



FROM THE HEART

NEWS FROM THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY AUSTRALIA

December 2022

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I am delighted to introduce the second *From the Heart* newsletter from the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (ACLCF).

We are most fortunate for the talents and energy of Clare Johnson in putting together this second edition.

We are provided with a beautiful description of the *Laity of the Chevalier Family* (LCFA) logo. This, together with a special LCFA candle, has been sent to our OLSH and MSC schools in the hope that it will be used as a focus during liturgical celebrations. We hope this will assist young people to know that they can continue being supported in their *Spirituality of the Heart* journey beyond/outside school.

I encourage all to consider the [Doing Our Part to Care for the Earth Declaration](#). Big changes often start with small changes. We are reminded of some of the small things we can do in the excellent reflection on Christmas and the beautiful Christmas Eve prayer.

As I have already said, we are deeply indebted to Clare for her energy and enthusiasm, especially but not only for her work in developing our new website.

Is there something that especially appeals to you? Please let us know, all correspondence will be gratefully received.

Happy reading!!

Best wishes for a peaceful, joy-filled Christmas.

Fred Stubenrauch (*Chair, ACLCF*)

To contact the ACLCF, provide feedback on *From The Heart*, or join the mailing list, email aus.lcf@gmail.com.

View or Share *From The Heart* as a Document (pdf): Download [From The Heart \(December 2022\)](#).

LCFA Candles

Our colleges often light candles to remember each other. We hope these *Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia* (LCFA) candles can be part of this college ritual of interconnection and act as a symbol of their place in the wider *Laity of the Chevalier Family*.



Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator

We congratulate Chris McDermott, treasurer of the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, who has been appointed by the International Council Laity of the Chevalier Family as the Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (LCF).

Along with Olguita Garcia Campos from Peru (Central and Southern America Regional Coordinator) and the soon-to-be-appointed European Regional Coordinator, Chris will work with the International and National Councils of the LCF to assist with the preparation of the upcoming International LCF Assembly.

The International LCF Assembly will be held on 21-29 January 2024 in Cebu, Philippines. The theme is 'One in Heart in Caring for Our Common Home', and the scripture is the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

To learn more, visit the [International LCF](#) website.



Laity of the Chevalier Family Logo

The Laity of the Chevalier Family (LCF) logo was designed at the Third International Assembly of Laity of the Chevalier Family in 2017. Differing from the explicitly Christian images of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC), the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (FDNSC/OLSH Sisters), and the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC Sisters), this logo points to the lay charism, where we live in families, earn our living in our communities, and commit ourselves differently to the professed members. Additionally, the logo links to foundational scriptures: *It is in him (LOVE) that we live and move and exist (Acts 17:28), this LOVE of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5), and whoever fails to LOVE does not know God, because God is LOVE (1 Jn 4: 8).*

