



FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome
2020

JPIC Bulletin, No 18, September

Dear Sisters and Friends,

In the previous JPIC Bulletin, which was about the Laudato Si Week, I said that I would be



very happy if in the next Bulletin we could report on some actions undertaken by the Chevalier Family. Now, I can tell you that I am indeed very happy with everything I heard and received: it is so encouraging to hear what members of the Chevalier Family all over the world do to make this world into a better place for everybody. Thank you very much for what you do! Thank

you very much for what you shared, and if you haven't shared your actions yet, you still can do it, because Pope Francis invited everyone to take part in the *Laudato Si* Year, promoted by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, that runs from 24 May 2020 until 24 May 2021.

In this issue, you will find an article about a Webinar given by the Chevalier Institute. In "Did you know...." You can read about the actions that were undertaken by different members or groups of the Chevalier Family. As usual, you will find the Events on the World Event Calendar, which helps us to be more aware of JPIC issues and to pray for them. We conclude this issue with a special prayer dedicated to the *Laudato Si* Year. May this Bulletin help you to see, to judge and to act.

The Webinar: "An exploration of Creation as God's love story"

This was the second webinar that was sponsored by the Chevalier Institute, a ministry of the Australian MSC Province. Its mandate is to offer faith formation to adults in the spirituality of the heart.

An exploration of...
Creation as God's love story
24th June 2020
5pm-6.30pm AEST

The Chevalier Institute Australia invites you to a webinar which will explore the urgently needed wisdom and mandate for our times to live simply and be more attuned to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, drawing on *Laudato Si'* and *Querida Amazonia*.

Presenters:

 Krish Mathavan	 Anne McAtamney	 Claude Mostowik
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The moderator, Alison McKenzie, welcomed participants from all over Australia, but also from the USA, Rome and Brussels. She introduced the theme of the Webinar as an exploration of the urgency to live simply and be more attuned to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, drawing from *Laudato Si* and *Querida Amazonia*. She also introduced the three speakers.

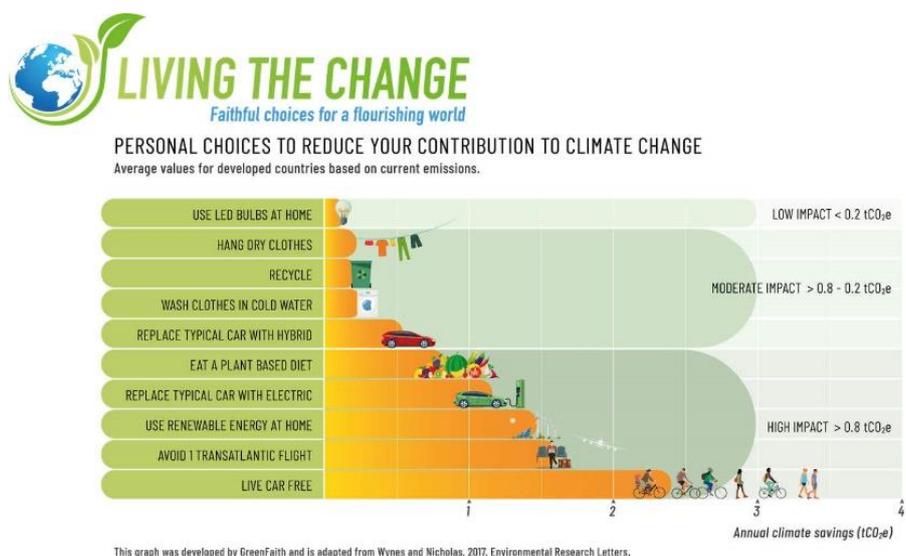
According to **Father Krish Mathavan MSC**, a scientist, currently working as a parish priest, God first spoke through creation before speaking more definitely in the person of Jesus. The study of the natural world through science and faith that seeks to understand who Jesus is and why he matters can, according to him, converge in dialogue and be complementary in understanding how God is present and acts in our world.

The current climate crisis has exposed our inability to sense and perceive the inherent sacredness of the world in all living beings. We struggle to see God in our reality, let alone to respect reality, to protect it or love it. The consequences of this blindness are all around us. We have exploited and damaged creation which affects especially the most vulnerable of our fellow human beings. Pope Francis clearly said this in his prophetic document *Laudato Si*.

