

# COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION



Kerrie Wehbe

## International Women's Day (8 March 2023)

International Women's Day is held on March 8 each year, with events and activities taking place across the globe. It celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and is an opportunity for accelerating gender equality to create a world where women and girls everywhere have equal rights and opportunities. The theme for this year is **Cracking the Code: Innovation for a Gender-Equal Future**, which emphasizes the importance of bold, transformative ideas, inclusive technologies, and accessible education in combating discrimination and marginalization of women worldwide. We are encouraged to "Embrace Equity" as part of this focus.

God's plan, revealed in Creation, attributes equal dignity and worth to women, but it also affirms the uniqueness of the gift of femininity. For example, the role entrusted to Mary by the divine plan of salvation sheds light on women's vocation in the Church's life and gives her a particular uniqueness that is to be fostered and encouraged (Pope John Paul II).

Members of the Chevalier family have a very proud history as part of a force for change for the betterment of women and girls worldwide through various ministries, especially education, a foundational cornerstone of equity for women and girls. Taking Mary as a model, MSC, OLSH Sisters, and their partners-in-mission have always believed that women sow the seeds of the civilization of love with their high capacity for personal self-giving.

Let us keep all the women of the world and their right to equity in our prayers.

### Reflection

*I ask for the grace to see Creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering. Do I see the beauty of Creation and hear the cries of the earth and people experiencing poverty?*

## Jules Chevalier Birthday (15 March 2023)

On this anniversary of our Founder's birth in 1824, we remember that the identity and future of the Chevalier family (MSC, OLSH Sisters, MSC Sisters, Laity of the Chevalier Family, and all who are partners in this mission) depend on we each live and demonstrate Jules Chevalier's charism in our lives. At the heart of this is believing that, in Jesus, God loves us with a human heart - It is what must inspire us in all we do. Jules Chevalier, who went beyond the ordinary theological teachings of his time, passionately believed that God's love was revealed in the way Jesus loved those he encountered - with His heart, the entirety of who He was, full of compassion, acceptance, kindness, forgiveness and love. Jules' meditation and study to discover the depth of this reality that was his passion in life allowed him to, as Hans Kwakman MSC reminds us,

“

*Discover the Heart of Christ as the centre of the whole of creation and salvation*  
(*Jules Chevalier's Charism*, 2014).

”

He saw this way of viewing the Heart of Jesus as the answer to everything and for everyone - priests, religious, and laity. This large family participate in the same mission, with the laity practising a Spirituality of the Heart in their homes, workplaces, and the groups to which they belong. Jules Chevalier strongly believed that the laity, living in this way, would significantly impact the creation of a more just and loving society. As the pressing issues of the society around us - things like the climate crisis, discrimination, inequality, and the flawed structures that can support them - all originate in the hearts of people, it is first and foremost our hearts that need to be healed and converted if these issues are to be resolved.

What a difficult yet privileged mission we share in!



# International Mother Earth Day

**(22 April 2023)**

The loving heart of Jesus enfolds all of us and all of Creation. As people inspired by the life, charism, and mission of Jules Chevalier, who wrote of a new world coming from the heart of Jesus, let us commit to the following:

- Reflection on how our actions or lack of action can contribute to the urgent issues facing our planet;
- Prayer for, and efforts towards, restoring relationships where breakdowns occur; and
- Creativity in finding solutions that help to protect Mother Earth, our common home.