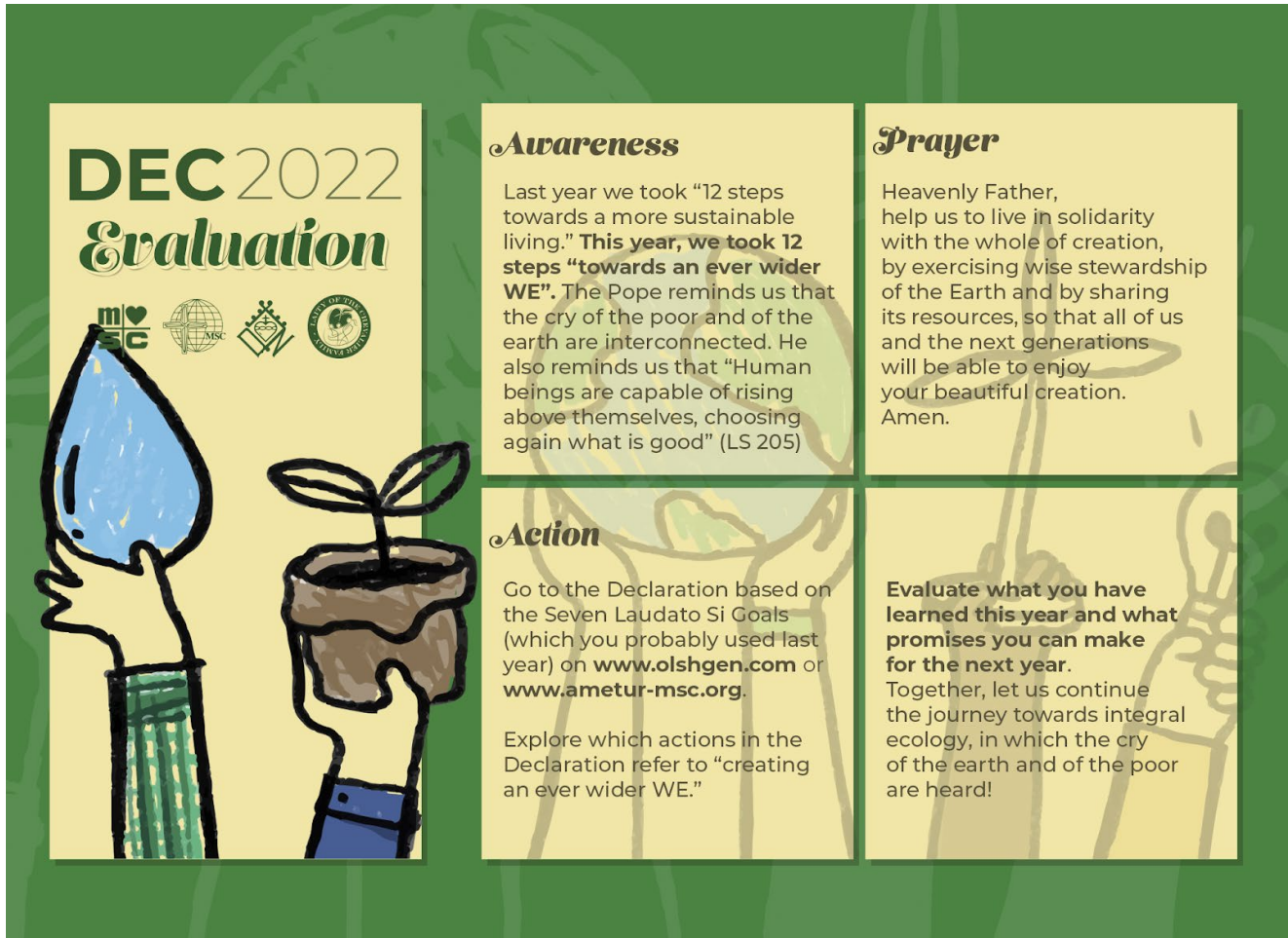
To learn about the LCF logo symbols or share this information with others, download the explanation or visit the Resources section of the LCFA website:

- [Document](#)
- [Images](#)
- [Presentation](#)



First Friday Reflection

The *International Chevalier Family* publishes a First Friday reflection to support individuals and groups to focus communally on an area of spiritual formation. It aims to raise awareness, inspire prayer, and give a social justice action related to the monthly topic. The initiative is jointly supported by the *International Laity of the Chevalier Family*, the *Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*, the *Missionaries of the Sacred Heart*, and the *Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*.



DEC 2022 Evaluation

Awareness

Last year we took "12 steps towards a more sustainable living." **This year, we took 12 steps "towards an ever wider WE"**. The Pope reminds us that the cry of the poor and of the earth are interconnected. He also reminds us that "Human beings are capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good" (LS 205)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to live in solidarity with the whole of creation, by exercising wise stewardship of the Earth and by sharing its resources, so that all of us and the next generations will be able to enjoy your beautiful creation. Amen.

Action

Go to the Declaration based on the Seven Laudato Si Goals (which you probably used last year) on www.olshgen.com or www.ametur-msc.org.

Explore which actions in the Declaration refer to "creating an ever wider WE."

Evaluate what you have learned this year and what promises you can make for the next year.

Together, let us continue the journey towards integral ecology, in which the cry of the earth and of the poor are heard!

Download the [First Friday Reflection \(December 2022\)](#).

