

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

Ametur

No: 337

May-June 2020

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

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Dear Associates,

Our world has changed! We have all changed! Some have changed more than others.
But none of us will be the same again.

On Friday evening 27th March, overlooking the deserted, rain-swept Square of St Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis raised a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament and blessed the entire world, as he implored God to free the world of the coronavirus pandemic which has wreaked such havoc. Using the Gospel story of the Calming of the Storm from St Mark 4:35-41, the Pope encouraged and challenged us to see in this frightening world-wide situation, a call from Jesus to deepen our faith. In the midst of the terrifying storm Jesus questioned the frightened apostles:

Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?

This same reproach is addressed to me, to you, to our world today because, as the Pope reminds us in his prayer:

*... we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything.
Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste.
We did not stop at Your reproach to us,
we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world,
nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet.
We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick.
But now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: 'Wake up, Lord!'*

Pope Francis likens our situation to that of the apostles in the sinking boat:

*Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard
by an unexpected, turbulent storm.
We have all realised that we are in the same boat,
all of us fragile and disorientated,
but at the same time important and needed.
All of us called to row together,
each of us in need of comforting the other.
We too [like the disciples in the boat]
have realised that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves
but only together can we do this.*



And he added:

*We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder:
we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars.
Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives.
Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them.
The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith.
We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved.
We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed.
We have a rope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced
so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love.*

Pope Francis then prayed, saying that at this crucial moment in history the Lord is calling us to a faith, that is not so much about believing in His existence, but about coming to Him in love and trust. He said that Jesus is calling us to “be converted”:

*He is calling on us to seize this time to choose what matters in life and what passes away,
a time to separate what is necessary from what is not.
It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to You, Lord, and to others.*

The Pope then praised the many wonderful people who have come forward to assist in all sorts of ways, to help row our world-wide boat as we ride out the storm.

*Our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people
who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines
but who, without any doubt, are in these very days
writing the decisive events of our time –
doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers,
providers of transport, law and order enforcers, volunteers, priests,
religious men and women, and so very many others
who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.”*

Pope Francis concluded his exhortation by entrusting everyone in the world to God’s loving protection through Mary, in these words:

*“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”
Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith,
I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord,
through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea.
From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world,
may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace.
Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts.
You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak, and we are fearful.
But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm.
Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (Mt 28:5).
And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us”
(cf. 1 Pet 5:7).*

Finally, having prayed silently for some time Pope Francis then imparted an extraordinary blessing called *Urbi et Orbi* – for the city of Rome (“*urbi*”) and the entire world (“*orbi*”) – and granted a plenary indulgence for their sins to Catholics worldwide, opening up the possibility for each one to begin again a fuller Christian life. How blest are we to have this man of the heart, of the Heart of Jesus, as our representative of Christ on earth! Let us pray daily for him.

.....

The following was written by Cameron Bellm, a young married woman with two little sons, from Seattle, who has given permission for anyone to share her prayer in any way they may wish. I thank Cameron for this gift, and I thank my friend, Robert, for sending me this inspirational prayer. Remember them both her in your prayers, please.

Prayer for a Pandemic

*May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those who have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.*

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

*During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other
let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.*

Amen

Having read this prayer I became curious about the author and went to Google for more information! I was inspired by what I found and maybe you would be also. Look up *Kung the Thinker* and find yourself inspired by this young Catholic woman’s spirituality. Here is another recent reflection by Cameron:

*While we grieve our closed churches,
I wonder if, maybe, just maybe,
Jesus is happy He’s been let out of the constraints
of the physical church building for a little while,
free to stretch His long limbs of love in the world.
Since we can’t go to Him*

*I imagine Him coming out to us.
I imagine His neck stiff
from resting His sacred head on our stone altars,
His elbows cramped
from bending to fit into the transepts,
His holy feet
always pressed against the doors of the narthex.
I imagine Him bending double
to step through our low entrances
and out into crowning wreaths of cherry blossoms.
I imagine Him traversing our cities,
wiping away tears with the hem of His robe,
offering bread to those who need it,
keeping vigil, fingertips blessing blazing foreheads,
with all who die alone.
We long to return to our churches,
incense sanctifying our plaster and stone.
But Jesus lives and breathes out here among us,
and every molecule of oxygen is holy air.*

There are so many wonderful people in our world who are helping us through this time of pandemic. They are offering us inspiration through their actions, words and prayers. They are sharing with us their talents and gifts in so many and varied ways especially through the multimedia. We can view and pray at a Mass on Demand and join and share with our sisters and brothers using various communication devices. You, I am sure, are one of these wonderful people as you pray and do all you can to assist others in their loneliness and need.

Pope Francis had this to say about you and all those other “ordinary” people:

*How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope,
taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility.
How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children,
in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines,
lifting their gaze and fostering prayer.
How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all.
Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.*

May God bless each one of you with a deepening sense of prayer and of His loving care as, together, we live and love and pray our way through this incredible event in our history. Let us ask Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, our Mother and life-long Companion, to show us her way to the Loving Heart of her Son, the Risen Lord Jesus, our Brother and Best Friend.

