FROM THE HEART



NEWS FROM THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY AUSTRALIA

June 2023

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Once again, we are so fortunate for the hard work Clare has put into preparing such an excellent June edition of 'From The Heart'. There are many stimulating articles, including the latest edition of 'Encounter of Hearts', the newsletter from the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. Alison and her team have worked very hard to review policies and procedures adopted at the assembly in Brazil in 2016. This edition contains much that will be discussed at the International Gathering in the Philippines in January 2024. One of the jobs asked of the Australian Council (ACLCF) is to prepare recommendations and comments that our delegates can present on our behalf. The Australian Council would appreciate any ideas or comments you have so we can represent you, the Australian Lay Chevalier Family.

I know the online course has guided many on Spirituality of the Heart prepared by Hans Kwakman and his many publications, including "Jules Chevalier's Charism and the Identity of the Chevalier Family". The International Assembly in 2024 will mark the retirement of Hans as the Spiritual Companion of the International Council, and I know we are all so grateful for his guidance over the years. Enjoy retirement, Hans! If you would like us to pass on a message to Hans, please send it to us at aus.lcf@gmail.com.

There is so much to read and reflect on, so I won't add more, just a reminder about our 'One Heart, Many Stories' National Gathering in September. Aidan has prepared an online registration form for us, and we look forward to seeing many of you there (Zoom is available!).

Happy Sacred Heart Feast Day!

Take care,

Fred (Chair, ACLCF)

Share 'From The Heart'

- Download From The Heart (June 2023) or read it online.
- Join the mailing list by contacting <u>aus.lcf@gmail.com</u>.



National Gathering Invitation

One Heart... Many Stories.

It's time to register for the Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia national gathering!

Together we will share the story of Spirituality of the Heart in our lives - what has been, what is, and what we dream.

Register using the online registration form.



Letter to the SMH

In case you missed it, Kerrie Wehbe wrote another brilliant letter to the Sydney Morning Herald entitled Love Letter:

"I'm surprised Jane Caro "discovered" the notion of love being in the will at this stage of life ("Love is an action", April 23), and also that she associates it primarily with M. Scott Peck (whom I love). It was St Thomas Aquinas, the 13-century Dominican priest and theologian (aka "the angelic doctor"), who defined love as "the choice to will the good of the other". Such a full expression of what love is, and one that we older women who are wives, mothers, and grandmothers all have experience of."

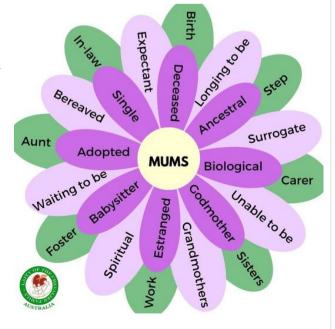
Love letter

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Kerrie Wehbe, Blacktown

Happy Mother's Day

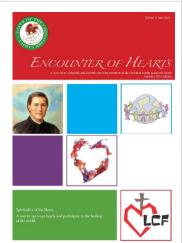
The Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia hopes that all 'mums' had a blessed Mother's Day on 14 May!



Encounter of Hearts

The International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (ICLCF) proudly publishes the 4th edition of Encounter of Hearts. This edition focuses on the past six years of the ICLCF's work and the upcoming International Assembly. The Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family strongly encourages you to read this important document and consider what you would like the Australian delegates to present at the International Assembly. Feedback can be submitted to aus.lcf@gmail.com.

Download or read online.



Greetings to all members and friends of the Chevalier Family.

It is with great pleasure that the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family is sending you the 2023 edition of our annual Newsletter, Encounter of Hearts. This edition of the newsletter is timed to coincide with the Feast of the Sacred Heart, the great feast of the church that celebrates the love God has for all creation. That fundamental belief that unites us all is embedded into every page of the newsletter, along with our call to live lives that reflect that love in the kindness, understanding, compassion and mutual forgiveness, gentleness, humility, simplicity, hospitality, and a sense of humour that we show to our families and to all people we encounter in our daily lives. This is how we make God's love real to those around us.

We ask that you share this newsletter with all your members and the religious within your countries. We ask that you read the contents very carefully.

The newsletter contains the revised Guiding Principles and many policies and procedures the International Council has worked on in the past six years. Much of the material in the newsletter will be discussed and voted on at the Assembly of Laity in January 2024.

We ask that all groups read, reflect and discuss the material so that your delegates at the Assembly can vote according to your wishes.

