



Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia

Spirituality of the Heart in an Australian Lay Context

October 2022

Re: Fundraising Appeal

Dear Chevalier Family members,

Thank you for your ongoing involvement in the Laity of the Chevalier Family (LCF).

It is inspirational to be part of a group that believes in Jules Chevalier's charism, a *Spirituality of the Heart* that encourages us to work toward a better world through prayer and action.

One of the goals of the *Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (ACLCF)* is to support the work of the International Council of LCF to develop an Asia/Pacific identity among lay groups.

The International Council is organising the 4th International Assembly of Laity of the Chevalier Family in the Philippines in 2024.

We aim to raise funds to support two people from Pacific countries to attend as well as supporting four delegates from Australia. The funds will assist with airfares and accommodation expenses.

Delegates will bring back wonderful memories and ideas to guide the future development of the LCF.

The estimated cost of attending is \$2,500 per person. Our goal is, therefore, to raise \$15,000.

Should we be fortunate enough to raise more than required, any remaining funds be used to assist the work of the *Australian Council* for things such as outreach projects.

The theme and date of the gathering:

One in Heart in Caring for Our Common Home

21 – 29 January 2024

Cebu, Philippines

Your contribution is one way to express solidarity as part of the Chevalier Family. Can you give \$25 per month for four months? (Any contributions will be welcomed).

You may wish to make an ongoing commitment to the operation of the Australian Council or a one-off contribution to the above.

To contribute, please donate via electronic funds transfer (EFT).

For privacy reasons, the EFT details have been removed from the website version of this letter.

Contact the Australian Council on aus.lcf@gmail.com for the EFT details.



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How important will this gathering be?

Here are some comments from those fortunate to have attended previous gatherings:

"It was a great experience, my first opportunity to meet and mix with so many other International Lay MSC from so many different countries and cultures. It was a time of great spiritual blessings, as you can imagine, from so many cultures. A time of real grace and friendship".

Marg O'Loughlin (Santo Domingo 2008)



"The topic of the Sao Paulo gathering was 'Spirituality without Borders: Vision and Mission of the Laity of the Chevalier Family'. We began the conference as strangers but ended as friends and confreres. Twenty countries were represented, and six languages – translators were kept very busy, especially when people spoke passionately and quickly!

Countries represented included Australia, Brazil, the Republic of Congo, England, Senegal, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, the United States, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Korea, Philippines, France, Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands.

A wonderful, enriching experience that strengthened my feeling that we are part of a thriving worldwide movement of great promise! My experiences at Santo Domingo and Sao Paulo energised me to continue my part in the mission of Jules Chevalier."



Fred Stubenrauch (Santo Domingo 2008, Sao Paolo 2017)



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"From the beginning, the experience of the warmth and welcome from the host country, Brazil, was overwhelming.

Spending time with Chevalier Family members from around the world was inspiring and enriching. The sense of belonging was wonderful. My hope for the future was strengthened. To be able to come home and share my experiences and sense of belonging with our Associates here in South Australia was an immense blessing.

The International Conference is an opportunity to come together, to be inspired and enriched by meeting with members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family from different cultures and countries, to deepen our Spirituality of the Heart in spiritual and practical ways, and so strengthen our calling as Laity to be on earth the Heart of God, in the world, in our families and everyday life."

Ellenmary Lomman (Sao Paulo 2017)



"I was fortunate to attend both gatherings of the Chevalier Family in 2008 and 2017. By then, I had been an active Associate of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for many years. These gatherings were the first time I became familiar with the wider MSC Lay family. It was overwhelming to see the number of attendees enthusiastic and alive in Spirituality of the Heart. The sharing in small groups was rich despite the language barrier.

The encounter and interaction shaped where I am today as a member of the Chevalier Family and inspired me to do what I can to further the mission of Jules Chevalier. On reflection, both gatherings were a wonderful and enriching experience that strengthened my belief that we are part of a thriving worldwide movement of great promise."

Therese Poulton (Santo Domingo 2008, Sao Paulo 2017)



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"The whole experience was profound. Being companions on the faith journey at this gathering, given expression in a Spirituality of the Heart inspired by Jules Chevalier, was overwhelmingly one of the most nourishing experiences of my life.

For me, the global connections were deep and unifying. No matter the language / cultural differences, our faith and Spirituality of the Heart united us all. I witnessed so many giving expression to 'being God's heart on earth!' and the deep desire we all had to continue to share this 'way of being' in our lives, our own culture, our own time and place, knowing we were connected across the globe. "

Julie Taylor (Santo Domingo 2008)



We will be grateful for any assistance you can provide.

Fred Stubenrauch

(Chair, Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family)



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.