



Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia

Spirituality of the Heart in an Australian Lay Context

National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family Australian Guidelines

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

Provincial Administrations of the Chevalier Family include:

- **FDNSC:** The OLSH Associates, the OLSH Provincial in Council
- **MSC:** The Lay and Professed Council, the MSC Provincial in Council
- **MSC Sisters:** The MSC Provincial in Council

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

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

Vision of the National Council

The National Council will:

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



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Formation

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

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

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

- Direct individuals/groups to existing formation.
- Identify the best ways to provide ongoing formation.

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

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

Relationship with the Provinces

It is important the Council maintains close relationships with the three Provincial administrations that are interdependent yet autonomous.

The National Council will ask each Provincial to appoint a liaison person and the National Council may invite that person to attend meetings.

It is suggested that the Provincial administrations may wish to consider inviting an observer from the National Council to attend Provincial Council meetings on occasions when it may be helpful.

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



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Operations and Responsibilities of the National Council

NOTE: Changes made to these 26 June 2022 in preparation for election of National Council September 2022 – see below ***

Council members include:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Outreach Coordinator
- A Spiritual Companion

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

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

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

A report of meetings will be sent to Provincial Councils.

Any review of the operation of the National Council document needs to be submitted to the Provincials.

Finances

Funds of the National Council may be expended in fulfilment of the objectives and purpose of the National Council.

The National Council is to be financially self-sufficient.

Possible sources of income:

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



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Appendix 1: The first National Council was established by the following process:

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

In order to find Council members a request will be sent out calling for nominations from those associated with the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

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

Nominees will then be approved and invited by the Provincials in Council to join the National Council.

Once the National Council is established it will be responsible for inviting new council members but will be expected to consult widely and particularly with the Provincials.

Time Frame

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

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

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



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

Aim

To help guide the Australian Province of MSC, OLSH, MSC Sisters and wider Chevalier family in a response to the “Guidelines” document approved by the General assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, July 2017.

The National Council relies on the support and collaboration of the Provincial Administration(s) of the Chevalier Congregations in each country for its establishment.

The National Council consists of one or more representatives of the local administration(s) of the Lay Group(s) in the country, together with one or more officially appointed representatives of the Provincial Administrations of the Chevalier Congregations, present in a certain country.

The task of the National Council is:

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

Edited and accepted 14th March 2020



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****Election of Council members

The tenure of roles of members of the National Council will be three years from date of commissioning.

The Chair will communicate with all members in due time to determine if they want to continue or relinquish their role on the Council.

Nominations to be called for – as per previous method (as per form used in 2019).

Members must have made a significant contribution to the workings of the Council through attendance at meetings or other in order to consider continuing membership.

Recognition of is important 'corporate knowledge' and actions to preserve it should be taken.

Members to be drawn from lay people identified in the guidelines and particularly from our three congregations and from across Australia.

National Council positions to include:

- Chair (responsibility for preparation of agendas and conduct of meetings and allocation of duties)
- Chair Emeritus (to work with the Chair for a period as required)
- Minutes and email communications (Secretary)
- Outreach coordinator (communication, updating platforms = website, Facebook, Instagram)
- Finances (fundraising, account management)

Elections to be held after gathering in September – Sunday 18 September 2022

Changes accepted at National Council meeting 26 June 2022



With deep respect and love, we acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (the traditional custodians of this land) and their Elders - past, present, and emerging.

We support the *Uluru Statement From The Heart* and recognise the importance of ensuring First Nations people have a voice in Australia.



We commit to a "greater love for our Creator, each other, and the home we share". (Laudato Si 14).

We live in the *Spirituality of the Heart* and are called to love and care for Creation.