The International Council would like to thank so many of you who have responded to our requests for comment and input as we have worked to create the governance structures that enable us to undertake our real work of connecting our members from every corner of the globe and assisting in the deepening of our own experience of God's transforming love and in the ways we can share that good news with those we meet.

We especially thank our translators, Therese Poulton and Ana San Martin, who have spent so many hours translating our work. For this edition of Encounter, we also thank Olguita and Enrique Bernal Pasquel from Peru for completing much of the Spanish translation. We also thank Rosie Abrahams from Australia for her beautiful formatting of each language edition.

To all of you, from the bottom of our hearts, we give thanks.

We wish you a joyous Feast of the Sacred Heart, and we look forward to meeting many of you in Cebu, Philippines, next January.

Blessings,

Alison, Doris, Rita, Peter, Sister Merle and Father Hans and from those who work so closely with us: Hannie, Maria Olimpia, Olguita, Chris, and Father Richard.

International Spiritual Companion

We welcome Sister Merle Salazar FDNSC as the new International Spiritual Companion for the Chevalier Family Laity! Additionally, we abundantly thank the outgoing Spiritual Companion, Hans Kwakman, for supporting and forming the Chevalier Family Laity! There aren't enough words to express the contribution Hans has made! Read more in the Encounter of Hearts (June 2023).

"The Trigeneralate and the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family are delighted to announce that Sr Merle Salazar FDNSC has accepted the invitation to become the new companion of the laity. Sr Merle will work with Fr Hans until the Assembly in Cebu, where she will be welcomed and commissioned...

Sr Merle saw the beauty and the necessity of the partnership in mission between the religious and the lay members of the Chevalier Family. She sees this partnership and collaboration as essential, not only for the future but in the present, not only in countries where the number of religious has diminished or is diminishing but also in places where there are still many young religious. We have been gifted with the beautiful mission of making the love of God experienced wherever we may find ourselves. What better way to fulfil this mission than TOGETHER, lay, religious and priests, journeying together, one in the Heart of Christ.

Be assured, Sr Merle, that the entire Chevalier Family is rejoicing over your acceptance of this new ministry. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere."

Credit: Facebook / MSC Website.



Chevalier Year Newsletter

The May and June editions are available to download.

Chevalier Family June Dates

Read about significant dates for the Chevalier Family in June.



Thank You, Therese Poulton!

This photo shows the presentation of a bouquet of Australian native flowers to Therese Poulton by Sr Ancilla FDNSC and Alison McKenzie, General Secretary of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (ICLCF). Therese has translated the ICLCF Encounter of Hearts publications, including the latest edition (a whopping 46 pages!). The entire Chevalier Family sends our thanks to Therese for this work.

Credit: Laity of the Chevalier Family Facebook.



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.



Download the First Friday Reflection (June 2023).

Australian Reflection

As we officially begin winter, it's time to think about how we can live simply and support the less fortunate during these colder months.

Did you know "heating and/or cooling can account for 20%-50% of energy used in Australian homes" (energy.gov.au) and "food waste accounts for approximately 3% of Australia's annual greenhouse gas emissions" (DCCEEW)?

It's time to reflect on needs versus wants. Explore ways to reduce your environmental impact. Consider eliminating unnecessary heating, closing the blinds to trap heat, and stopping draughts. Consider reducing food waste by eating simply, using leftover vegetables as soup, or using bones and leftover meat products to make stock. These small steps will reduce our carbon footprint and help preserve the environment.

Laudato Si News

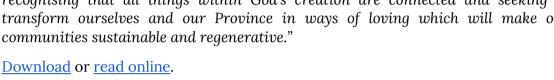
It's been a big month for Laudato Si in the Chevalier Family. We celebrated the Laudato Si week (21-28 May) with the theme 'Hope for the Earth. Hope for Humanity' World Environment Daγ with and (5 June) '#BeatPlasticPollution'. Additional news is outlined below.



Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Laudato Si Action Plan

The OLSH Sisters released their Laudato Si Action Plan.

"This Action Plan seeks to drive an OLSH ecological conversion. Simply put, this means recognising that all things within God's creation are connected and seeking to transform ourselves and our Province in ways of loving which will make our communities sustainable and regenerative."





OLSH Hearts For Others

The latest edition of the OLSH Hearts For Others was published.

Focusing on Laudato Si, it's an excellent resource for reflecting on the encyclical and its links to Spirituality of the Heart.

Download or read online.



MSC Tree Planting

Douglas Park has a few new trees thanks to the MSC Chapter tree and Laudato Si-inspired actions from the Douglas Park parishioners. Read the full story on the MSC website.