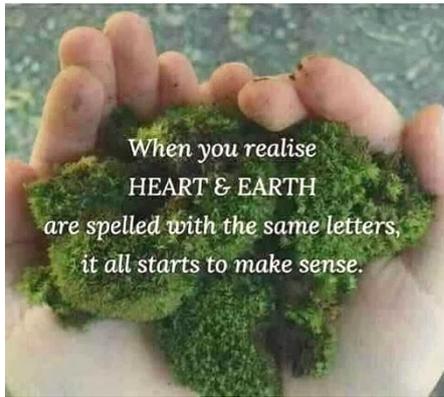
In this document Pope Francis used the process of seeing, judging and acting. This process had already been identified by Pope John XXIII in his encyclical “*Mater et Magistra*” (Christianity and Social Progress as a way to proceed). Chapter 1 of *Laudato Si* is about seeing. Chapters 2 until 4 deal with judging and Chapters 5 and 6 deal with acting, how to put into practice what we have learned.

We often see ourselves as masters of creation instead of as brothers and sisters (LS no 2 and 11). We exploit creation and are deaf to the cry of the earth (LS no 21 and 23) and the poor (LS no 48). We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both, the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor (LS no 49). The climate crisis is a crisis of justice. The poorest are affected most.

We have to change our behaviour and the Covid-19 crisis has shown us that we can do it. Because of the lockdown, the CO₂ emissions in many countries went down. But will this decrease last when we re-open our economies? Father Krish gave us a list of actions that shows that everyone can do something and what we do can make a difference!



Father Claude Mostowik MSC is currently MSC promoter for justice, peace and ecology.



He said that *Laudato Si* invites us to listen attentively to the cry of the earth and the poor. When we realize that the words ‘heart’ and ‘earth’ are spelt with the same letters, this begins to make sense, according to him. A conversion and an appreciation of all that lives are a necessary response to God’s love story of creation. *Laudato Si* is a call to all people who seek justice and integration of creation. Therefore we need a listening heart.

The problem is that we fail to see that we are all interconnected. Concern for the earth needs to be connected with a sincere love for our brothers and sisters. It is about care. Sometimes we use the word ‘stewardship’, but that still implies domination and control, whereas care approaches the earth with awe and wonder or with a contemplative gaze. The entire universe speaks about God’s love and affection for us.

Laudato Si is about the sacredness of all living beings and our place among them. An integral ecology connects respecting human dignity and caring for the natural world. When we see the interconnectedness of all of creation we realize how we have fallen short. God’s voice can be heard in our hearts and through the lives of other people. God is always trying to draw our attention to all forms of injustice. To hear this we need different eyes, an open heart and a deeper capacity to listen. We must allow the suffering to speak. This cry is a call for attention, a demand for an immediate response. We need a dialogue about the distorted values of consumer culture, the power of multinational corporations and abuse of power that sees people and creatures as objects and puts the technology on a pedestal. *Laudato Si* is about transforming hearts that lead to action for the common good. ‘An awareness of the gravity of today’s cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits’ (LS 209).

Prayer and spirituality strengthen us for the biblical call to care and open us to the reality of our suffering earth and people and to advocacy. Covid-19 has forced us to focus on the centrality of life and made us more aware of our relationship with the whole world. Everything is interconnected. Our spirituality calls for a constant conversion of heart. Christina Figueres, former U.N. climate chief, says that the pandemic provides ‘an unprecedented opportunity to press the reset button...(and) to prove that we have learned from our mistakes of the past, that we can act with much more responsibility, solidarity and with much longer vision and that we are capable of making decisions to rebuild better.’ *Laudato Si* is more relevant than ever! We need a paradigm shift towards earth-centred economics, politics and culture; a paradigm shift that begins with the recognition, that we are part of nature, not its masters or owners; that we are part of the earth family, and that we have the responsibility to care for all life on earth - in all its beautiful diversity. We are called to respect otherness, equality, mutuality, interdependence and to care.



Anne McAtomney is currently Assistant Principal of Mission in the Downlands MSC College in Toowoomba. She is charged with fostering an environment that reflects the Spirit and Charism of the MSC. A significant aspect of Anne’s role is the responsibility for encouraging a social justice focus within the school community.



“After so many wonderful and wise words from Fr Krish and Fr Claude, my part, now, is to convey some thoughts about possible ways to build a culture of

social justice consciousness in faith communities, including Pope Francis’ call to ‘ecological conversion’ and to seeing Creation as God’s Love Story,” Anne said. She hoped that the ways, whys and wherefores of which she spoke may be helpful and applicable in other faith communities in the wider MSC family, be they schools, various groups or in the parish context.