United in the Their Loving Hearts

(Sr) Ancilla White osh

FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE MSC

Father Abzalón Alvarado, MSC



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 it should be a time to practise 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. 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 of 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.

Abelón Alvarado, MSC



Since our last *Ametur* was published there have been some interesting communications from the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. When we have our final list of those of you who would like to receive the *Ametur* and other Chevalier Laity communications by email, all these will be sent to you. Until then there is only room in the *Ametur* for the more important of these.

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

Dear Friends,

During this 40-day time of Lent I want to dwell for a moment on the story of Jesus who washed the feet of his apostles on Maundy Thursday (Jo 13, 1 - 11). Every one of us knows this story. This message also means that we must be of service to all those we meet on our way, especially those who are extremely vulnerable in our society.

It is sometimes far from easy to be vulnerable and to receive. Just look at Peter who did not want Jesus to wash his feet. In fact, Peter did not want to expose himself! But Jesus does that himself. See Jo 12, 1 - 3. Jesus allows Mary to wash his feet with expensive oil. At that moment Jesus receives a lot of love and affection. He makes himself vulnerable. And in turn Jesus passes on what he received from Mary to His apostles. And also to us. Isn't it so that we can only give when we also open ourselves to receive and thus dare to be vulnerable? It points to our mutual dependence, which is much needed in our so hurt world today.

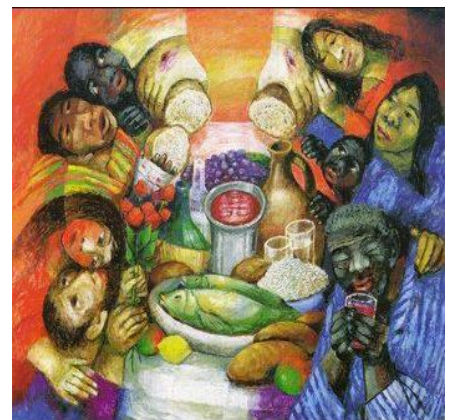
Within our international Chevalier family we can feel this: we are able to give a lot, within and outside of our Chevalier family, because we are allowed to receive a lot from each other ... because we dare to open ourselves to each other's warm and tender gestures. This enables us to be resurrection people ... according to His example.

I would like to end with a text by Carlos DESOETE, diocesan priest of Bruges (B - Europe).

Since that first Easter

every Sunday is more than just a Sunday.

More than just resting from the week's work, or just doing nothing. More than going to Mass because that's what it's supposed to be.



"The meal" from the Misereor
starvation cloth "to the Excluded"
by Sieger Köder © MVG
Medienproduktion, 1996

Since that first Easter

every Sunday bears the memory
that once upon a time one of our own rose from death
and that since then death has not been the last word,
that life is something to talk about.

Since that first Easter

every Sunday carries the appeal
not to play the game of injustice and death,
but to surrender us with heart and soul and all our strength
to anything that enables people to live better lives.
To all of you a healing Lent and a joyful and liberating Easter.
AMETUR.

Rita Cleuren

Alison McKenzie, Doris Machado, Hans Kwakman msc

THE VISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

Following thirty years of work around the globe by many, many significant professed and lay members of the MSC, FDNsc and MSC sisters a structure by which to hold the emerging movement has been developed and ratified both by the laity in Brazil in 2017 and the members of the Trigenalate. Fr Hans Kwakman msc has been appointed as Spiritual Accompanier for the global movement and Fr Polce Pitoy msc, Sr Nicola Sprenger msc and Sr Merle Salasar fdnsc are the contacts for the movement with the Trigenalate.

The vision and mission of the international movement is expressed in the opening statements of the Guiding Principles and Statutes document:

1. The Identity of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

We, the lay members of the Chevalier Family, are a communion of people, animated by a Spirituality of the Heart, which has its roots in the charism of the Founder, Fr. Jules Chevalier. Together with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, we belong to the Chevalier Family, and share the same charism, Spirituality and Mission with Father Chevalier's religious families.

2. Charism and Spirituality of the Heart

We believe that Jesus' compassionate Heart reveals God's unconditional love for every human being and all of creation. Belief in God's unconditional love, which is the remedy for the ills of society, transforms our own hearts. We draw strength from the pierced Heart of Jesus as a source of new life and the birthplace of a new world. We trust in the Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus Christ to love people unconditionally with a human heart. We also believe that the same Spirit enriches our hearts with gifts of love, gratefulness, joy, courage and faithfulness, as well

as respect for every human being and creature. In Mary, honored as “Our Lady of the Sacred Heart”, we discover a mother, who leads us to the Heart of her Son, and forms us in living a Spirituality of the Heart. Our motto is: “May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere.”