Ningaloo Nyinggulu: A Tim Winton Documentary

"Arguably Australia's most celebrated novelist, the name Tim Winton conjures up images of ocean surf and remote wild beaches. Winton has spent decades exploring the mysteries of the natural world in the pages of his novels and has become a leading voice in the conservation movement, particularly around Ningaloo in WA. With the release of his three-part documentary Ningaloo Nyinggulu on ABC, Winton invites readers to explore the remote parts of the country that have inspired his work. In an exclusive interview with Eureka Street's David Halliday, the novelist behind Cloudstreet, Dirt Music and Breath discusses conservation, mystical encounters, and why we need to rethink our relationship to the wild."

<u>Ningaloo Nyinggulu</u>, written, narrated and executive produced by Tim Winton, screens on ABC iView from 16 May 2023. Read the full Eureka Street article <u>here</u>. (Thanks to the OLSH Sisters for the tip!)

The Voice from the Heart and the Sacred Heart

Claude Mostowick MSC wrote an article, 'The Voice from the Heart and the Sacred Heart'. <u>Download</u>.

Community Contribution

Thanks to Kerrie Wehbe for another fabulous Community Contribution focussing on National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June), World Environment Day (5 June 2023), and World Refugee Day (20 June 2023).

Download or read online.



The Synodal Process

Read about the synodal process of the European Chevalier Family.

JPIC Newsletters

Read about the latest Chevalier Family Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) newsletter.

The Edmund Rice Centre (ERC) also produces JPIC newsletters. For those interested, read them on the <u>ERC website</u>

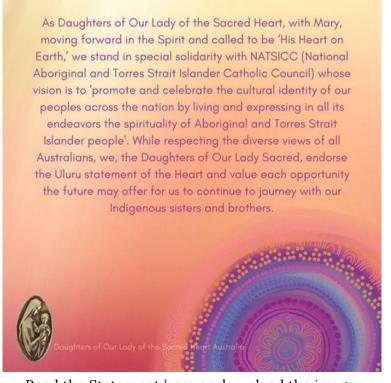
Uluru Statement / Voice News

The Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia Statement



Read the Statement <u>here</u>.

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Statement



Read the Statement <u>here</u> or download the <u>image</u>.

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Statement: Voice Of The Heart

"We, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of the Australian Province, gathered in Chapter, have reflected on our privileged journey with First Nations Peoples for more than a century. We continue to be challenged by Pope John Paul Il's words, addressing First Nations people in Alice Springs in 1986: 'And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others'.

These words are especially relevant as we prepare for the coming Constitutional Referendum. The Uluru Statement From The Heart is the basis of the present referendum with its call for establishing a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution: 'We seek Constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny, our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds, and their culture will be a gift to their country'.

We, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, welcome the opportunity to support the Uluru Statement From The Heart and the desire of First Nations Peoples to have a Voice that will be acknowledged and listened to, enshrined in the Australian Constitution."

Read the Statement <u>here</u>.

NATSICC Statement

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has released a statement regarding the *Uluru Statement From The Heart* and the Voice To Parliament.

- Learn more at the NATSICC <u>Indigenous Voice website</u>.
- Read the <u>NATSICC Voice Statement</u>.
- Download the <u>NATSICC Voice Prayer</u> or watch the <u>video</u>.
- Read statements from the <u>Australian Catholic Bishops'</u> <u>Conference</u>, <u>Catholic leaders</u>, and <u>Catholic organisations</u> (including Heart of Life, MSC, and the OLSH Sisters). Note: The Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family has submitted our Statement but is waiting for it to be uploaded.
- Read Father Frank Brennan SJ's <u>homilies and publications</u>.
- Catholic social teaching and other <u>resources</u>.



Pat Dodson: Indigenous Voice Vote A Rite of Passage

Read the West Australian newsletter article on the OLSH Sisters website.



Reconciliation Week

It was National Sorry Day (26 May) and National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June) with the theme 'Be A Voice For Generations'.



Indigenous Voice to Parliament Talks

Watch a talk by Frank Brennan and Vicki Clarke on 'An Indigenous Voice to Parliament'.

<u>Register</u> to hear from a panel of First Nations People as they reflect on their experiences over time, their hopes and concerns for the Voice referendum in 2023 and what they may be asking of the Church, Catholic organisations and the wider community.

Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann

"Pope Francis has received a book advocating for a Voice to Parliament from long-time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advocate Fr Frank Brennan SJ. Fr Brennan was accompanying respected Aboriginal elder and artist Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann, 73, from Daly River, who was thrilled to speak with the Pope about the connections of God and nature. Dr Ungunmerr Baumann has been in Rome for a series of events with the Australian Embassy to the Holy See, marking National Reconciliation week, the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and the Holy See, and the 50th anniversary of the first Aboriginal Liturgy. Additionally, Dr Ungunmerr-Baumannn and senior Australian Catholics gathered at Domus Australia in Rome to celebrate the Church's ongoing journey towards reconciliation."

Credit: CathNews and CathNews.

Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann is associated with the Chevalier Family through the St Francis Xavier School and Catholic community at Daly River. Learn more about the <u>Miriam Rose Foundation</u> and <u>Miriam Rose</u>.



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Feast

The Chevalier Family celebrated the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Feast on 25 May.

Images of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

The MSC website published an article, '<u>A Mother In Every Culture</u>', depicting images of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart from around the world.

MSC Vocations

Watch a short video of the celebrations on the MSC Vocation Facebook page.



Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

The Chevalier Family Laity in the Philippines celebrated with a Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart with a Laudato Si theme. Download the <u>Novena</u>.

Credit: Laity of the Chevalier Family Facebook



The Feast of the Sacred Heart by Fr Malcolm Fyfe MSC

To understand this title, given to Mary in 1859 by the Venerable Father Jules Chevalier, Founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, I think it is helpful to read the text of the title from right to left. The important part of this title is the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He is the centre. And then, Mary is the mother who offers him to us, who desires that we enter into union

with him, who longs to form us as she formed her Son Jesus, so that humanity may discover the tenderness, compassion, mercy, strength, power, fidelity and constancy of the love of God revealed in God's Son. This Marian title, *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*, is, in reality, Christocentric, centred on Jesus.

Father Chevalier, as he deepened his idea of God and formulated his 'Spirituality of the Heart', gradually discovered the place of Mary in his own life. Even though at first, as a product of his time, he focused his attention on the power of Mary's intercession, her ability to obtain graces and help for us from the Sacred Heart, little by little, he began to focus on the relationships existing between Mary and the Trinity, between Mary and her Son, between Mary and us. When we look at the statue of *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*, we see Mary pointing to the Heart of her Son. In this way, Mary reminds us of the profound and intimate union and relationship that she had with Jesus. Through her union with him, she knows the inexhaustible riches of his Heart and wants to lead us to him, who is the source of a limitless love that can give birth to a new world. She is the person most closely associated with his Heart, and she encourages us to cooperate in her Son's mission for the good of humanity. Mary is also close to a world in need and shares in her Son's solicitude for the world. Her song of praise, 'My soul glorifies the Lord: my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,' together with the story of the wedding feast at Cana, as well as her standing at the foot of the cross accompanying the sufferings of her Son on our behalf, are significant proofs of her preoccupation with suffering humanity.

Father Jules Chevalier's approach was motivated by an attitude of thankfulness: "Our little Society, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, is not the work of man but of God! It came to birth in the Sacred Heart of Jesus under the powerful protection of Mary". This thankfulness became a motive for confidence: "We believe that we can affirm with total confidence that Our Lady of the Sacred Heart will never cease to protect us if we are faithful to her."

This Marian invocation has been extraordinarily well received by Catholics worldwide. One sign of such acceptance must surely be the extensive inculturation of the image of *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* in so many different countries. In the Darwin diocese, several key sites, such as the Parish and College at Alice Springs, have been dedicated to *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* and the Parish and College at Wadeye are similarly dedicated.

In 2009, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart commemorated the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the title OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART, given to Mary by the Founder of our two Religious Congregations in the year 1859. It was at the end of that Mass that Bishop Eugene blessed the stained-glass window that you can see behind the statue of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart here in the Cathedral. Typically, throughout the Catholic world, this devotion has had an enormous appeal and popularity, combining as it does devotion to Mary and devotion to the Sacred Heart.

In the years that followed the inception of the devotion, it became one of the most popular ways of relating to Mary worldwide. It manifested itself in pilgrimages, in confraternities, in a proliferation of artworks depicting Mary with her divine Son revealing His Heart, with hundreds of churches throughout the Catholic world being dedicated to *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*... We have witnessed a display of an impressive number of images of *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* created by artists from numerous countries, as imaged through the lenses of their local cultures.