It is the deeply contemplative aspect of the heart spirituality that can inspire concrete and compassionate engagement and action in peace and justice issues. The call in our MSC



family is to bring the community to view the earth and our place in it with different eyes – with the heart lens that is integral to the heart spirituality we profess. In the context of the MSC family, we are blessed for the wisdom we can find in so many words and phrases in the writings of the Founder, Jules Chevalier, and other MSCs whose focus is matters of the heart – words about transformation and conversion of heart, tenderness, humility, simplicity, compassion, the beauty of the earth, “to be on earth the heart of God” – and to make deep meaning from them for our community. Of course, the words of Jesus in the

Scriptures are foundational and are there for all, and the God of Creation is there in the human Jesus.

Anne described some of the practical ways in which one can go about creating a social justice consciousness in a faith community, with ecological conversion/transformation of heart being integral to this consciousness.

1. The person in the faith community with the responsibility for building this consciousness must be passionate about it and walking the talk.
2. Everyone who is part of the faith community may be considered to be part of the social justice team and is called to convey the conversion message with courage, conviction and hope.
3. all aspects of the message – i.e. social justice consciousness, inclusive ecological conversion, need to be embedded and continually woven, simply and consistently, into the culture of the faith community. It is important to know one’s community in

order to select focus areas – often it is better to attend to a few things well rather than many, badly, and ‘lose’ people along the way.

4. In bringing social justice matters to people’s attention it may be wise to gently ‘make the links’ (poverty/injustice and environment) for the community - and to understand that for many, this may be a journey into a field previously little thought about or understood.
5. An understanding that to “think globally and act locally” is often the most realistic pathway for a faith community. Awareness, advocacy and fundraising are important. Make the students compassionate seekers of the truth.
6. As a Catholic faith community, we are called to “nurture, nourish and evoke a consciousness and perception alternative to the dominant culture of consumerism and individualism around us.

Anne gave many practical suggestions, such as:

1. First and foremost, the mandate and call of the faith community must be reflected in the policy documents, strategic plans, role descriptions, Mission Vision and Values documents etc.
2. Social Justice and Fundraising guidelines
3. National and international Social Justice days and seasons in the calendar and diary used by the faith community (e.g. World Environment Day; World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Earth Day) may form the basis for school daily prayer on those days
4. Posters and noticeboards, carrying key words and messages; Pope Francis’ words are included in our recycling bins signage!
5. The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation First Friday intentions from the Chevalier Family
6. ‘Walking the talk’ through “faith in action” with various outreach activities
7. Liturgy is significant - there is the power of the words, symbols, actions, images presented. Make sure that eucharistic celebrations are faithful to being the ‘table of the world’ in terms of disadvantaged communities and the need for conversion/transformation of heart. Choose hymns with a social justice perspective in the lyrics.
8. Include wherever possible (prayer, liturgy) words from *Laudato Si*.

Did you know?

One of the questions asked at the **Webinar sponsored by the Chevalier Institute** was: How



do we overcome the negativity and the demonization towards those concerned with climate change and those who speak out against the throwaway culture and the damage this is causing to our common home? In short: how do we overcome the voices of detraction? Both Father Krish and Father Claude said that this needs sincere dialogue and conversion of heart. I

think that our witness as members of one Chevalier Family can help us to stay strong in our conviction and our behaviour, and may help others to be converted.

Father André Claessens, who participated from Rome, asked how we as a Chevalier Family could participate in the MULTI-YEAR *LAUDATO SI'* ROLL-OUT PLAN from the Dicastery of Human Development which asks various institutions to begin a 7-year journey to total sustainability in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*. Pope Francis invites all of us to participate, because “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” (LS, 14)



You can find a brochure in English and French about this plan on;

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1jxv95C4LhK4xrkrOnUWIP7Fal6dcNzYC?fbclid=IwAR2XpuKLha8GncmbqFaGxj_EfLFjOli9oc0Fhh3CoXw7I26AsHnbh-h9Iq8

As the General JPIC Coordinator, my dream is that we as a Chevalier Family could create one plan together, which we can then implement both globally and locally. As one Chevalier Family, let us contribute to making *Laudato Si* a reality!

Sr. Lies Alkemade, the Provincial of the Netherlands, wrote: In our community in Notre Dame, we paid attention to the *Laudato Si* week of 16-24 May 2020. All FDNCS's and MSC's received a special Novena for this week, prepared by the Dutch Conference of Religious (KNR). In the afternoon of May 19 Pastor Jeanne Ketelaars, who is a member of our Chevalier Family, organized a Conference.