3. Mission

We participate in the mission of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the world, and are committed to live and spread a Spirituality of the Heart, as shown by the Heart of Jesus Christ. The Heart of Jesus was concerned about people, cared for their needs and took action accordingly. We experience that God has a Heart for us too and sends us to be God’s Heart in the world. This commitment gives our lives meaning and content. In our personal relationships, professional occupations and social engagements we try to make visible and real God’s love and compassion, while particularly paying attention to our sisters and brothers in society, who are poor, excluded and treated unjustly.

This is a bold vision and the International Council in collaboration with National Councils has begun the work of implementing these Guiding Principles and Statutes globally. The steps we have taken thus far *are*:

To create a movement that includes the entire Chevalier family

To do this:

- We are reaching out to everybody who sees themselves as members of the family and incorporating them, as they are into the international structures;
- We are actively trying to break down divisions that result from differing families of origin or reflection tradition and encourage a sense of unity in diversity amongst the laity.

To formalise the place of the laity as an entity within the wider Chevalier Family

To do this we have:

- Recognised that there are fundamental questions pertaining to our common mission at the centre of this formalizing process and practical questions about how we achieve that common mission. We are addressing both in our work;
- Established collegial and co-operative relationships with the Trigeneralate group by regular reports and updates. Significantly, we met together in Rome in December 2019;
- Developed close working relationships with the contact people appointed by each of the Trigeneralate groups;
- Identified that our working relationship is interdependent but autonomous. We see ourselves and are seen at the top level as a fourth entity within the family.

To develop international structures that support the global movement

To do this we have:

- Placed significant emphasis on assisting the development of National Councils, aligned with the International Council who are responsible for the movement in their region;
- Established an international Contact List with processes that enable regular updates of National Co-coordinators and Accompaniers to occur;
- Established systems of regular communication back and forth between the Council and local and national groups. Notably, we have produced the first ever international Newsletter in the three languages of the family and are in the process of developing a Website and a closed Facebook page;
- Begun to organise the first Asia/Pacific regional gathering, that will occur concurrent with the APIA Conference in November. This aligns our region with Central/Southern America and Europe who already have a regional structure;
- Begun to plan the fourth international gathering to be held in Cebu, Philippines in 2023.

To work towards financial independence as a sign of our emerging maturity

To do this we have:

- Begun to develop a culture of responsibility amongst the laity with regard to the obligation to support both national and international structures. Europe, Central/Southern America, Philippines have already assumed this responsibility and other regions and countries are being encouraged to do so, particularly those who have the means to pay.

We recognise formation as the key element in the emergence of a lay movement

To offer this formation we have:

- Prioritised the need for spiritual and personal formation for those laity who hold leadership positions;
- Recognised the need for formation of spiritual companions who accompany laity so we can work towards autonomy and interdependence and not foster a culture of dependency and immaturity;
- Highlighted the need for a deep heart encounter with the Heart of Christ as central to the formation of all members of the family;
- Identified the beginning point in all cultures and contexts of formation in Spirituality of the Heart as a recognition of the yearnings and experiences of our hearts and lives;
- Begun to develop and disseminate formation material suitable for lay people.

