MSC to be signs of Hope and Consolation, men imbued with the spirit of prayer and listening, capable of being present where people suffer and run risks. Present now in a virtual way, but still a prophetic presence. We are all called and committed to maintain the process of deconstruction of securities that the same coronavirus is making us live through. So that together we co-construct new ways and strategies of being and acting as MSC in the real world.

Abzalón Alvarado, MSC

MSC General Bulletin Vol 9 No 1 – April 2020



Image: Gemma Farrugia

A SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART AND THE CHALLENGE TO BE PEACE-MAKERS AND EARTH-SAVERS

Once the planet is seen as infused with divine creativity, creation can no longer be treated just as a thing ... Thomas Berry observed that 'an absence of a sense of the sacred' was the basic flaw in ecological efforts. It has been said: 'we will not save what we do not love.' It is also true that we will neither love nor save that which we do not experience as sacred. *Laudato Si'* was Pope Francis' bold bid to help humanity love the earth, to glimpse its sacredness and be moved by its plight. (p 194-5)



Father Jules Chevalier was deeply moved by the evils that afflicted the people of his time.

As he contemplated the Heart of Christ, in whom is revealed the compassionate love of the Father, he discovered there the remedy for the ills of the world.

We live in a time of uncertainty. With the Covid-19 pandemic everything seems to have changed. Our activities ceased, time seemed longer and we were able to discover other things we had not noticed before. We (did not) and do not know what the end of all this will be, however, we see signs that through this experience, humanity is finding within itself a united heart: the Heart of God. It became clearer that everything is interconnected and that only by assuming ourselves as 'one' can we look at creation in a different way. As our Superior General never tires of reminding us, 'it is necessary to transform the egosystems into ecosystems.'

Fr Humberto Henrique da Silva msc



Laudato Si' is apocalyptic both because it unmasks the truth about what we hold as sacred, and also because it exposes human helplessness to solve the crisis by our own means alone. In language that is direct, simple and compelling, the encyclical demands that we choose a new way, one that depends on ecological conversion. Our crises - ecological, political, human and natural are interconnected in a deep sickness that demands a new way of thinking and living. Competitive behaviours that have fuelled human progress are no longer strategies that can help us... Only a new heart, leading to new way of seeing... can now save us...

In *Laudato Si'* the environmental crisis isn't just an ethical lapse or a failure of awareness but the symptom of something much deeper: the outworking of the Fall. Depicting a world of people seduced into a merry-go-round of endless production and consumption, deprived of the joy God intends for us shows humanity miserable and alone in a frigid night of blinking machines. But it also calls forth a radical gesture of loving defiance: to gaze on God's creation with the eyes of loving contemplation, and to allow ourselves to be converted. (p 197)

Questions for Discussion:

What are the lifestyle responsibilities for the Chevalier Family who live in the world of privilege?

What are the human rights that we should be striving to ensure are present for those who live in the less privileged world?

What does Father Chevalier and Pope Francis say is the remedy for this injustice?

What does that ask of each of us?

References: *Wounded Shepherd: Austin Invereigh. Pope Francis and his struggle to convert the Catholic Church. – Chapter 7, Saving our Common Home, MSC Constitutions, General Bulletin: 20th April, 2020. Images from Unsplash.com*

An invitation for the Laity of the Chevalier Family to support people in need

Sister Rita Grunke FDNSC from South Sudan

Sr Rita is an Australian olsh sister who has lived and worked with the poorest of the poor in South Sudan for many years.

Sr Rita has taken on the responsibility for repairing three boreholes; one for a leper community, one for the poor and blind and another for poor women.

The people who use these wells are destitute. They need the water to live but have no means of meeting the cost of repairs.

Can we help them?

Can we raise \$1,000.00 AUD this year to help these people have fresh clean water.

If your group could raise money and transfer it to the International Account for the Laity of the Chevalier Family we will send it to Sr Rita olsh. Mark your donation Sr Rita.



Payment Remittances to

MSC Lay Ministry International in Australia

The following account details are to be provided for arranging funds to be remitted electronically from overseas to MSC Lay Ministry International in Australia Account are as follows:

Swift Routing Number: CTBAAU2S

(AUST) Account BSB: 062-000

(AUST) Account Number: 10143845

Account Name: Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Development Fund

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Branch: 48 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000

Reference: 2193S54

Please put the reference number 2193S54 plus your organisation and inform us when your transfer has been processed, so that we can monitor our account accordingly.



REPORTS ON JUSTICE AND PEACE INITIATIVES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL

“Our mission is to love”

It is with this motto that the Provincial Mission of the Province of Rio de Janeiro makes a difference wherever it goes, presenting the treasures of the Heart of Jesus, showing everyone that God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8). People involved in the project exclaim, "You have something different!" And so, this is how we manage to gain more and more space in the people's hearts. But, what is the Provincial Mission? What are your goals? What is your methodology? Come on!



a) What is the Provincial Mission?

It is a project of the Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) of Rio de Janeiro, which has been taking place for a long time as part of the annual training program for MSC trainees. The novelty from 2016 is that it started to gather priests, religious, graduates and lay people from the Chevalier Family (LFC) in some parish, MSC or not, to stay there for a week and visit all the inhabitants of the region, in addition to executing a series of religious activities, such as masses, catechesis, vocational meetings, sharing etc.



b) What are your goals?

The main objective is evangelization. Being a Church among a particular people and showing the beauty of following Jesus Christ. This objective unfolds in other more particular ones: to present the Spirituality of the Heart through the devotions of the Chevalier Family; visiting people to listen to them and share life with them; training missionaries in the dynamic of Jesus, meeting the anguished and the hopeful, the sad and the joyful, to forge in their hearts solidarity with all human realities (cf. *Gaudium et spes*, no. 1).

c) What is your methodology?

The methodology is simple and engaging. Each day of the week is motivated by a theme of the spirituality of the Chevalier Family. These themes are present from the morning prayer, visits, formation until mass at the end of the day. The subjects are: prayer for the deceased; prayer with Saint Joseph for families; prayer with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; eucharistic day; day of praise to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; and, with Father Chevalier to give thanks to God.