The following prayer, known as THE MEMORARE TO OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART, is very popular worldwide:

Remember, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the great things the Lord has done for you. He chose you for his Mother. He wanted you close to his Cross. He gives you a share in his glory. He listens to your prayer. Offer him our prayers of praise and thanksgiving; present our petitions to him. Let us live like you in the love of your Son that his Kingdom may come. Lead all people to the source of living water that flows from His Heart, spreading over the world hope and salvation, justice and peace. See our trust in you, and answer our prayer. Show yourself always as our Mother. Amen.

Credit: Laity of the Chevalier Family Facebook

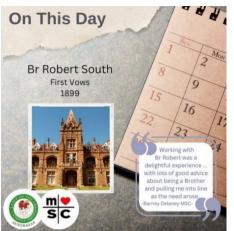
On This Day Highlights

14 May

21 May

24 May







Chevalier Institute 20th Anniversary

Congratulations to the Chevalier Institute on its 20th Anniversary. Read the article on the MSC website.

MSC Education



"Good news stories about past students from our colleges are an encouragement for our MSC education ministry."

Learn about some Chevalier College alumni in the MSC website article.

Congratulations to *Downlands College* on opening the new *Issoudun Centre* for Prep to Year 4. Downlands is now a Prep to Year 12 School. Bishop McGuckin blessed and opened the buildings. Read more in the MSC website article.



Chevalier Youth Blackburn

"Chevalier Youth Blackburn is participating in the Push Up Challenge, which aims to raise awareness about mental health and the impact of suicide on Australians. Participants take on 3,144 push-ups across 23 days in June, spotlighting the tragic number of lives lost to suicide in Australia in 2021. All funds raised will go towards mental health and crisis support services, helping to break stigmas and provide hope to those struggling with their mental health, so no one is going through their darkest moments alone." Find out more here and support them with prayers or donations.

Chevalier Youth Blackburn has also been active in LGBTQIA+ outreach and inclusion in the Catholic spirituality of the Chevalier Family. Follow their <u>social</u> media to learn more and show your support.



History, Heritage, and Heart

A second group of new staff members from the OLSH College at Kensington joined the OLSH Sisters for History, Heritage, and Heart Day. Philippa welcomed the four staff members (including Vivienne, the 2023 Principal of the College for 2023). Kerrie and Lorraine led sessions on Jules Chevalier and Marie Louise Hartzer, the Sisters coming to Australia, the start of OLSH education in Australia, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the history of the three Colleges, the four pillars of OLSH education, and the OLSH missions overseas and here in Australia. Ancilla spoke to the group about charisms, especially the charism of Jules Chevalier. Two students shared their experience of being part of a College with Spirituality of the Heart as its foundation. The group joined the Sisters in the Convent for lunch, and the College staff enjoyed talking with them. They finished with a missioning ceremony in the chapel. Each staff member was given a small statue of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and we spoke and prayed for each who had become part of the Chevalier family and our Partners in Mission.

Credit: Kerrie Wehbe





Musica Divina

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

Your Heart On Heart - James Maher MSC (Gospel of Love)

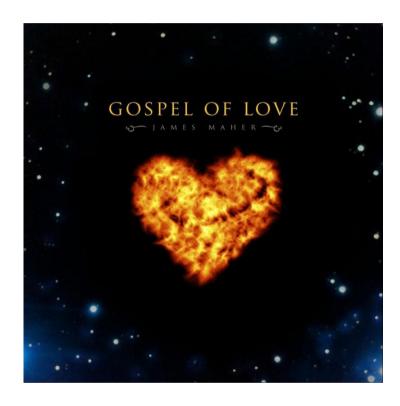
Lyrics

We will welcome all your people
Without favour or without fear.
We will ease the heavy burdens
And attend to every tear.
We will draw with bonds of kindness.
We will see the last are first.
In our loving, in our living,
We will be your Heart on Earth.

We will make our home within you. We will labour side by side. Reaching out beyond the boundaries For your justice, we will strive. We will strengthen one another, In the struggle of new birth. For the small voice, we will listen. We will be your Heart on Earth.

Many tongues and many cultures,
We will treasure each and all.
Many gifts but one in Spirit.
Many ways, but still one call.
In your memory, we will gather,
Bringing you our best and worst.
Sharing the bread and wine of forgiveness,
We will be your Heart on Earth.

We will celebrate together Love's redeeming, powerful way. We will taste your Spirit's presence Guiding all we do and say. We will seek courageous vision, So to quench your people's thirst. Living now your life within us. We will be your Heart on Earth.



Reflection

Listen to the music (available on streaming services [Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube Music] or for purchase from MSC Music).

- 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 <u>Fundraising Appeal Letter</u>.

Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family







aus.lcf@gmail.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.