We envision the lay movement as an outward movement

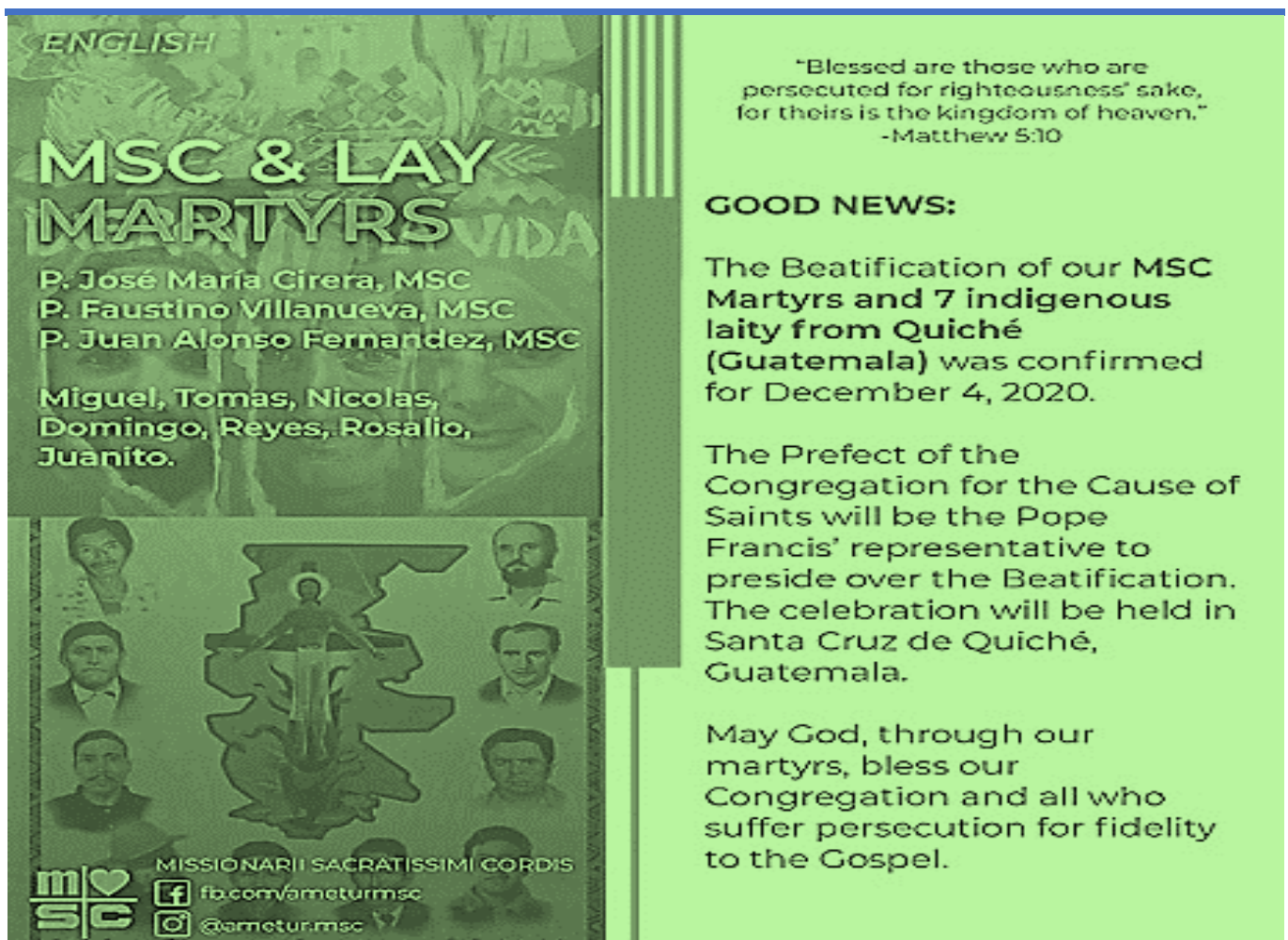
To do this:

- all communication identifies our compassionate engagement with our families, communities and the world around us as the mark of a member of the Chevalier Family;
- a commitment to JPIC is central to our focus.

THANK YOU!

What a wonderful document has been produced by the International Council, and we have all had a share in its emergence. As far back as 2016 we asked for your thoughts on the future of the Chevalier Laity and many of you responded. Therese Poulton and Ellenmary Loman took these responses to the International Meeting of the Chevalier Laity in Brazil in 2017. It was here that a Draft Document was formulated and since then, with more input from Chevalier Laity around the world, that document has been further refined until we now have the inspiring and practical Vision and Mission Statement as detailed above. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to its completion and particularly to the members of the International Council.

MARTYRS OF QUICHÉ



ENGLISH

MSC & LAY MARTYRS

P. José María Cirera, MSC
P. Faustino Villanueva, MSC
P. Juan Alonso Fernandez, MSC

Miguel, Tomas, Nicolas,
Domingo, Reyes, Rosalio,
Juanito.

"Blessed are those who are
persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
-Matthew 5:10

GOOD NEWS:

The Beatification of our MSC
Martyrs and 7 indigenous
laity from Quiché
(Guatemala) was confirmed
for December 4, 2020.

The Prefect of the
Congregation for the Cause of
Saints will be the Pope
Francis' representative to
preside over the Beatification.
The celebration will be held in
Santa Cruz de Quiché,
Guatemala.

May God, through our
martyrs, bless our
Congregation and all who
suffer persecution for fidelity
to the Gospel.

MISSIONARI SACRATISSIMI CORDIS
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@ameturmsc

"It was engendered by poverty, racism, social differences, oppression, corruption, lack of work. It began with demonstrations, turned into confrontations between guerrillas and the army, grew into an "undeclared civil war" and led to a cruel persecution of the Catholic Church in several of the departments. Among them, the department of El Quiché in the west of the Republic of Guatemala suffered the most from this persecution. Not without reason did the bishop-poet Pedro Casaldáliga write:

***Put on your wedding clothes,
You, the most martyr of all,
Santa Iglesia de Quiché.***

Thousands of Catholics, especially catechists, were killed at that time. It was enough to have a Catholic bible or a rosary or to dedicate oneself to helping others for one to be classified as a guerrilla member, and, therefore a prisoner of death.

Among the multitude of those killed for their faith, their living the Gospel, their service to the most needy and for trying to live like Jesus, ten people were chosen to begin their process of beatification.

It was an arduous task that took more than 10 years. And we hope that they will not be the last. Three Missionary Priests of the Sacred Heart, pastoral agents of the diocese of Quiché, with seven of their catechists form the initial group of the martyrs of El Quiché.

Pope Francis decreed on January 23, 2020, that these three Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, together with seven of their Mayan catechists from El Quiché, could be counted among the number of the blessed of the Church. These will be the first of the indigenous races, declared blessed in Central America.