As well, the program runs from one Sunday to the next, the mission is opened with a welcoming mass for missionaries and ended with a farewell mass for the entire community present, because the mission must continue!

This year, from January 12 to 19, 2020, the Provincial Mission took place in São Geraldo, in the interior of Minas Gerais, in the parish of São Sebastião, diocese of Leopoldina (MG). Homeland of Deacon Fábio Júnior, MSC. A very welcoming city, surrounded by beautiful and green mountains and a people thirsty for the teachings of Jesus.

87 LFC, 12 young people, 5 priests, 1 deacon and 13 MSC trainees were present, totalling 118 missionaries. To see how this project attracts more and more missionaries among the LFC, just compare its number in the first Provincial Mission, in 2016 in

the city of Goiânia, capital of Goiás, with the latter: the number increased from 6 to 87 people.

Mission is always a time where the grace of God is experienced. In São Geraldo this was seen in the smiles of the people, in the confidence in sharing their stories, in the enthusiasm of the people, who each day corresponded to the missionaries' proposals. In each person who pledged to help, in those who were visited by the Missionaries, it was possible to see the work of the Spirit of God.

And the Provincial Mission will not stop! At the farewell mass, in São Geraldo, the name of the parish that will receive the project in 2021 was announced: Parish of Nossa Senhora do Sagrado Coração, in the city of Rio de Janeiro (RJ). Certainly the missionaries will be there, engaged in the task received from Jesus, affirming once again that their mission is to love.

Report Washington Pablo de Oliveira Moura, MSC
Provincial Spiritual Advisor of the LFC of the Province of Rio de Janeiro.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Laity of the Chevalier Family of the Dominican Republic, aware of a hopeful life, marked by the project of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our mission grows in every place where there is a lay person called to be the Heart of God in the world, in the specific place where his apostolate and mission unfolds.

In the reality that we live in this year 2020, with this pandemic that affects us and that has blocked our calendar and agenda for visiting all lay communities, we are not discouraged but we are taking advantage of this time of grace to internalize and go to the source of the Heart of Jesus to fill us with hope, love and solidarity with our most vulnerable and defenseless brothers, so that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is Loved Everywhere.

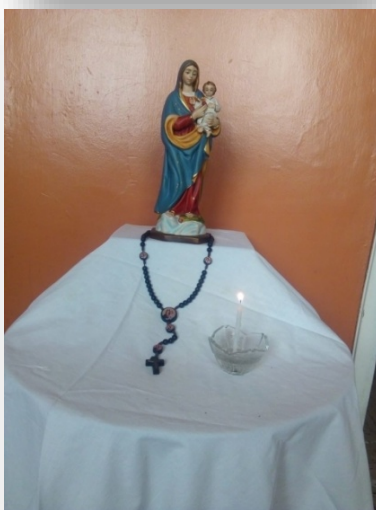
Fernando Hernandez



ECUADOR

Like all Catholics in the world, the Chevalier Family in Ecuador lived Holy Week with the family at home.

As a testimony of this experience I send some photos.



Jo Howard

EL SALVADOR

Dear brothers from El Salvador, we greet you, hoping that these lines will reach where they are, with a message of love and solidarity.

We are a group of 18 people whose ages range from 22 to 65 years. We are part of three groups, called in different years, very proud of having been able to join. 70% of the members participate in diverse ministries.

As Laity of the Chevalier Family we meet on the first Sunday of each month. On that day, a training topic is shared and fundraising activities are organized. These activities are

three or four in the year. There is no fixed monthly contribution. We share ideas and refreshments; Coffee is not lacking to "take away the dream". We have WhatsApp to communicate to give some motivational message. So the month of waiting to meet again is not so long.

Currently, like everyone else, we are under the threat of COVID19, but trusting that this town will be little affected thanks to the Mercy of our Father. In general, asking our Lord for forgiveness when we feel fear, fear, because without permanent work, we see income

threatened to cover all the needs and that is lived in the group. The confinement is combated with other activities. Some of the laity are grandmothers and their time is spent with grandchildren and children. This group is made up of people of faith, persevering, and this gives us strength and hope in a new dawn. Just look back at Him and try to live like true brothers. We know that days of immense blessings will come, thanks to the Risen One who lives in us.

United for love

Laity of the Family Chevalier of El Salvador



It was in 2001, after three years of formation, with Sr. Monika Grunwald msc and Fr Federico Arbizú msc, as formators, when the LMSC Community of Life I made its First Public Pledge, which should be renewed every year. Currently, Fr. Joaquín Herrera msc is his formator. In 2002, the Formation Guides called another group of Lay people, but this time couples, who made their First Public Promise in 2005. This is how the LMSC Life II Community was born, accompanied by the same formators in its beginnings, and currently, its Formator is Sr. Leonor Villate msc.

The Community of Life I, every Eucharistic Thursday coordinates the Holy Hour, reflecting on Ecology, Priests and Consecrated Religious, Priestly and Missionary Vocations, and for the needs of the Parish Community. They serve the Parish through Extraordinary Communion Ministers; as well as, with Pre-Baptismal Talks. They attend to the elderly and coordinate the Social Pastoral.

The Community of Life II supports the Parish Training Centre for Children "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart" (Nursery), with accompaniment to parents, vaccination for children by the Health Centre. Also, in the Pro-beatification Campaign of the MSC Martyrs of Quiché, who will be beatified on 4-12-2020, in Guatemala.

In June / 2018, these two Communities are called for a meeting on the 9th to choose the members of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY IN GUATEMALA. They are elected: Coordinator, Sergio López (sergioantoniolopezvaldes@yahoo.com.mx) and sub-coordinator, Rita Hernández (ritadhernandez@hotmail.com)

Currently, they are in Formation: The Community of Young Laity of the Chevalier Family, who began in April 2018 named MSC Missionaries. Their Formator was Sr. Mercedes Mejía msc in 2018 and 2019 and in 2020, Sr Patrocina Caal msc. They carry out studies and a retreat to delve into the charism and spirituality of the Chevalier Family: Love, mercy and service. In the

community, they visit the elderly, campaign for the care of creation. And, the Community of Laity MSC invited by members of the National Committee of the Laity began their Formation in February 2019 with their Formator Fr. José Doré Chicas msc. They have focused on the fundamental basis of their spiritual formation, with moments of prayer, exercises of interiorization, personal meditation, Holy Hours, Eucharist. All these moments geared towards to live them.

