



FROM THE HEART

NEWS FROM THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY AUSTRALIA

July 2023

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Greetings All

During the recent Sacred Heart Day celebrations at Chevalier College, John Mulrooney used a book by Kate Jane Neal titled "Words and Your Heart" as the basis for his homily. It was written for young children and uses simple language but contains a profound message. Great for young kids, primary-aged, teenaged, young adults, the workplace, families, and in fact, for everybody!

The National LCF Gathering is planned for September. See below for details, including the program. It would be wonderful to see people here from all our ministries. Come along and share your story, and listen to others' stories. Register now using the enclosed form!

The Philippines International LCF Assembly is getting closer (Jan 2024), and due to the generosity of many, we are getting closer to our funding goal. Only about \$2000 to go. Can you help? Details of how to help are included below.

NAIDOC Week - There have been many enlightening stories. The posters that Aidan has produced are just fantastic. Support the YES vote!

Congratulations to the MSC Missions Office on achieving 25 years of service to people in need worldwide.

And, finally, from me, the First Friday reflection reminds us - don't forget Laudato Si!

Take care,

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

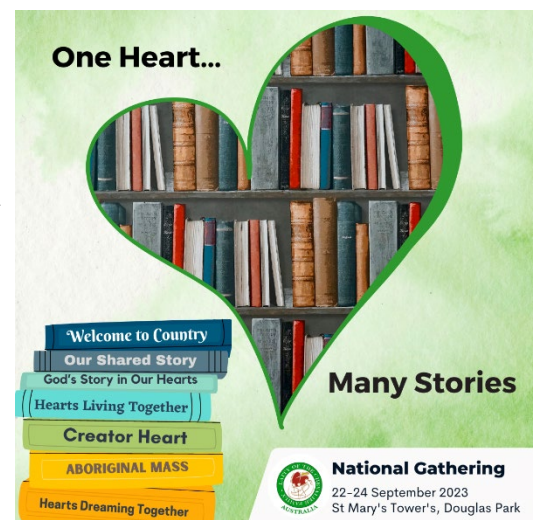
Share 'From The Heart'

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

National Gathering

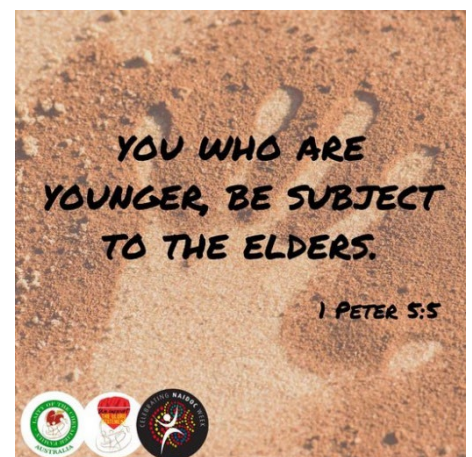
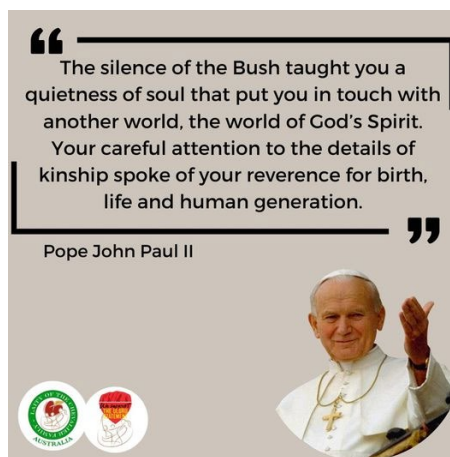
It's time to register for the Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia national gathering! Having representatives from the OLSH, MSC, and MSC Sisters ministries, parishes, schools, and communities would be wonderful.

Download the [program](#). Register using the [online form](#).



NAIDOC Week

The Chevalier Family celebrated NAIDOC Week from 2 - 9 July 2023, which aims “to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples” ([NAIDOC](https://www.naidoc.org.au)). This year’s theme, ‘For Our Elders’, recognises their important and prominent place as “cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and our loved ones... They guide our generations and pave the way for us to take the paths we can take today. Guidance, not only through generations of advocacy and activism but in everyday life and how to place ourselves in the world. We draw strength from their knowledge and experience”. ([NAIDOC](https://www.naidoc.org.au)) [Pope Francis](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francis/messages/evangelical/evangelical_20180502_poapa_francisco_20180502_1.html) reminds us that Elders are "a precious treasure that preserves a history greater than themselves" and "it is essential to cultivate our roots, to pray for and with our forbears, to dedicate time to remember and guard their legacy. This is how a family tree grows. This is how the future is built." To learn more or get involved, head to www.naidoc.org.au.