Why were they killed? Years later, the UN Commission for Historical Clarification summarized the reason for the savage persecution of the Catholic Church in Guatemala, as follows:

*The Catholic Church moved.
in a very short time in the recent history of Guatemala,
from a conservative position to positions and practices that,
based on the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)
and the Medellín Episcopal Conference (1968),
prioritized work with the excluded, the poor and the marginalized,
promoting the construction of a more just and equitable society.
These doctrinal and pastoral changes clashed with the counter-insurgency strategy,
which considered Catholics as allies of the guerrillas and, therefore,
part of the internal enemy,
subject to persecution, death or expulsion. (1999)*

Joaquim Herrera, MSC (Province of Central America and Mexico)

You can learn more about these inspiring members of the Chevalier Family on the MSC website;
www.misacor.org.au

CHEVALIER FAMILY FIRST FRIDAY

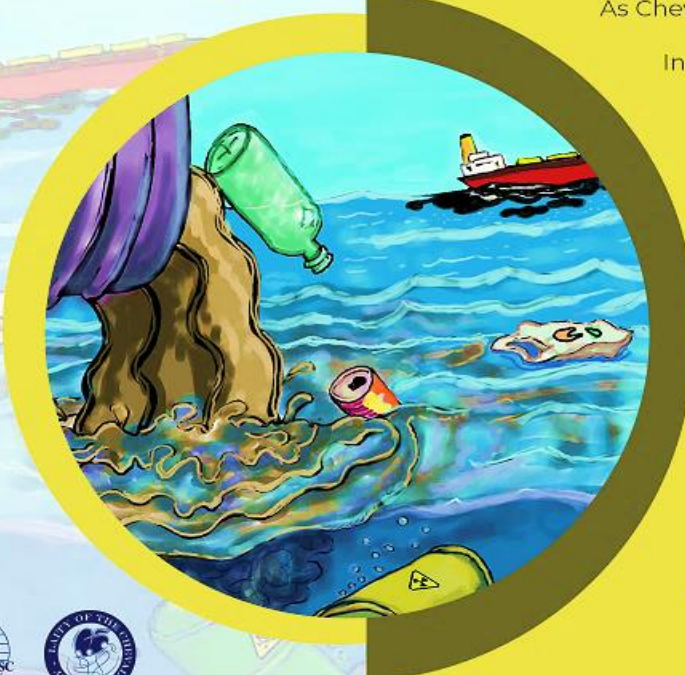
JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

MAY 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 of **May** by:

Bringing to our awareness that human beings are the greatest threat to the survival of endangered species through poaching, habitat destruction, and the effects of climate change.

Praying (the rosary) that we become more caring for all creatures and for our earth, so that we respect, restore, and renew the gifts of creation.

Action: we suggest to celebrate World Diversity Day on May 22 and to do research on the Internet to learn which beautiful creatures are most in need of our help, protection, and conservation.



ANNUAL RETREAT 2020

HARTZER PARK

Please note that the dates have been changed. The retreat will now begin on Friday evening 23rd October and conclude on Sunday after lunch on 25th October.

UPDATE ON OUR STAMP PROJECT

We have finally reached the first target of our stamp collecting with 10 kilos ready to go to the Auction. This equates with approximately 62,500 stamps! Now we already on the way to our second 10 kilos. Thank you so much to those of you who have contributed to this grand total.

Please continue sending along used stamps, still on their paper. We enjoy cutting them closely ready for the Auction.



Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Saturday 30th May

With many thanks to Sr Theresa Coleman osh for this beautiful description of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Mary, she is the One :



- ❖ who cooperated fully with God's plan to become one of us in His Son, giving Jesus His humanity;
- ❖ who was privileged to form the Heart of Jesus, who loved Him with a mother's love and is loved infinitely by Him;
- ❖ who is closest to the Heart of Jesus and brings us to know in our hearts the love and mercy of His Heart;
- ❖ who intercedes for us with the Heart of Jesus as a mother interceding for her dearly loved children;
- ❖ who was the first disciple of Jesus, faithful to Him through all the difficulties of life, even to the Cross;
- ❖ who was the first missionary of the Heart of Jesus, taking the Good News of God's compassionate and saving love to all whom she contacted in the ordinary events of life;
- ❖ whose words at Cana prompted Jesus to turn six jars of water into a plentiful supply of wine thus revealing the bountifulness of God's concern for us in our everyday needs;
- ❖ who is our mother, companion and friend as we journey through life, leading us to the Heart of Jesus; and
- ❖ who is the Hope of the Hopeless, a title Father Jules Chevalier, following the lead of Saints Ephrem and Anselm, was happy to apply to Mary.

Father Dennis Murphy msc in his book, *The Heart of the Word Incarnate* p 140f, wrote this about the title given to Our Lady by Father Jules Chevalier:

Around 1857, he decided on honouring Mary under the title, 'Our Lady of the Sacred Heart'. Just as the 'of' in titles like Our Lady of Lourdes referred Mary to Lourdes and Lourdes to Mary, the new title referred Mary to Jesus (named Sacred Heart) and Jesus to Mary. Thus the one

title mentioned explicitly both Jesus and Mary, reminding us that any celebration of Mary had to be (like her own Magnificat) a celebration of God and his Word Incarnate.