Each of the members of these two Lay Communities, already committed, and of the two communities in formation, have their individual apostolate. They are members of the Parish Community and participate in religious and parish activities.



These Communities are formed because our Founder, Fr. Jules Chevalier, was a visionary. His desire was to include the laity, from their different living environments, and with their variety of aptitudes and talents, to make known the love of God and be his witnesses, everywhere, through his testimony of life. Men and women of Prayer, with experiences in Community, discovering the face of Jesus in the little ones and those most in need. Their greatest commitment: to live the spirituality of the Heart of Jesus, mainly in their families. Our Motto: "Beloved be everywhere The Sacred Heart of Jesús ... FOREVER"

In Mexico, the Lay people of the Chevalier Family have had three development experiences: the MSC Seminary, the MSC community and the San Ramón parish. I will briefly present the development of the LFC, with the help of Sr. Remedios msc and Florina, lfc. The MSC arrived in this country in 1992 and the Sisters MSC in 1993. After a period, we met as lay people and we have done a process in three stages. We first had an initial convocation time, between 2000 and 2003, when the MSC shared their spirituality and mission with us. The second stage was of identity and development of the three lay groups. In the third stage, since 2017, we have experienced an internal reorganization.

MSC TRAINING HOUSE

In the MSC House of Formation the experience of the laity began in March 2000. Then we had the first mission in an NSSC parish in Veracruz with 5 young people. We carry out missions in Advent and Easter in different towns with the participation of young laity,



Young Lay People of the Sacred Heart



Young Lay People of the Sacred Heart

adults, ladies, couples, alongside seminarians and vocationalists. The fact of doing the apostolate working with laity was a good thing in their formation. A large group of young Lay People of the Sacred Heart was created and lived the missions sharing with the seminarians the work, formation and spirituality. Between 2002 and 2007 we carry out the missions with the Sisters MSC and its group of laity. Then we had 10 years following our own path. The last mission that was carried out in this way was in 2017 and with this we closed the LSC group.

SISTERS MSC

The group of lay people joined to Sisters MSC Theresa, María and Remedios began in 2003. Sr. Reme has accompanied two groups of lay people: in the Esmeralda's colony (San Ramón parish) and in Naucalpan, with the participation of ladies, young people and children. We have organized missions in different towns, mainly in Guerrero and Veracruz. We also see the support of Sisters msc, as well as Florina and Vicky, to guide both lay groups. The LFC meeting in Brazil in 2017, with the participation of Vicky, Florina and Sr. Reme, helped us to see the experience of lay people from other countries and motivated us to strengthen our organization.



Laity of the Chevalier Family of Naucalpan with MSC Sisters

Here we enter a third stage, assuming internal organization and reinforcing the relationship with the LFC in the world. We noticed this in the change of name to Laity of the Chevalier Family. Sr. Reme went on a mission to Peru in 2018 and now Father Jorge msc is with us.

SAN RAMÓN NONATO

The MSC in the parish of San Ramón Nonato, P. Eulide and P. Policarpo, formed the Brotherhood of NSSC in 2002 to encourage the Eucharist on weekdays.



Laity of the Chevalier Family with the MSC Sisters in Esmeralda



LFC of Naucalpan and the LFC of San Ramón with Sister Tereza Molchanow and Father Jorge Gómez Rodríguez

Since 2002 Fr. Juan has shared with us the spirituality of the Sacred Heart and service. Now with Fr Jorge we have walked since 2014. In 2019 we made the promise as an LFC together with the groups from Naucalpan and La Esmeralda. On the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus we unite ourselves to the Lord to thank him for his mercy and we also unite each other. In the Eucharist, the MSC and MSC renew their vows and the LFC make renewal of promises. Then, we ended the day celebrating with dinner, photos and the joy of the mission.

Mexico City, April 13, 2020

In the Heart of Jesus: P. Jorge GR msc



Laity of the Chevalier Family in the Parish of San Ramón Nonato

PARAGUAY

Dear Chevalier family, I allow myself, on behalf of my colleagues here in Paraguay, to send you a fraternal hug in the Heart of Jesus.

I am Lucy Margarita Rodríguez, current coordinator, with my colleagues: Mirtha Abad as secretary and María Chudyck as treasurer.

It is a difficult moment that we all have to live through the pandemic. Despite staying in our homes, we remain united in prayer and the permanent assistance and containment of our spiritual guide, Father José

Antonio Rafael through daily reflections that we receive in the wp group.

May our Lady of the Sacred Heart pray for all of us and the whole world and that when the Pandemic passes, with joy and gratitude, we go out to announce that "Beloved be everywhere, the Sacred Heart of Jesus forever!!!

With much faith and hope we greet you with affection from Paraguay.



