



# Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia

Spirituality of the Heart in an Australian Lay Context

20 September 2022

## **The Role of and Process for Replacement of Spiritual Companion of the National Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia**

This role description is in accordance with those adopted by the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family affirms the absolute importance of the presence of Spiritual Companions to the work of the National Councils in support of the ongoing development of understanding of the role of laity within the Chevalier Family and in their formation.

We acknowledge the valuable role of many professed over many years who walked beside the laity. We give thanks for their lives and honour their commitment.

### **Role of the Spiritual Companion of the National Council**

He/she will offer formation and guidance to the members of the National Council, particularly in the area of a Spirituality of the Heart and its practical implications, through his/her presence at digital and face-to-face meetings and National Council gatherings, as well as offering wise counsel and support, as requested and needed by the National Council.

He/she will act as a conduit between the laity and professed members of the Family, where needed or requested.

He/she will actively promote the vision for the laity within the Chevalier Family to professed and lay groups and also through supportive communication with the leadership of the professed in the country. This communication is best undertaken in collaboration with the National Council of the Laity.

He/she will also be able to offer assistance in forming Spiritual Companions to groups within the country, by assisting them to work with lay groups towards the creation of mature 'faith-sharing' groups, in a manner that avoids the development of a dependent relationship between laity and professed.

We hope that the ministry of Spiritual Companions comes to be seen as a crucial ministry by Provinces.



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### Personal Attributes

Given the importance of the role of Spiritual Companion, the International Council suggests the following personal attributes are required to undertake the role:

- Energy, passion and a vision for the possibilities of the Lay Vocation;
- Time and availability to fully engage with the role of Spiritual Companion, even though the role is not a full-time position;
- Good technological and communication skills so as to be able to fulfil the conduit role between the laity and professed members of the Chevalier Family and to be a communication channel to and from the National Council; and,
- An appreciation of the joys and challenges of the lay lifestyle.

### The Process for Appointment as Suggested by the International Council

We suggest that a conversation occur between the Chair of the National Council of the Laity and representatives of the three congregations, namely FDSNC, MSC, and MSC Sisters, to discuss a process for appointment that is suitable for both groups.

As an important and fundamental guiding principle we ask that the process for appointment be collaborative between the three congregations and the National Council of the Laity and that the Role and Personal Attributes required to undertake the role be seriously considered.

We do suggest that appointment be formalised with a letter of appointment that includes the role statement, length of appointment and an accountability statement.



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.