'Our Lady of the Sacred Heart' was more than an honorific title; it was a way of understanding Mary and her Son. It had an extraordinary success and rapidly became worldwide. By 1864 there were 100,000 members of the Association Jules Chevalier had formed; in 1868, 2,000,000; in 1882 14,690,000; in 1891, 18,000,000. In popular piety there was an obvious stress on the powerful intercession of Mary, but the greatest thing we could ask from her was that our hearts could become like the Heart of her Son, Jesus. This was particularly apt since she, as Mother of the Saviour, had formed that heart through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Father Chevalier wrote:

O Mary,
obtain that our hearts be made one
with the Heart of Jesus and with yours,
which is like His in everything.
Then the desire of the great Apostle will be realized:
'Have the same mind in you as in Christ Jesus' (Phil 2:5);
and we will be able to exclaim with him:
'It is no longer we who live
but the Heart of Jesus lives in us.'
Our Lady of the Sacred heart,
hear our prayer! Amen
(Le Sacré-Coeur de Jésus p.194-195)

So, especially on 30th May, let us unite with all members of the Chevalier Family throughout the world and entreat our loving Mother to intercede for our suffering world.



PRAYER TO *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
you accompany us in our life-long journey.
You are a sign of hope and salvation for us
through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.
As the people of the world and our country attempt
to cope with the spread of Coronavirus and
other world-threatening infections, we entrust ourselves to you.
You were near the side of Jesus
as he suffered and died for us on the cross.
Now be near your people as we face
the test of our health and well-being.
You know what we need and we trust that you
will intercede for us to safeguard us at the time.
As at Cana in Galilee, you asked your son to come
to the aid of the newly wedded couple so now ask Jesus
to come to our aid and send his life healing Spirit upon us.
We believe that Jesus has taken upon himself
our sufferings through his death on the cross.
May he now bring us through the power of the cross
to the joy of the Resurrection.
Our Lady of the Sacred heart
we seek refuge under your patronage.
Deliver us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin Mary. Amen.



MISSIONARII SACRATISSIMI CORDIS

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MEETING REPORTS

BENTLEIGH: Sixteen Associates met at the Convent on 29th February. So much has happened since our last meeting in 2019 – drought, bushfires and now the coronavirus. We prayed that God will guide us through it.

We remembered our first congregational leader, Mother Marie Louise Hartzler, and her wonderful leadership, as we celebrated the 112th anniversary of her death. She is still an inspiration to us all in her courage through her life experience, as well as her care and constant support, especially of her missionary Sisters. We then looked at the coming week's Gospel of Jesus' temptation in the desert. It was suggested that spiritually the desert is a place of life and not death. The silence and space allow us better to hear God's word and to take time out to reflect on priorities in our lives. Hopefully this will result in us caring more for others in our lives. As Pope Francis quotes from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus wants us to be '*the salt of the earth and the light of the world*'.
Patricia Mirabile

CALLALA: During Lent the Associates meet every Wednesday sharing and enjoying the Lenten Program from the Wollongong Diocese. We met at the end of February in Anna Zanin's home for the last time before she moves to live with her daughter. We also shared stories about our dear Associate, Noel Reid, who died on 21st February. May he rest in peace.
Sr Merrilyn Lee

CANBERRA: We met for the first time this year at St Matthew's, Page, on 7th March. Reading the poem in the *Ametur* by Dr Francis Yuen we all decided that we are lucky to be living in this country and not overseas. Good discussion followed with wise words from Sr Dain which gave us plenty to reflect on. Catherine Bird led us then in a discussion on the Transfiguration from St Matthew's Gospel. We should listen to the Lenten messages from God. Lent is a time to transform ourselves. We enjoy God's favour as we are His heirs. God comes in many different forms and through other people, not always as a bright light but sometimes in many little soft glows.
Christine Casey

HARTZER PARK: We met on 15th March and began with a Lenten reflection using material from Joyce Rupp entitled, *The Best and Truest of Myself*. This looked at the positive aspects of becoming and being 'more than I am now', rather than constantly lamenting and living with the weight of past guilt instead of in the freedom and confidence of God's forgiveness and love – very much part of our OLSH charism as experienced here at Hartzler. Our Formation section covered several articles from the *Ametur* and there was much discussion in relation to *A Noble Man – a Man of Heart*, and the importance of acting true to one's conscience.
Jan Clark

As all meetings and gatherings are not possible at this time our meeting on 19th April was via the internet and posted online. A very beautiful and thoughtful reflection on '*Easter*' was prepared by Robyn Miller and Chris Bulters reflecting on Scripture, the butterfly as a symbol of Easter resurrection, Joyce Rupp's *The Easter Challenge* and prayer.