New coordination of LFC Paraguay



First encounter 2020



First encounter 2020



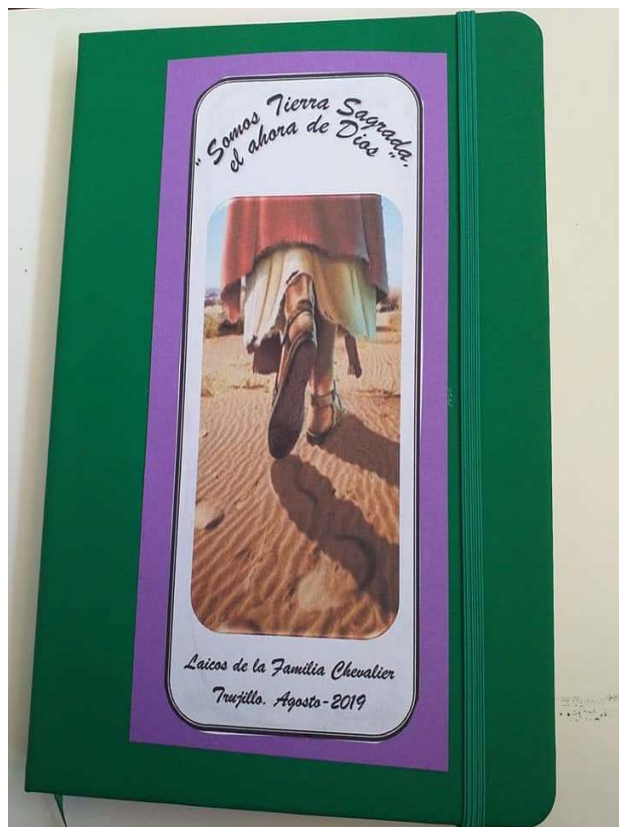
Formation 2020



Formation in February 2020 with F. Rafaell

PERU

As Laity of the Family Chevalier in Peru, we have continued throughout 2019 with the second school of spirituality, since we had the financial support of Advent, to carry out our activities, we scheduled all of them on a weekend every two months. This is how we were meeting with the members of the communities of the different parts of the country.



In August we finished the School of Spirituality. We did it in a decentralized way. This time in the warm lands of Trujillo, in the north of Peru. This 2nd retreat was called "We are sacred land, the now of God" with the aim of strengthening the conscience of being a synod, missionary, prophetic and faithful to God.

Likewise, we participated together with the MSC parents and sisters in the preparation for the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June, with the motto "Ecology, an evolution of mind and heart", with 3 nights of exchange with topics such as "A love, a mission" in charge of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Care of Creation, with the participation of Father Dario MSC. The laity participate with the theme "Keepers of our common home: Pan-Amazonian Synod".

We celebrated on November 30 and December 1 our National Assembly as well as the preparation for Advent.

The National Council scheduled a meeting with the coordinators of the different communities in the country, in order to interact on the proposal of the plan of activities for 2020. Regarding the financial

contribution to be sent to the International Council, the opinions were unified and priority was given to the aspect of training, according to the guidelines established at international level.



BELGIUM

Broederlijk Delen (Fraternal Share) is a non-governmental organisation accredited in Belgium. The organisation aspires to a sustainable world without inequalities. Because even if there is enough for everyone, there are people living in poverty. SHARE AND REDISTRIBUTE is the motto. And also, invest in the PROPER PROJECTS of the poorest communities in the southern countries. A few years ago, the NGO began organising walking and cycling activities. Athletes get to know Belgian organic farmers who help farmers in the South and discover why sustainable and global agriculture is a blessing for human beings and the environment. Each participant gives 150 euros for the partners of "Broederlijk Delen". Together with the Belgian laity we sponsor the participation of two athletes who accept this challenge with enthusiasm and envy!

Our Open Heart Movement shows its respect and its link with the partners of Broederlijk Delen in the South.



The Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation in its entirety, which also includes some lay people, has published a small pamphlet, namely **"Living in Harmony"**. The brochure includes texts, ideas, prayers and practical advice as part of our concern to improve the lives of all human beings here and around the world, our concern to create a high quality of life in our "common home", not only for those who live there now, but also for future generations!

The MSC Commission "Justice, Peace and Creation in its entirety" organizes an annual "Day of Hope". This Day gives the opportunity to members of the Belgian Chevalier Family, as well as to people who are not part of our great Family, to get to know Belgian projects (recently we discovered projects in Leuven, Alost, Antwerp and Brussels) that fight against poverty or/and who are committed to reducing the ecological footprint.



In Brussels, we were invited to the Church of St-Roch where the parish priest MSC and his parish team distribute daily meals to homeless people, undocumented immigrants and refugees.

In February 2018, a group of laity of the Belgian Chevalier Family, started the financial contribution to the school costs of Sarkar, a Nepalese boy.

A dear friend of the “Open Heart Movement” worked during his holidays in the health center of the once forgotten village “Gahate” in the poor East of Nepal, in the Arun Valley. He worked there together with his wife and two friends. One day, they launched a school project! They immediately got the support of the Nepalese population!

Right from the start, there was this Doctor working in Kathmandu but born in the Gahate region, Dr. Lamsal, a doctor-physiotherapist, who offered a helping hand! Then there was Manoj, a young man from the Arun Valley, who had been financially supported by Werner, ever since he was 11. Thanks to this financial support, Manoj was able to obtain a university degree in Construction and Civil Engineering. They both are indispensable links in this Gahate school project.

But what is even more important: the project is being supported by two members of the Nepalese government!

Our help to Sarkar and his family offers him a promising future perspective and the freedom to choose!



National laity Coordination

Dearest Sisters and Brothers,

We just celebrated the Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and our Saviour. Let me fill you in on what is going on here in these troubled times. Still, we have hope and faith that God is watching us and takes care of all of his creatures. Thus, we stay united in prayer and we all firmly believe that this pandemic will soon be over.

The year 2020 started off well for the Cameroon Laity Branch. A general assembly took place on January 26 in Anhala at Mrs Ngah Alice's place (coordinating person).

The 2019 activities were discussed and evaluated. We

were all deeply touched and shocked by the number of sick and dead. Still, this encouraged us to keep both our family spirit and our life motto: "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere".

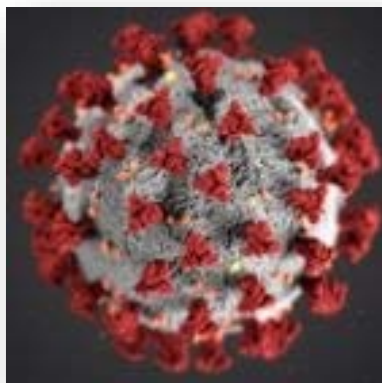
On the first of March 2020, we had a commemoration moment in Anguissa, with the MSC. This enabled us to spend "Lent" together and to experience it even more. The theme of the gathering was: "Lent: a perfect time to reconcile with ourselves, the future and God". Father Simon Pierre, the Cameroon District Superior, guided us through this in a marvellous way.

