



FROM THE HEART

NEWS FROM THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY AUSTRALIA

May 2023

In This Issue

Welcome
Outreach
Chevalier Year Newsletter
Chevalier Family May Dates
First Friday Reflection
MSC Sister Jubilee
MSC Australian Chapter
OLSH Sisters' Provincial Assembly
Musica Divina
Focus on Mary in May
Social Media
Contact Us

Once again, here are some engaging and thought-provoking articles in our May 2023 edition of *From the Heart*.

There has been much in the media recently about gender and the use of pronouns. Articles on the Outreach website are well worth reading.

Together with our three religious congregations, we are working on appropriate celebrations for the 200-year birthday of Jules Chevalier next year. Any good suggestions are welcome.

It is easy to make resolutions ("One day I will"), and I'm sure we have all made many over the years. However, keeping to them takes time and effort as the pressures of life sometimes get in the way. Remember our commitment to the *Laudato Si* action plan? The First Friday reflection helps remind us of simple things we can do as stewards of the Earth.

We are so fortunate to have had many religious in our congregations who have committed themselves to "Be on Earth the Heart of God". This issue remembers some of them who are celebrating a special occasion. I know many others have guided us on our journey. We thank them for being beautiful examples for us.

Congratulations to Stephen Hackett, the next Provincial of MSC Australia. I was fortunate to be part of the recent Chapter and to witness dedication as members grappled with issues to develop clear goals. A firm commitment was made to the 'Voice' and *Laudato Si*. Similarly, Kerrie and Lee were part of the OLSH Provincial Assembly and witnessed an enthusiastic commitment to ministry and mission.

We are all (MSC, OLSH, MSC Sisters, and Laity of the Chevalier Family) "Partners in Mission".

Remember September dates for your diary!!! Plans for our gathering at St Mary's Towers are developing, and it would be fantastic to see people from all Chevalier Family ministries represented. A booking form will be available soon.

Happy reading for another quality newsletter!

Take care,

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

Share 'From The Heart'

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



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
(Statue at Chevalier College)

Outreach

Launched on St Joseph the Worker's Feast day a year ago, the [Outreach](#) website is a Catholic LGBTQIA+ resource page. Their thought-provoking articles (e.g., [A Catholic Case for Choosing Your Own \[Gender\] Pronouns](#)) challenge us to consider how to 'be on Earth the Heart of God'.

"I love you, dear church, and though you may not know how to love me back, I will wait here until you do... My whole journey has been a conversation, an endless prayer spoken through my body in which I love God, and God loves me back." [Dear Church: A Letter From A Young Transgender Catholic](#)

The ACLCF recently released [Made In God's Image: A Justice Statement On Gender, Sex, And Sexuality Diversity](#).

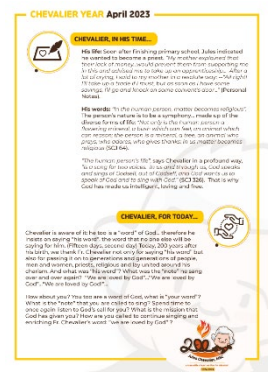


Chevalier Year Newsletter

The April edition is available to [read online](#) or [download](#).

Chevalier Family May Dates

[Read](#) about significant dates for the Chevalier Family in May.



A Prayer For Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

~ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* ~

HEARTWORKS



Second Sundays

- 10:30 Gather**
- 11:00 Reflection**
- 12:00 Lunch**
- 1:00 Finish**

**Sun
4th June**

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

Heartworks.msc@gmail.com

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*.



ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES

TWELVE FIRST FRIDAY STEPS TOWARDS THE LAUDATO SI GOALS

AWARENESS

A simple lifestyle is good for us, helping us to better share with those in need.

-Pope Francis

PRAYER

O Lord, help us turn from the selfish consumption of resources meant for all and to see the impacts of our choices on the poor and vulnerable. Amen.

ACTION

Avoid wasteful, consumeristic and self-centered lifestyle which continues to exhaust the natural resources and to push the poor to the margins of society.

MAY 2023

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

Australian Reflection

What is a simple lifestyle, and how do you simplify yours? “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19,21). A good place to start is to reflect on what you value and what is essential for life (physical, spiritual, emotional, social). Where are you investing your time, talent, and treasure?

There are many competing demands and ‘must haves’ that can make us hyperconnected (e.g., 20.5 internet-connected devices per Australian household in 2021) ([Statista](#)), stressed (e.g., 59% of Australians experienced at least one personal stressor in 2020) ([AIHW](#)), and consumerist (e.g., Australians dispose of 23 kg of clothing per person per year) ([SmartCompany](#)). But is this where God calls our hearts? Are our decisions leading us to ‘be on Earth the heart of God’?