Australian Reflection

Awareness

Christmas is a season of celebration, bonding, and love - the first joyful, loving encounter we have with the human and yet divine 'Sacred Heart of Jesus'. But, unfortunately, Christmas is also a secularised season of excess, overconsumption, and waste - a season where God's 'heart for Creation' is lost. Read the reflection to see how we can have [A 'Heart for Creation' at Christmas](#).

Prayer

Download the [Christmas Eve Prayer](#).

Action

Consider how to celebrate Christmas sustainably. Download the [Sustainable Christmas Inspirations](#).

Ametur



[Download](#) the latest edition (348, December 2022) of the Ametur magazine produced for the Associates of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH Associates).

Heart of Life Graduation

Heart of Life was delighted to celebrate with its graduating Siloam and Spiritual Leaders participants in November. They celebrated their achievements joyfully with Heart of Life supervisors and lecturers, family and friends at St Paschal Chapel in Melbourne.

Here's to the Class of 2022!

Siloam Program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors
Spiritual Leaders

Interested in knowing more about the Heart of Life programs? Visit the [Heart of Life](#) website.



**WE HAVE TAKEN THE PLEDGE TO
BUILD A BETTER WORLD
WITH CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES**

We commit to build a world where every person has the opportunity to thrive. We will put our faith into action by praying for those who experience poverty, hunger, violence and forced displacement, by learning about these global issues, and by taking action as a council and with our wider Chevalier Family to create lasting change for our one human family.

<https://support.crs.org/act/lead-way-pledge>



CRS Pledge

In response to the First Friday reflection action for November 2022, the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family signed the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) pledge below.

"I commit to building a world where every person has the opportunity to thrive. I will put my faith into action by praying for those who experience poverty, hunger, violence and forced displacement, by learning about these global issues, and by taking action personally and with my community to create lasting change for our one human family."

To learn more or make your own pledge, visit the [Catholic Relief Services](#) website.



MSC Mission Office Appeal

The MSC Mission Office supports clean water and humanitarian projects worldwide, including Vietnam, Kiribati, India, Senegal, and Indonesia.

To donate, visit the [MSC Mission Office](#) website.

Advent Calendar

To prepare our hearts for Christmas, the 'Follow the Star...' Advent reflection series will be posted daily on the Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [website](#) (Resources – Liturgical Resources).



Save The Date

Laity Of The Chevalier Family Australia National Gathering

22-24 September 2023

St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park

Join the Australian Council for the Laity of the Chevalier Family for a weekend retreat of spiritual formation, community building, and learning.

To hear about past participant experiences, visit the ACLCF YouTube Channel:

- [Reflection on 2022 Gathering](#)
- [Photos from 2022 Gathering](#)

Heartworks 2023

Heartworks Building, St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park

Heartworks will resume their monthly gatherings next year. The first one will be Sunday, 5 February 2023.

We hope to get the group back together, and we welcome new people to join us. Our gatherings are always fun, friendly and relaxing.

Connect with us on [Facebook](#) or by [email](#).

Hope to see you there!

- Aidan -



Website Launch

The Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia website (chevalierlaity.com.au) has launched! Don't forget to check it out!



Call for Contributions

The Australian Council for the Laity of the Chevalier Family is looking for contributions to social media stories and *From The Heart* to help build connections in the Chevalier Family.

- Hosting a Chevalier Family event?
- Have a Chevalier Family story?
- Know of a Chevalier Family achievement?

Whether a local item or something of national/international significance, send a short paragraph (or sentence) and any photos/images (with permission to be publicly shared) to aus.lcf@gmail.com.

Fundraising

The Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family has committed to raising funds to support two delegates from Pacific Countries and four from Australia to attend the 4th International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family held in the Philippines in 2024. Your contribution is one way to express solidarity as part of the Chevalier Family. Download the [Fundraising Appeal Letter](#).

Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family



[aus.lcf](https://www.facebook.com/aus.lcf)



aus.lcf@gmail.com



[aus.lcf](https://www.instagram.com/aus.lcf)



chevalierlaity.com.au



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.