CORONAVIRUS

Just like any other country, our country has also been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic since march 2020. The towns that are hit the most are Douala, Yaoundé et Bafoussam. These are all crossing towns where many a traveller transits (by airplane, boat, train, car...) and where all kinds of people meet at a daily basis. By March 15, schools were closed and activities were put on hold. The economic impact is enormous: unemployment, put on leave, loss of salary and a weak production.

Many people in Cameroon seek refuge in special medicinal herbs and other natural treatments to fight this coronavirus. National Authority recommends the following basic precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of COVID-19:

Washing hands frequently and thoroughly, maintaining at least 1.5 metres of distance, wearing facial masks in crowded places, staying home as much as possible. All persons affected by the virus are well taken care of by the government that is doing all within its power to fight this enemy!



Due to all these precautions such as the lock down, we had to put on hold our group activities until new recommendations are released. We pray to God to

protect us and to save us from harm. May Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, help us get through this health crisis and this economic disaster.

JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR ALL

The letter of our Holy Father of January 1st 2020 sent to all Catholics throughout the World in the context of "Justice and Peace", has been a great support to us in strengthening our personal relationships and in strengthening our relation to the Great Chevalier Family here in Cameroon.



There's a growing desire to go and visit all the existing groups. In Yaoundé, two groups of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Fraternity received the visit of BURCOD, the Nlongkak and de Messamendongo group. These meetings gave them the opportunity to focus even more on the importance of living together and on sharing our assets and worries, with eye for forgiveness and reconciliation, fraternity and dialogue in our exchanges and our own personal daily realities.

MAN AND EARTH

The environment is a green space that we need to preserve and take care of for the well-being of all living creatures: man, animals, plants. The preservation of this green space is being threatened by man, Master of the Earth. Encouraged by Pope Francis's exhortation, we took the initiative to reuse our household waste in our own vegetable gardens, however small they may be. We cut trees less frequently, and instead encourage their survival and multiplication.

This is still a great challenge to us all, but we are working on it! More and more households follow our example. One member already offered us some home grown fruits! This is truly encouraging!

This is in brief a overview of the Laity Branch activities of the Chevalier Family in Cameroon from January up till now.



Please pray for us. We will remember you in our prayers and stay united in Jesus. We count on Mary's help, Mother of the Afflicted.

May the sacred heart of Jesus be loved everywhere, always!

Sr Nicole MAIPELE, fndsc

Love and FEED our Neighbour

The Lay Associates of the MSCs have started to organise a monthly collection of food and essentials to support the work of the Vineyard, a church in St Albans committed to an authentic and contemporary expression of faith in Jesus. The Vineyard runs a foodbank serving 80 individuals/families a week that are in desperate need particularly at present. Indeed, with schools being closed some vulnerable children no longer receive free school meals. The scheme started by the Lay MSCs in St Albans aims to improve on traditional food banks by working with the families identified by the Vineyard and targeting specific items each month. On the weekend of 21st/22nd March, just before the lockdown began in the UK, more than 100 items were donated ranging from baby food to washing detergent.

As our church has now closed, due to the government regulations, we are unable to collect goods at present, but by way of our Church Newsletter, we are now encouraging our parishioners who can go shopping to donate whatever they can spare into the foodbanks available at many supermarkets. We believe that if every family were to donate just one item, it would make a huge difference. Once we can go to church again, we shall continue to support the local foodbank.

From the gospels, we hear how we should love our neighbour, keeping our distance from one another being one way, another is through practical aid. Indeed, Fr Jules Chevalier, urged us all to be on earth the heart of God and stressed that our love of neighbour should be tender-hearted and compassionate.



The Foodbank for whom we are collecting essential items.

Lay Associates of the MSCs, Ss Alban & Stephen.

EUROPE

TRIODOS Bank aims to have a real impact on positive change in society in a transparent manner.

With money from savers and investors, Triodos funds sustainable projects of organisations engaged in the following sectors: ecology, sustainable energy, social inclusion, food and agriculture.

The European Council of the Laity has therefore chosen TRIODOS to contribute to the positive changes that are improving our lives, our society and our planet.



Fr Hubert Linckens



Fr Jules Chevalier



Sr Marie Louise Hartzler

The parish has obtained the label "Green Church" (we have reached level 3 "Vine stock"). Last year, we made a composter installed in the garden of the parish church and we made individual composters for people who wanted one.

This year, we organised a prayerful walk in nature and a "discovery" walk with a botanist to explain the fauna and flora. We also did a collective reading and sharing of the book "Laudato Si". Every month we display the intentions proposed by JPIC (Rome) in the churches of the parish.

Sylvie Barghon - France

Eglise verte

EMBALLAGES RECYCLABLES (POUBELLE JAUNE)

Cartonnettes, briques alimentaires, flacons et bouteilles en plastique, emballages en métal, papiers graphiques (journaux, magazines, papiers de bureau...)

je dépose en vrac dans mon conteneur jaune

LES EMBALLAGES EN MÉTAL
je les vide sans les laver

LES BOUTEILLES, BIDONS ET FLACONS EN PLASTIQUE

LES BRIQUES ALIMENTAIRES ET EMBALLAGES EN CARTON
je les aplatis

TOUS LES PAPIERS
j'évite de les froisser

À NE SURTOUT PAS METTRE !

Le papier gras alimentaire
Les essuie-tout et les mouchoirs
Les pots (yaourt, crème...)
Les films, sachets et blisters
Les barquettes en plastique ou polystyrène
La vaisselle jetable
Les tubes de dentifrice

PENSEZ À RECYCLER CES EMBALLAGES DANS LA POUBELLE JAUNE

Merci !