Sisters Immaculata, Brigitte and Katrien gave their vision of how they, from childhood on, had learned to take care of creation and nature. The result is that they consciously deal with everything the earth produces and gratefully enjoy it. They try not to use more than they need. “By accepting the simplicity of old age, we have already taken a 2-0 lead in the search for a Universal solidarity (Ls 14) and a new lifestyle (Ls 203-208). This may evoke a prophetic consciousness in us!” they said. Father Jan Schrama MSC added: "It is about living our Evangelical Counsel of Poverty seriously."

On www.Kerknet.be I found Ten suggestions for Families to live *Laudato Si*. I translated them and shared them on our FDNCS Justice and Peace Facebook during **the *Laudato Si* Week (May 16-24)**. This message reached 1180 people. Isn't that a sign that many people are interested in this matter?

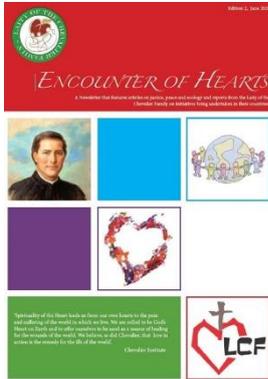
Father André Claessens sent me the following interesting document: “Life after the pandemic.” He said: In this time of crisis, now that we are celebrating the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si*, we may be even more grateful for this encyclical because it shows us the way towards the new lifestyle that is necessary.

<http://sj-cluny.org/Pope-Francis-Life-After-the-Pandemic?lang=fr>

On June 5, Sr. **Philippa**, on behalf of the Australian Province, posted on their website a statement of Acknowledgement and Support for their



First Nations People. You can read this statement on: https://olshaustralia.org.au/item/212-statement-of-acknowledgement-and-support-for-our-first-nations-people.html?fbclid=IwAR2o5v1XjH4edEa-p5x6JemQaqAjYosqo3r3EhQ_SA1hanDC0n6x3c5dgs



To celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart (June 19) , **the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family** issued the second edition of their Newsletter, Encounter of Hearts.

This edition focusses on justice, peace and ecological initiatives undertaken by different groups around the world. It challenges us to be God’s Heart through our commitment to each other.

English: https://1drv.ms/b/s!AnTOwiYBDyJYip4g5wUHVxRFK_8D3A?e=RI7JBq

French: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!AnTOwiYBDyJYip4hOgltIVNs3czhnw?e=H7UKn1>

Spanish: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!AnTOwiYBDyJYip4ik2xfd0Tg3IQpAQ?e=zfmiNs>

In his message for the **106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (June 20)** the Pope mentioned that there are 80 million refugees in the world. In a webinar for this day, in which Srs Marife, Merle, Jenny and Sr. Elly participated, Father Tom Smolich SJ, International Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service, said: “This number may be overwhelming, but you must realize that this is only 1% of the world population. What if the other 99% would do 1 thing?? There is no refugee crisis; there is a crisis of administration, of shared resources. We have to do one thing: walking with people and finding the face of Jesus in them!”

In September **Father Hans Kwakman** will continue with his online spirituality course. In the coming issues, he will write about our spirituality in relation to Laudato Si.

Our Facebook Actions for the coming months:

“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 of

➤ September by:

Bringing to our awareness the importance of healthcare and the fact that millions of people still have no access at all to healthcare.

Praying (the rosary) for all who are blessed with health and security, that they may work to fulfil the needs of those who are sick and insecure; for leaders who make decisions that affect the health and well-being of others, that they may strive to ensure the fundamental right to health care.

Acting: we suggest that you sign the universal health care petition on <https://www.who.int/universal-health-coverage/add-your-voice>

➤ October by:

Bringing to awareness that peace is the way to a better world for you and me.

Praying (the rosary) that Jesus, who is called the Prince of Peace, may grant us peace, make us witnesses of truth, justice, and love and banish from our hearts whatever might endanger peace.

Acting: we suggest to commit to non-violence; when you feel angry, count to ten before saying anything. Then, ask yourself what response will be best for the greater good.

➤ **November by:**

Bringing to awareness the importance of Human Rights that guarantee people the means necessary to satisfy their basic needs, guarantee life, liberty, equality, and security and protect people against abuse by those who are more powerful.



Praying (the rosary) that God may teach us to recognize each other as brothers and sisters, entitled to all the rights of each human being, because we were created in His image, valuing all people and respecting them to make a more human world, where justice and peace dwell.

Acting: we suggest to check out the article of Amnesty International “Ten Ways to Make a Difference” for tips on getting involved or to consider taking their free online course, Human Rights: “The Right to Freedom of Expression!”

➤ **December by:**

Bringing to our awareness the consequences of trade agreements.

Praying (the rosary) that all international trade agreements protect the human rights of all nations by putting public well-being before profit.