Our Formation was a little different this month as we focussed on being *part of and formed as a community* and how we can share our faith and love even when we are physically apart. The invitation was extended for anyone within the group to share a short prayer, reflective thought

or *inspiration* as we would normally do within a meeting, and in this way keep in touch.

Our closing prayer incorporated several intentions and was followed by the prayer of Pope Francis, *O Mary, you shine continuously as a sign of salvation and hope...* **Jan Clark**

NOTRE DAME (Kensington): We met on the 14 March and as the feast of St Joseph was coming up our reflection centred around this wonderful saint to whom Father Chevalier gave the title: *St Joseph, Model and Patron of those who love the Sacred Heart of Jesus*. We reflected on the words of Pope Francis:

I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength.

On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping.

Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church!

Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him.

In this moment of rest in the Lord,

as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities,

God is also speaking to us.

But like Saint Joseph, once we have heard God's voice,

we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act.

We then turned our attention to Judith's reflection on the Gospel for the 3rd Sunday in Lent – *The Samaritan Woman*. With the theme of water, living water and the woman's water pots, there was much to discuss and to inspire in this Gospel story. We were also challenged by this question: *Can we move out of our comfort zones, leave our old water jars behind and welcome the gifts of God being offered to us, especially during this privileged season of Lent?*

We were mindful that the National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family was having a formation weekend at the Sacred Heart Monastery next door and prayed for this important event. **Maureen Maher**

ROSELANDS: Our small group met at Anna Tomc's home on Tuesday 10th March. We were very mindful of our dear Esme Elefante who had died in March after a long illness. Esme had been a loyal Associate since 1998 and many meetings had been in her home where we enjoyed her warm welcome and wonderful hospitality. May her dear soul rest in peace.

We began with our Meeting prayers followed by a reflection on St Joseph, the Husband of Mary, whose feast we would soon be celebrating. We then worked our way through the *Ametur* stopping to discuss and share with each other various points of interest. As most of our group members have come from *across the seas* to settle in Australia their life experiences are many and varied. Their stories are inspirational, and my heart has been touched by their faith and goodness. God has greatly blessed them. **Sr Ancilla White**

WADEYE (Port Keats): On the feast of St Patrick, 25 of our 33 Associates came for our prayer and meeting. The others were unable to be with us because of infirmity or being away out bush. I had prepared a prayer and reflection in Murrinhpatha language and so we prayed and sang and then shared about the concerns they had, spent time in silent prayer and then shared some intercessory prayer. Some of the Associates made beautiful faith-filled intercessions focussing on such attitudes as:

- putting their trust in God's love and care for us, His people,
- relying on God's plan for the world,
- how this pandemic may be an invitation from our loving God to return to him and put our trust in him
- that God will inspire the doctors to find the medicine to help the sick

They prayed for our Holy Father and the people of Italy as they had heard how many had died in the last week. They included prayer for all those suffering because of the virus and those who are putting their own lives at risk in caring for others.

They made comments about how Mary, our Mother, would herself have experienced many concerns in her life and would have been frightened, but how she always put her trust in God. After an hour we then had the Mass of St Patrick. I found it a most uplifting experience to sense the faith and trust in God of these people.

Sr. Tess Ward

RANDWICK: We met in the Ventnor Meeting Room at OLSH Randwick for our first meeting of the year, and it was a joyful occasion to meet up again. We reviewed our summer break which was in many cases a difficult one for our country and for some of us personally, as the bush fires made a tragic impact on so many people and communities. Sister Terie brought us up to date with news of the Sisters, and we send our very best wishes to Sr Theresa Coleman .

Sr Terie prepared a special prayer session for us, based on the Lenten program, *Grace. Walking with Jesus*. Grace is a Person – Our Lord Jesus Christ. The reflection included thoughts from Sr Hilda Scott osb and St Hildegarde of Bingen. As always , this was a moving session, and we thank Sister for her thoughtful and helpful work with us.

We met again in Ventnor on 23rd March, a rather subdued group, considering the intensity of the virus. Sr Terie gave us news of the Sisters and the cancellation of the General Chapter in Rome. Hopefully all will be restored in the foreseeable future. We discussed how the virus will be handled in our daily lives, and the conclusion was that we continue as best we can, adjusting our lives as necessary. It will be a time of solitude and reflection, and interesting as well: a time which will call for optimism and avoidance of fear.

Because International Women's Day was celebrated recently, Sister paid a beautiful tribute to all present (deserved or not!!). Thank you, Sister. We then enjoyed a moving paraliturgy celebrating valiant women, which included an adaptation of Miriam Winter's 'Valiant Women'. We all felt so inspired! As well as all of this, Sister read us a special prayer on the Pandemic, which will certainly be used now and in the future. The meeting concluded with the hymn, *Woman of the Sacred Heart*. We dispersed feeling much happier than when we arrived.