Eglise verte

UTILISATION DU COMPOST

Les déchets compostables

Branchages et petites tailles de haies broyées	Tontes de pelouses	Feuilles mortes	Ecorces d'arbres et copeaux de bois
Fleurs fanées	Mauvaises herbes non graminées	Epluchures de fruits et de légumes	Fanes de légumes, fruit et légumes abîmés
Coquilles d'œufs	Peaux de bananes	Trognons de pommes	Marc et filtres à café infusions

Ne PAS mettre au compostage

Gros branchages	Cailloux et graviers	Mauvaises herbes montées en graine	Coquilles de crustacés	Restes de viandes et de poissons	Os et arêtes
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Si vous souhaitez vous procurer un composteur, la CCMP propose des composteurs individuels de 300 litres en bois à 24€.
Plus d'informations au 04.78.55.52.18 ou sur le site internet de la CCMP.

Merci !

MAR 2020 ENGLISH

The very crisis of our times requires an ecological conversion that can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world's problems.
-Pope Francis.

As Chevalier Family, we are concerned about Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation in our world. We want to show this in the month MARCH by:

Bringing to our awareness that Mother Earth, our Common Home, gives us life and that we need to live in balance with her.

Praying (the rosary) that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Acting: we suggest to celebrate Earth Hour by switching off our lights for an hour on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 8:30 pm your local time and to replace light bulbs with LED's.



Logos: msc, MSC, MSC, MSC

GERMANY

The activities of the German Lay Group of the Chevalier Family for justice, peace and the integrity of creation

Here are 2 examples:

1. Sponsorship for a children's village in Haiti

When the great earthquake in Haiti in 2010 destroyed many parts of the country and 300 000 people lost their lives, our group decided to take over a sponsorship for a children's village in the poorest country in the western world. Two members of our group had already taken over a sponsorship for a child at the organization nph "Our little brothers and sisters", which gives many children in Latin America a loving home. We dealt with the founder of the organization, Father William Wasson, also called Father of the Orphans, and very quickly we decided unanimously and convinced ourselves to support and take over a sponsorship for the St. Hélène Children's Village in the mountains of Kenscoff, about 40 kilometers southeast of Port-au-Prince. In addition to homes for 350 girls and boys, it has a kindergarten, a primary and secondary school, playgrounds and sports fields, offices and a chapel. The water treatment plant ensures the quality of the drinking water and the small-scale agriculture provides fresh vegetables. The St. Hélène school is also open to children from the neighbourhood. 484 girls and boys receive not only a good education but also a warm meal. We have been supporting this valuable work of nph with our donations for 10 years.



2. Interreligious encounter

Our group meets once a month in a social centre in the middle of a multicultural and multi-religious district in Duisburg, Germany, which is run by Sr Martina, msc. This social centre and the work that is done there aroused the interest of our Belgian and Dutch friends who visited us there one weekend last summer. We were able to learn about the life of other cultures and religions and had a very nice encounter with Muslim and Buddhist people, for whom the social centre has become a home. In the end we could see that God is LOVE and is believed in all religions.

NAMIBIA

In response to the care for creation, Namibia as a nation has been responding well. The 'Justice and Peace' department in our Episcopal Conference had on various occasions organized workshops on 'Laudato Si'.

Some shops had banned the use of plastic bags and introduced carry bags made out of recyclable papers. In some shops people are encouraged to come with their own bags which are environment friendly.



You have already known our shopping bags made from older curtains and other suitable household textiles. They are used for unpackaged purchase of fruits, vegetables ...In this way we reduce the consumption of plastic bags.



To protect ourselves, others, and our planet during the coronavirus many of us use cotton clothing and residues of cotton material to sew protective masks which can be washed and reused again.



By preferring plant foods, we protect nature, the planet, its climate, our health and animals. In our spiritual center in Nitra there is possibility for course participants to ask for meatless food.



Cow's milk could be replaced by vegetable milk.

We collect all waste from fruits and vegetables in a suitable container. This waste is then put to a composter. In this way we reduce the amount of municipal waste and we fertilize the soil.



If we have an opportunity to shop in the stores where they sell goods into our own containers and bags. We do not bring home waste wrapping which ends in junkyard.



By shopping of organic food we support organic farming and our health.



We make simple and ecological cleaning agent at home by pouring vinegar on citrus peels, and let it stand for a month, the vinegar will have a nice scent and

we can use it for house cleaning, disinfection and descaling. There is also a decorative effect in our kitchen.



Those who have a garden take care of it in a permaculture spirit - ecologically, without chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides ...We grow policultures, compost, catch rainwater.



We don't mow the whole area of the lawn ... a part of it remains uncut so that flowers and other original plants could be kept in it, animals, insects, bees could find a shelter in it.

SPAIN

Piti, one of our lay people who lives in Valladolid, has been working for some time as a volunteer and for free in a solidarity organization that recycles and sells clothes, shoes, toys, etc. at economic prices. The text she sends me is the following:

I collaborate as a volunteer in the Boa Vida Association, which aims to reduce inequalities by giving work and

training to people with problems of social exclusion. This is done through a second-hand solidarity shop where all kinds of objects, clothes, shoes, furniture, etc. are reused and recycled and where these people work and train.

This Association works with the help of Emmaus sorters.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – MSC SISTERS

I love the idea of requesting input from the Lay MSC Areas about activities within the context of JIPC. We are literally put on this Earth to BE the Heart of Jesus and sharing these examples in a global arena is awesome! Thanks for putting this together.

One of the activities in the works for the Reading Area Lay MSC is improving the grotto to Our Blessed Mother at Sacred Heart Villa, which is in need of a lot of love! We only just started, and haven't yet added the pretty, but here you go.

The 1st picture shows the overgrowth, leaves & debris.



After a few hours, we accumulated this pile of debris...



Clean-up isn't quite finished, but here it is thus far



This young man is my son, Bill Rieger, whose strength and stamina is a gift from God.

I hope everyone in your world is healthy. Please stay strong, stay well, take care & God Bless.