Acting: we suggest that you buy Fair Trade coffee and/or chocolate for use in your family, community, school, workplace. You also could check how many fair trade products are available in your local supermarket.

Events on the World Calendar for JPIC

September 5, International Day of Charity: Poverty persists in all countries regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, particularly in developing countries. Concerned with the problem of poverty, the UN called for countries to recognize and contribute towards the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals.



Prayer: Thank You Lord for the many graces and blessings you have placed in my life. Help me to be aware of the needs of the “least of my sisters and brothers”, and to respond to those who are poor and less fortunate with generous expressions of charity, kindness and caring.

September 15, International Day of Democracy: The United Nations created this day to celebrate the system of values which democracy promotes, giving citizens the power to make decisions regarding all aspects of their lives.

Prayer: We pray for all people who govern our country that they may always seek the ways of righteousness, justice and mercy. Enable them by your powerful protection to lead our country with honesty and integrity.

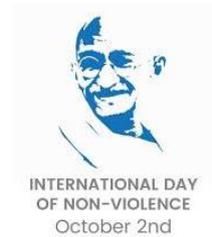


September 29, International Day of Food Loss and Waste: Addressing food loss and waste is essential in a world where tons of food are thrown away while more than 820 million people continue to go hungry every day.



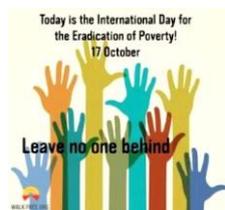
Prayer: God of life, give us the patience, grace and reverence to stop wasting food. May we be always grateful for the blessings of strength that come from our food. And may we recommit ourselves to finding ways to get food to those who are hungry.

October 2, International Day of Non-Violence: The UN uses Gandhi’s birthday to celebrate the International Day of Non-Violence. Gandhi’s commitment to India’s independence and his methods have been the cornerstone of civil and human rights initiatives all over the world. Gandhi saw it as completely irrational to use violence to achieve peace, but rather, “just means lead to just ends.” This is a lesson we can all take to heart.



Prayer: God of peace, thank you for being gentle, loving, compassionate, and nonviolent! You are so nonviolent that you do not force yourself upon us, but gently call us to your wisdom and way of nonviolence. You give us the freedom to do as we will. Help us to do your will of peace, to choose your way of nonviolence.

October 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: On this day, people of all backgrounds and societies show solidarity with the poor by renewing their commitment to helping them.



Prayer: Breath of God, let there be abundant life. Inspire us with the vision of poverty eradicated, and give us the faith, courage and will to make it happen.

November 16, International Day for Tolerance: is a time for people to learn about respecting and recognizing the rights and beliefs of others. It is also a time of reflection and debate on the negative effects of intolerance.



Prayer: Creator God, fill our hearts with love, so that there is no room for hate. Fill our minds with understanding so that there is no room for fear. Fill our eyes with wonder so that we may see only uniqueness, and not strangeness and we may love, understand and be happy with our fellow brothers and sisters for your glory.

November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: the day aims to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence and that the scale and true nature of the issue is often hidden.



Prayer: Almighty Creator, grant us the strength to stand up against all forms of violence happening to women and girls, the sharpness to recognize a silenced victim of this kind of violence and the resourcefulness to help them.

Give us the courage to speak up against violence against women and the resolve to never commit any form of violence against women.

December 10, Human Rights Day: On this day in 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the backbone of the human rights architecture of our societies, where each of us – without discrimination – has the right to live and thrive in peace and safety.



Prayer: God of all the nations, help us to see how essential human rights are for each person and let's use them every day as our compass to seek justice, equality, peace and freedom for all.

December 20, International Human Solidarity Day: In the Millennium Declaration, world leaders agreed that solidarity was a value that was important to international relations in the 21st century. On International Human Solidarity Day, governments are reminded of their



commitments to international agreements on the need for human solidarity as an initiative to fight against poverty.

Prayer: Almighty and ever-living God, empower your one human family to join hands on our journey of faith. Send us your spirit of hope, so that we may work to alleviate poverty and human suffering and foster charity and justice in our world.

Prayer

The Pope invited everyone to take part in the *Laudato Si'* Year, which is promoted by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and runs from 24 May 2020 until 24 May 2021. Pope Francis also announced a prayer for this special year. He encouraged everyone to pray it.

Loving God, Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained
open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.
Be present to those in need in these difficult times,
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.
Help us to show creative solidarity
as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic.
Make us courageous in embracing
the changes required to seek the common good.
Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent.
Enable us to succeed in listening and responding
to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.
May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.
We pray through Christ our Lord,
under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians. Amen.