For ideas on simplifying life, revisit the [Carbon Fast](#) and [Follow the Star Advent Calendar](#).

MSC Sister Jubilee

The MSC Sisters celebrated their foundation and the Jubilee anniversaries of Carmel Butler and Tess Veenker (50 years), Joan Fisher (70 years), Goretti Evans (61 Years), Carmel Slattery (60 years), and Benedict (70 years) (not pictured).

Read more on the [MSC website](#).



MSC Australian Chapter

The Australian MSC Chapter was held in April 2023. Read the Chapter stories on the MSC website: [Preparations](#), [Day 1](#), [Day 2](#), [Day 3 and 4](#), [Day 5](#), [Day 6 and 7](#), and [Close](#).

We congratulate Stephen Hackett (pictured below right) on being elected the next Provincial for the MSC Australian Province. His term begins on 1 July 2023. Stephen graciously accepted the office, and Superior General, Abzalón, accepted the vote of the Australian Province. [Read more](#).



OLSH Sisters' Province Assembly

by Kerrie Wehbe

Several 'partners in mission' of the OLSH Sisters were invited to attend and present on one of the recent OLSH Sister Province Assembly days at Hartzler Park in Bowral. The theme of the Assembly was "With Mary, Moving Forward in the Spirit".

The morning sessions with 'partners in mission' focussed on life experiences of connections with the Sisters, from those who had been connected the longest (well over 60 years for some) to those with a much more recent connection, as well as preparations for the Congregation's 150th-anniversary celebrations and the 200th-anniversary of the birth of Jules Chevalier. The afternoon sessions were spent connecting with Creation and in deep listening as part of spiritual conversations about the Sisters' and partners' suggestions for implementing the newly created *OLSH Sister Laudato Si' Action Plan*. The discussions centred on ways to implement Goals 1 and 2: How the Sisters could increase their awareness of and respond more deeply, with love and care to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. The day ended with a 'Creation Mass celebrated by Father Pat Mara MSC.

It was a time of openness and sharing, with two members of the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family presenting: Lee Toll (pictured here with Provincial, Sr Philippa Murphy, and some attendees) with her moving presentation on some of the OLSH history and Sisters of the past, and Kerrie Wehbe, who helped facilitate the session on the OLSH Action Plan and presented all who were in attendance with a *Laudato Si'* booklet with a summary of each chapter and resources for individual and community reflection and sharing.



Musica Divina

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

Woman of the Sacred Heart - James Maher MSC

Lyrics

In you, our flesh, he had to come.
You grounded him upon our earth.
Your feet that walked, your womb that held,
Your pain that brought this love to birth.
The Sacred Heart of him you held
Can grieve and grow within the space,
Of patient love and listening;
A mother's choice o' mystic's grace.

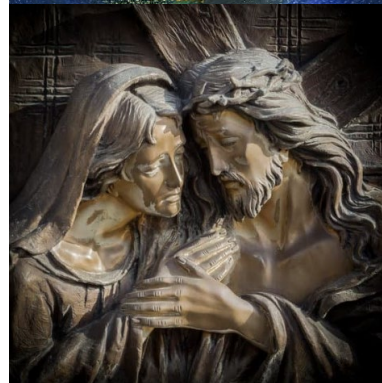
In your delight, in your despair,
The smallest choices of each day;
The cost to you, your hope-filled yes,
Your courage lived shows us the way.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
Eternal sign of God's surprise,
In you, we know the poor as blessed,
This world transformed before our eyes.

O Woman of the Sacred Heart,
You heard the words of Gabriel.
Pray we may hear the call of God
And come to meet Emmanuel
His truth is witnessed in your face,
That he became and was and is
The Sacred Heart, the resting place;
Our hearts forever held in His.

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?



Focus on Mary in May

Traditionally, May is the month devoted to Mary, Mother of Jesus. The Chevalier Family holds Mary as *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* close to their hearts. It honours and recognises Mary as a woman, mother, and 'partner in mission' to Jesus. Mary's love is shown in her choice to become Jesus' mother, in nurturing and teaching Jesus about human life and faith, in pondering Jesus' words and actions, in guiding Jesus to mission (e.g., Cana), in being present at Jesus' key life moments, and accepting a place with her adopted family at Calvary. Mary reveals Jesus' Sacred Heart, dwells within it, and is an example of how to 'be on Earth the Heart of God'.

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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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.