Phyllis Rieger

"We are at our best, when we are grateful." Matthew Kelly

Blessings! Feast of Saint Mark

"Go all over the world and proclaim the Good News to all creation"(Mark 15)

We as a small group are involved with JIPC in various ministries. With those who live on the streets, offering food to those who are hungry, and also sending different articles to our local newspapers and the National Pro-Life Federation. Each of us: Anita Wagner, Marie Pellish and I, in our own little way, defend and respect the least of our brothers.

Part of our Center Valley PA group is the Mid-Ohio Lay MSC, which is made up of 7 persons, with the same dedication to Justice and Peace, serving in prison ministry and also inviting people of different faiths to a time of prayer service.

In the United States of America, in general, we are all concerned with eco-friendly concerns: plastics are recycled, garbage is taken care of on a weekly basis; some have either store-bought or home-made eco-bags; planting of trees. Our cars are much more improved efficient, with less gas emissions. Annual reviews are mandatory to ensure cars are up to date. These are just some of the measures that contribute to saving our planet earth.

Globally, great motivation and prayer are necessary for everyone to cooperate in every area of JIPC. This would be the best for our world. Unfortunately, the reality is different. We are still called into action to do what we possibly can to make a difference.

From the different articles sent, my heart identifies with those areas of the world where the climate has endangered coastal areas due to floods that destroy cities, without receiving any help from the government. Our priests strive to reach these abandoned populations, eager to receive the sacraments, to attend the Eucharist and hungry for

justice. I wish I could change the tilt of the axis of our planet! "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1-1) right where He wanted them to be. We are all called to action to continue to find ways to improve our earth better and better each day, prayerfully, morally, privately, publicly and politically.

We here at Center Valley / Sacred Heart Villa are moving always forward.

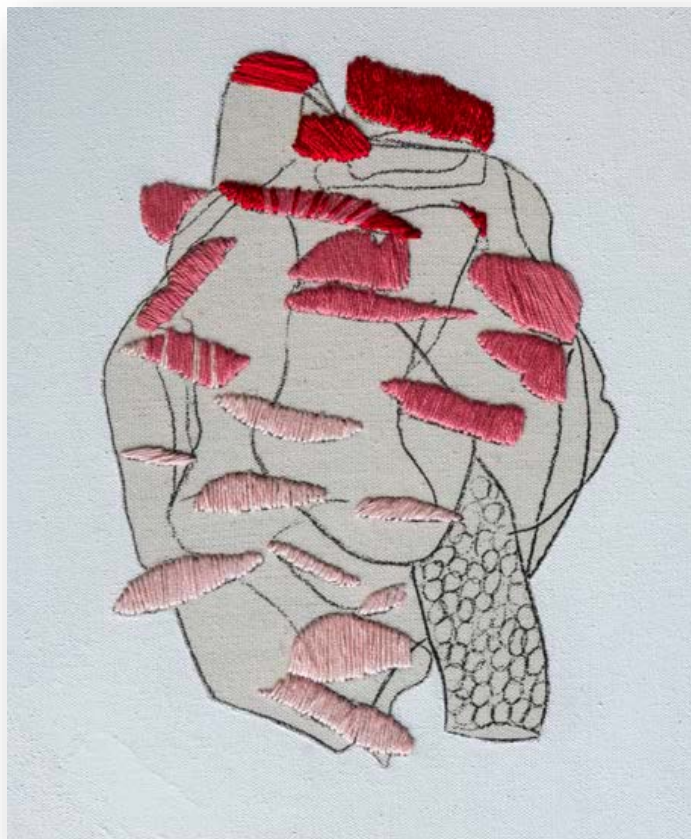
Perhaps the Covid 19 teaches us to value and protect all life from conception to natural death. With the

horrendous decision of the

Supreme Court in 1973, the United States and many countries around the world have become insensitive to the beautiful meaning of the gift we call LIFE. A gift from God created in His image and likeness.

Lynn

Lynn.msc@comcast.net (new email address)



Rachael Rowe – "The Mended Heart"

AUSTRALIA

Our introduction into the prison ministry began almost 8 years ago when Fay and I met Fr. Peter Carroll (MSC) who has been a Prison Chaplain for 16 years. From that auspicious occasion, we became involved in a number of areas in this wide and varied ministry.

Firstly, we are part of a team of 24 women and men who volunteer at the Downing Centre Courts in Sydney. We serve tea/coffee at the morning tea and lunch breaks to the people in the holding cells down in the basement. Sandwiches are supplied at lunch by Correctional Services. However we provide biscuits for morning tea funded by MSC Mission and the SOJ Sisters at Mary Mackillop Place North Sydney.

The other areas we work in are: - Visiting Inmates in Prison; Supporting chaplains with Sacramental services; Conducting Positive lifestyle programmes; Escorted day leave for long-term prisoners; Supporting ex-offenders under a special post release EAST-works programme. (Acronym for EAST is: - Education; Accommodation; Spiritual support; Transitional services)

An often-asked question is "Why do you do this work and how does it relate to our Christian faith, the

charism of Jules Chevalier and MSC Spirituality of the heart"? My response comes from Karl Rahner who said "We are not essentially different from the prisoners whom we visit in prison. It is only circumstances distinguish us and we must be grateful to God for these circumstances".

Saint Augustine asked the question, "What does love look like"? He then said, "It is the hands that reach out in need. It is the feet that hasten to the poor. It is the eyes that see misery and want. It is the ears that hear the cries and sorrows. That's what love looks like". We are Jesus' hands and feet; we are His eyes and ears. Jesus asks us to be His presence in our world today. People who are the outcasts of our society or those who are in prison, may not only have lost control of themselves but have lost the most precious thing of all----- their SENSE of DIGNITY and WORTH. Without this, nothing good can ever happen in a person's life. I guess that is what we are trying to do in our ministry, helping them to realize that they do have dignity and value, that they are a person. "Every time you have done these things to one of these little brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (Mt25: 40).



Barry and Fay Dalton LCF



Some social activities of the Laity Branch of the Indonesia Chevalier Family

(AKC = Awam Keluarga Chevalier).