Margaret Krijinen

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A thought from Mother Mare Louise Hartzler, taken from a letter written to the Sisters in New Guinea just six weeks before her death in 1908:



When you feel weak and lacking in courage, go and seek strength and help from Jesus ... and say very often to Him: 'Heart of Jesus, I trust in you. Heart of Jesus, I believe in your love for me.' These two invocations ... must without any doubt give pleasure to the Heart of Jesus and draw down his loving gaze on those who say them often.

Prayers from our Hearts

For our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Sr Eleanor Parker (Kensington)

Sr M Stefana De Backer (Belgium)

Sr M Josephine Fournier (Issoudun)

Sr Agatha Asah (PNG)

Sr M Richarda Nevens (Rumst)

Sr Fachanan Regan (Ireland)

Sr Majella Hoppenbrouwers (Tilburg), Sr Mariettea Noordermeer (Tilburg)



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Br Ted Merritt (Darwin)

OLSH Associates

Noel Reid (Callala), Celine Doherty (Corinda), Joan Long (Pagewood), Colleen Leonard (Darwin), Bessie Venables (Cairns), Margaret Zucker (Sydney), Heather Hardy (Randwick).

Loved Ones

Vincent Hage, Kath (Kay) O'Connor, Richard Newman, Jim Brown, Terry McGuinness, Ted Simmons, Teresa Han Bok-Hee, Josephine Lomax, Tracy, Michael Purcell, Danny Sullivan, Ken Philipps, John Hammon, Anthony Athanitis, Tom Cosgrove, Helena laBarol, Carmel and Patrick Grunke, Joseph Chue, Mary Lonsdale, Lyn Hodder (nee Rowe), Fr Creede CSsR, Peter Robson, Gwyneth Standaloft, Tom Hutt.

For Those in Need of Our Prayers

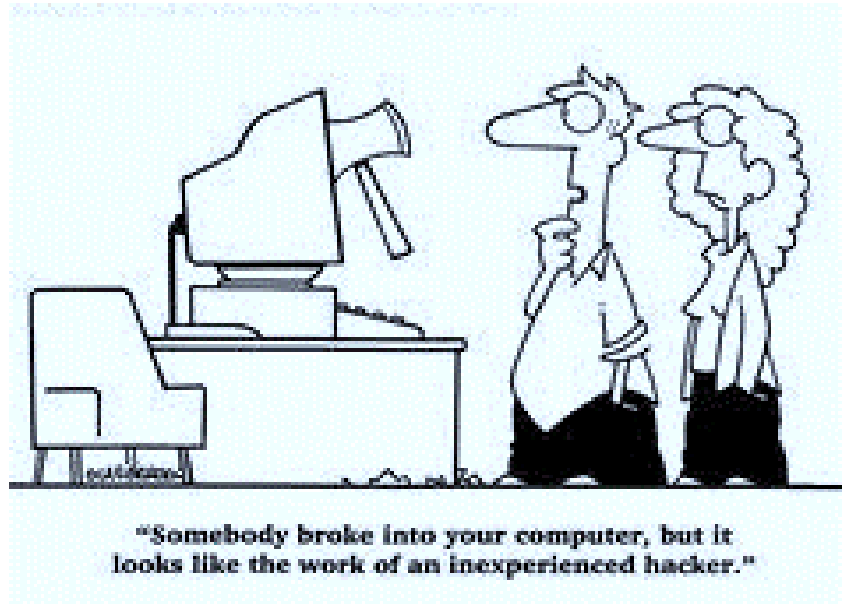
Sr Theresa Coleman, Sr Helen Warman, Tim Stubenrauch, Carmel Moore, ted and Jeannie Large, Teresa Galea, Bev Readon, Fr Clem Cafarella, Marcia Byrne, Jack and Michael Mack, Grace Corbitt, Margaret & John Toye, Lorraine Conolly, Dot, Lorna, Rev Les Forrester and Jennifer Forrester, Stephen De Gennaro, Isaac, the vulnerable ones during the Covid-19 pandemic, the people of Japan suffering from Covid 19 and earthquakes, the people of Vanuatu, all those affected in any way by Covid-19.

Thanksgiving through Our Lady of the Sacred Heart's Intercession

- ❖ Seven new OLSH postulants in PNG
- ❖ Continued improvement in the health of little Audrey who celebrated her 3rd birthday
- ❖ Remission for Ros after a procedure overseas

THE INTERNET
REVOLUTION!!!
and the
Ametur.

Just a gentle
reminder!



This request is only for those who wish, but as some of you have requested that the ***Ametur*** be sent by email, I wondered if anyone else might like to receive it that way.

If you would then please fill out the form below and send it back to me, by snail mail or email. If you attend a group meeting, then you would need to print the *Ametur* off for your meetings or get someone else to do it for you on their printer.

Please let me stress that this is YOUR choice and we are happy to continue sending the ***Ametur*** as usual by snail mail if that is what is best for you.

Please note that even though I may have your email because of past communications I will not send the ***Ametur*** to you by email unless you specifically request it, by filling out the form below.

.....

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE AMETUR BY EMAIL.

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Your Email Address:

Associates email address: associates@olshaustralia.org.au