



FROM THE HEART

NEWS FROM THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY AUSTRALIA

April 2023

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Welcome to the April edition of *From the Heart*. Clare apologises for the delay in sending this out, but I assured her that no apology is needed. Instead, we are most grateful to her for these wonderful newsletters.

Also in this edition are profiles of our delegates to the Philippines Assembly. We are grateful to them for volunteering to represent LCF Australia. The International Council be seeking comments on several important agenda items. Over the next months, the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (ACLCF) will seek your advice.

We are close to our funding target for our delegates and are very grateful for the generous contributions so far. A bit more to go if you can help!!

Two hundred years since Jules Chevalier's birth next year. We welcome suggestions on how LCF Australia could celebrate this wonderful event.

The MSC Australian Province will be holding their Chapter and the election of the next Provincial next week. Among the many items to be discussed will be the plans for St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park.

Did you enjoy the "Carbon Fasting" plan for Easter? Very thought-provoking and challenging as we all struggle with the human impact on our precious environment. Missed the plan? Find it on our website under the button Resources, then Liturgical Resources. While on the website 'take a tour', perhaps you have something that could be put on the website.

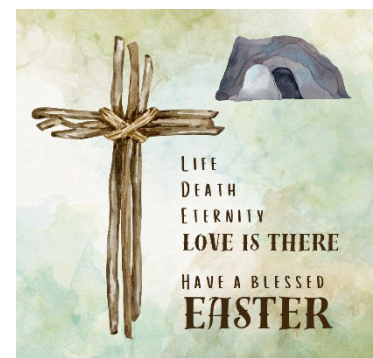
September gathering at St Mary's Towers, do you have any suggestions for what we might do? Ideas welcomed.

Enough from me, with every blessing and wishing a belated Happy Easter.

Fred (Chair, ACLCF)

Share 'From The Heart'

- Download [From The Heart \(April 2023\)](#) or [read it online](#).
- Join the mailing list by contacting aus.lcf@gmail.com.



International Assembly Delegates

The Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (ACLCF) is pleased to announce the delegates for the 4th International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in the Philippines in January 2024.

Over the coming months, the delegates and the ACLCF will prepare for the assembly by meeting with delegates from the Asia Pacific region and discerning the assembly agenda items.



Therese Poulton



Aidan Johnson



Narita Perrotta



Clare Johnson

International Council Letters

The International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family has written two letters this month.

The [Easter](#) letter provides an Easter reflection and an update on the International Council's activities.

The [Asia Pacific](#) letter provides an update on the International Assembly focusing on the Asia Pacific region.

Both letters showcase how the Laity of the Chevalier Family in Australia fits into the wider Chevalier Family. They're worth a read!

Easter



Easter Blessings to the Chevalier Family from the International Council

Several years ago, I was fortunate enough to spend some time on sabbatical in Palestine. To be with the people whose crucifix was Jesus, to walk where he walked and to see where he was killed and buried and rise from the life was life-changing for me.

This image is of an angel created in Palestine from the broken shards of glass from a window that I found only on the Palestinian coast. It is one of my most precious memories of my time in land of Jesus. It is simple and yet so meaningful from the crucifixion.

It is a powerful sign of hope that when shattered glass can be transformed into something new to last ages.

As we, in our 36 member countries, remember and re-enact the dying and rising of our Lord Jesus, may we be reminded that it is not just a story on history that we celebrate – but a daily call to bring love and self-sacrifice, forgiveness and compassion, understanding and peace to our delegates here, so that our lives may be used to create life anew whenever we can.

We wish you grace and peace wherever you are this Easter.

Alison, Danni, Rita, Peter, Maria Olimpia, Olga, Chris, and Pi Hain

10/1/2023

Asia Pacific



A Letter to the Asia Pacific Region of the Chevalier Family

Greetings to the Chevalier Family members in the Asia Pacific region from the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

Recently, a meeting was held between Zepheria Garcia Quirino, Chris McDonnell, and Alan Matthews with 10 other members in the region.

At that meeting, we discussed the needs of the Chevalier Family in the Asia Pacific region in relation to assisting in the formation of regional laity between member countries in the region. The International Council together with the Assembly of Laity, member countries in the region, and the Asia Pacific region will be working together to support the region. We would especially like to thank members who are allowing the Assembly to go to know each other. These regional events have regional priorities, and we would like to know how they will develop in the Asia Pacific region.

As an Assembly, there are no regional or national elected officers or staff, and we would like to know how the Chevalier Family members will be able to discern their own role in the members who are allowing the Assembly to be the central body to allow work to be done in the region.

Chris has kindly agreed to help with this aspect of the work.

Chris was asked to:

- Organise the Asia Pacific meeting with member countries in the region
- The first meeting will be to meet and get to know each other
- To discuss the needs of the region and to support the member countries

We would like to know how the members will be able to support the work.

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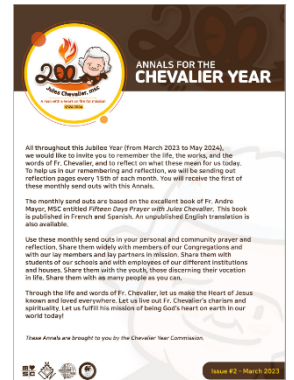
We would like to know how the members will be able to support the work.

Chevalier Year

To prepare for the 200th anniversary of Jules Chevalier's birth, the *Chevalier Year* newsletter will be published monthly by the Chevalier Family.

Download the past editions:

- [February 2023](#)
- [March 2023](#)



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*.



ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

TWELVE FIRST FRIDAY STEPS TOWARDS THE LAUDATO SI GOALS

AWARENESS

Pope Francis in his encyclical talks on environmental, economic and social ecology, that clearly respects any human and social dimension, making it synonymous with Ecological economics. He asks us to take into account the environmental impact of any economic concrete undertaking (LS 140)

PRAYER

Lord, Father, enlighten by your Spirit the decision makers and influencers of this world, all those who deal with money and power that they will promote the common good.

Amen.

ACTION

Don't support any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, invest in renewable energy and promote circular economy. Combat food-waste.

APRIL 2023

image: <https://pixabay.com/photos/demonstration-fridays-for-future-4891275>

Download the [First Friday Reflection \(April 2023\)](#).

Australian Reflection

Australia is one of the world's largest economies and consumer markets. In 2021, it was ranked 12th with a Nominal Gross Domestic Product of A\$2.2 trillion and has 1.7% of the global economy for 0.3% of the world's population (austrade.gov.au).

Quoting Benedict XVI's *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Francis reminds us that "every purchase is a moral act" (CV66). It's important to be informed, so learn more about the circular economy and case studies in the Australian Government [Sustainable Procurement Guide](#) and CSIRO [research projects](#).

Reflect on your purchasing habits and consider what you could change to be more sustainable and ethical. Buy local. Buy items with a long life span and made from sustainable materials - recyclable or biodegradable. Consider whether you need to purchase something. Repair items. Buy second-hand.

Chevalier Youth Blackburn

St Thomas the Apostle, Blackburn has a new youth group called *Chevalier Youth*. The tagline, *Walking Together in Faith*, highlights the focus on *Spirituality of the Heart* being lived vibrantly by young people. Under the direction of Youth Pastoral Worker Geralyn 'Gigi' Anderson, Chevalier Youth has a strong social media presence, social justice focus, and liturgical expression.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chevalieryouthblackburn

Instagram: www.instagram.com/chevalieryouthblackburn

Photos: MSC students and Chevalier Youth Blackburn attending the Palm Sunday Justice for Refugees Walk (below).



[Logo Explanation](#)



History, Heritage, and Heart: New OLSH Educators Gather at Kensington

Several weeks ago, 11 teachers who this year are beginning their education ministry at OLSH Colleges in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide gathered for a day together at OLSH Convent Kensington. The gathering introduced the charism of Jules Chevalier, the beginnings and ongoing development of OLSH education in Australia, and the deep and beautiful meaning of the title given to Mary by Fr Chevalier, 'Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.' It was a fantastic opportunity for the teachers to meet up with others and to begin to appreciate that they are 'standing on the shoulders' of the OLSH educators, OLSH Sisters, and lay people who have come before them. In one of the sessions, several senior students spoke to the group about how they experienced OLSH College as a heart community and how much this meant to them.

May these teachers, who are now new members of the wider Chevalier family, be inspired by the four pillars of OLSH education: being faith-filled, reverencing relationships, pursuing excellence, and touching the hearts of others.



Supporting First Nations People

Learn more about First Nations advocacy and how you could get involved on the [Reconciliation Australia](https://www.reconciliationaustralia.gov.au/) website.



**RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA**



Community Contribution

This *Community Contribution* looks back at International Women's Day (8 March) and Jules Chevalier's Birthday (15 March) and looks forward to International Mother Earth Day (22 April).

[Read online](#) or [download](#).



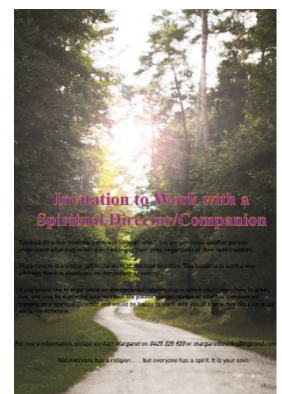
In The News

The following comment by Kerrie Wehbe was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, on 7 March 2023, in response to an article by Senator Pat Dodson.

- Recognition of Indigenous Australians in the Constitution*
- A First Nations Voice to Parliament*
- Implementation of the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Prime Minister, that would be a yes, a yes, and a yes!*

Spiritual Direction Invitation

Spiritual direction involves a process through which one person helps others understand what God is doing and saying in their lives, regardless of their faith tradition. Discernment is a crucial gift in the work of spiritual direction. This happens in such a way whereby there is no domination or control. If you want to experience an interpersonal relationship in which you'll learn how to grow, live, and love by exploring your spiritual life, read this [invitation letter](#).



Musica Divina

Listen to music with the ear of the heart. Listen for God's voice or rest in God's presence.

For The One - Bryan and Jenn Johnson

Lyrics

Let me be filled
With kindness and compassion for the One.
The One for whom You love and gave Your Son
For humanity, increase my love.

Help me to love with open arms like You do.
A love that erases all the lies and sees the truth.
So that when they look in my eyes, they would see You.
Even in just a smile, they would feel the Father's love.

Oh, how You love us.
From the homeless to the famous and in between.
You formed us, You made us carefully.
'Cause, in the end, we are all Your children.

Let all my life tell of who You are
And the wonder of Your never-ending love.
Let all my life tell of who You are -
You're wonderful and such a good Father.

Reflection

Listen to the music (available on [YouTube](#) or a streaming service).

- How do you feel?
- What words or phrases stand out to you?
- How are you being called to respond?



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 an event?
- Have a story?
- Know of an achievement?

Anything related to MSC, OLSH Sister, and MSC Sisters communities, missions, ministries, and lay people that would interest the wider Chevalier Family. Whether a local item or something of national/international significance, send a reflection, article, short paragraph, or sentence with 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



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[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 and the Created.



We rejoice in our differences and celebrate the gift of the LGBTQIA+ community. We live 'to be on Earth the heart of God' and welcome and include all people in their diversity.