The Laity branch of the Indonesian Chevalier Family (AKC) is engaged in the field of liturgy and social work. Social work includes support of orphanages, homes for the elderly and visiting prisoners. In prisons members of AKC celebrate liturgical services with the prisoners and give catechetical instructions.

One of the projects of AKC in the social field is supporting the leadership of some orphanages in their commitment to obtain justice for displaced children and in their care for the well-being of poor children. Members of the AKC organize social initiatives to raise money in order to help the orphanages in purchasing writing materials, books and other equipment such as tables, chairs and lighting devices.

Members of AKC also visit people in small villages to educate the people in social skills, care of the environment and in the field of child education. For example in December 2019, AKC members visited the parish of Darit, a village in the inland of the Indonesian Province of West-Kalimantan. They worked together with people of the local government to present programs to housemothers in the field of education and care of the environment. About 300 women attended the program, that covered subjects such as:

- Character building of children from 0-11 years old.
- Helping parents to understand why their children need a formal school education.

- Encouraging the women to care for a clean environment, green villages and a healthy way of living at home, e.g. by sorting out garbage and throwing it away in the right place.
- How to preserve the forests and the cleanness of rivers.
- How to improve the role of women at home and in society.

Two days of instructions were followed by practical sessions in which the women were encouraged to put in practice what they had received during the course. The participants liked the program very much. They received the information very well and promised to plant more trees in the villages and to keep the drains, the rivers and the whole environment as clean as possible. The intention is to continue and further develop this type of programs.

On Palm Sunday, April 2, 2020, members of AKC “Light of the Sacred Heart”, located in the city of Slawi, Central Java, went to visit a nearby village, where many inhabitants were affected by the Corona Virus Covid 19. Among the population, consisting of Catholic and Islamic families, they distributed some basic needs, such as rice and other foods as well as sanitizers. These goods were all donated by members of the AKC in Slawi.

Members of AKC Indonesia.



About 300 women attended a seminar in Darit, Kalimantan, presented by members of AKC Indonesia.



AKC members visit an orphanage in Indonesia.

JAPAN

On December 7, 2019, the Saturday closest to the day marking the anniversary of the foundation of MSC, which was founded on December 8, 1954, Japan's MSC lay associates within the Diocese of Nagoya, to which seven (7) parishes left in the care of MSC priests belong, gathered at Johokubashi-church (located in Nagoya), MSC Japan's headquarters, to renew their promises to commit to the spirituality of Fr. Jules Chevalier for another one year during a mass conducted by some of the MSC priests from these parishes.

Please find attached a photo taken when the Japan's MSC lay associates gathered on December 7, 2019 to renew their commitments to continue to be part of the Chevalier Family for another year. Our Japan's MSC lay associates comprise three groups, one each of three different parishes in NAGOYA diocese in which Japan's MSC has been carrying out its missionary activities - Johokubashi, Ogaki and Fukui.

As part of their JPIC activities, the Johokubashi MSC lay associates, together with the Japan's MSC sisters who

base their missionary work in the Johokubashi parish, have pursued "apostleship of the sea (AOS)" to support the ministry to seafarers by making hats and mufflers for young people from Kiribati working as seamen at Yaizu, a noted port for fishing in central Japan facing the Pacific Ocean.

The Fukui parish has happily seen several of its young parishioners interested in becoming part of the Chevalier Family as a result of efforts made by its priest Fr. Arun, who has taken the lead in reorganizing the Fukui lay associates, prompting them to gather on a monthly basis and learn afresh the charism and spirituality of Fr. Chevalier together with the aforementioned young parishioners needing a process of formation to become MSC lay associates, hopefully participating somehow in JPIC activities in future.

Yours in Christ,

Y. Yamaguchi



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are Lay Chevaliers in Papua during Advent, doing charity services in several villages. We visit people in remote places, we also invite doctors to examine public health. We carry the role of Santa Claus.

These are photos of our activities, at this time we continue to activate the service and involvement of Junior Chevaliers. On the 14 February they invited young people from the parish to Valentine's Day, together with those filled with the introduction of Fr. Jules Chevalier and the call to action by Brother MSC and the Sister Pbhk. Now every second and fourth week of the month the Junior Chevalier provides services for marginalised and displaced children, to be taught to read, write and pray.



Eco-life

Writer: Little Candle – Viet Lay MSC



Pope Francis' 2015 environmental message "Laudato si" along with the alarm of scientists and politicians around the world in the face of global warming motivates humanity. As a member of Lay MSC in Vietnam, I was particularly touched by a sentence from the letter on the 165th anniversary of the founding of the MSC congregation:

"We live in a time of paradigm change and as MSC we would have to embark on this adventure of humanity to live the mission from the emerging paradigm that makes us value the processes and also leads us to conceive ourselves as a WHOLE, as an Eco-System, which is more than the sum of its parts."

The idea of WHOLENESS in me as an Ecosystem, instead of a set of separate parts, gives me a new visualization of my existence in this universe. I myself am a UNIVERSE, an ECOSYSTEM with the mysteries of every heartbeat, every breath, every living and constantly transforming cell. Everything is grace. And I realize a great way to thankfully respond is to "live and live abundantly" (Jn 10, 10).

In that sentiment, my friends and I, Lay Viets, have learned how to renew and harmonize ourselves within our souls and spirits to be able to harmonize better with others, particularly during the somehow changing of our Lay Viet group. In addition, we together also aim to do simple things within the capacity of the group to bring

our love to the remote fellow citizens in conjunction with the intention of the Pope's environmental message of Laudato Si. Concretely, we collected good used clothes within our group and friends, compose and sent to people in difficult mountainous areas. This activity has reminded each of us about cleaning the closet, cleaning the living environment, reducing the amount of waste caused by the trend of "instant noodles or fast foods" living. Since then, we have also boldly cleaned up "long-term closets of our souls", share more, give more with more love, more connection, more caring. We learned how to dare to "slow down" in the mist of the fast pace of the "bread and butter" that has been just sweeping us away.

May each Lay member in general, and Lay Viet in particular, have the joy and pride of being an enthusiastic and lively Lay MSC in every thought and action with a great hope for our world.



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