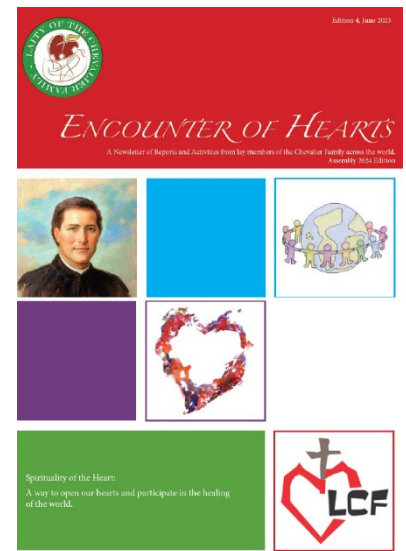


Encounter of Hearts

In case you missed it in last month's newsletter...

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](#).



Chevalier Family July Dates

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

A Firelight Stick On The Hill

[Read](#) an article by Pat Dodson in *The Monthly* reflecting on “a life fighting for a better Australia”.

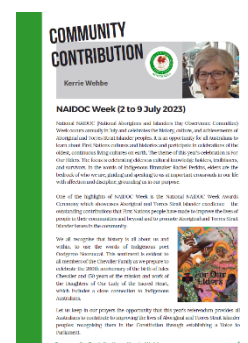


At a smoking ceremony at Parliament House, February 17, 2023. © Mick Tsikas / AAP Images

Community Contribution

Thanks to Kerrie Wehbe for another fabulous *Community Contribution* focussing on NAIDOC Week (2 to 9 July 2023).

[Download](#) or [read online](#).



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 EDUCATION

TWELVE FIRST FRIDAY STEPS TOWARDS THE LAUDATO SI GOALS

AWARENESS

Pope Francis said: "Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change." **The path to change comes through education and spirituality.** "We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone."

PRAYER

God of all life, help educators to "promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature so that we may discover anew that all are important and necessary to build a better and safer world." Amen.

ACTION

Ensure that members of the community are familiar with the local ecosystem, the social dimensions of the ecological crisis and ecological virtues.

JULY 2023

image: <https://pixabay.com/photos/grandmother-kids-laptop-myanmar-1822560/>

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

Australian Reflection

The paper, [Ecological Virtues in Laudato Si](#), highlights "praise, gratitude, care, justice, work, sobriety, and humility" as the key ecological virtues. It states: "We will save our common home only when we learn to see it with a deep sense of wonder that wells up in spontaneous praise of the Creator for all the marvels of creation". It reminds us to imitate First Nations people's gratitude using Pope Francis' words: "For them, the land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values". When we care, we have a "view of the world as a network of relationships", and can "set before the world the ideal of a 'civilisation of love'". If "the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, who fruits are meant to benefit everyone", then we must act justly, not only "between communities of the same human generation (intra-generational)" but also "between current and future generations (inter-generational)". As we celebrate NAIDOC Week "For Our Elders", we are reminded to draw on the wisdom of those who lived harmoniously with Country for over 60,000 years.

Sacred Heart Feast Celebrations

The Chevalier Family celebrated the Feast of the Sacred Heart on 16 June 2023.

As the Chevalier Family, we strive 'to be on Earth the Heart of God'. On the Feast of the Sacred Heart, we reflect on the depths of God's heart and the gift of 'Spirituality of the Heart'. We celebrate what 'being' God's heart means to ourselves and those we live with (our families, friends, workplaces, communities, and all Creation).

International Council

We wish a very happy Feast of the Sacred Heart to all members of the Chevalier Family. We believe that Jesus' compassionate Heart reveals God's unconditional love for every human being and all creation. Belief in God's unconditional love, which is the remedy for the ills of society, transforms our hearts, and, at the same time, enables us to participate in the healing of creation. *Image: Bruce Woods, Australia*



MSC

[Read](#) about the MSC celebrations.

NATSICC and OLSH Sisters Message

Watch the [video message](#) from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council and Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for the Feast of the Sacred Heart (YouTube).

Chevalier Family Colleges

Watch the [Chevalier College](#) and [Downloads College](#) celebrations (Facebook).



Second Sundays

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

Sun
13th August

Heartworks Building
St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre
Douglas Park

Heartworks.msc@gmail.com



Celebrating 25 years

Invitation

to attend **MSC Mission Office**

THANKSGIVING MASS

2.30pm Sunday 9 July 2023

St Mary's Cathedral Sydney

with

Cardinal John Rabat MSC KBE

staff and visiting country directors

A colourful celebration with ethnic dancing and song to give thanks to our workers and supporters doing God's work.
Bring your family and friends.

RSVP for reserved seating and catering purposes to ch@mscmision.org



MSC MISSION OFFICE

OPEN DAY

Saturday 15 July | 10am to 2pm

1 Roma St, Kensington

*Talks * Information * Giveaways * Food * Entertainment*
** Parking available off Tunstall Avenue*

No RSVP necessary for Open Day

Musica Divina

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

I Thank My God - Frank Andersen MSC (On Eagle's Wings)

(Official song of the 4th International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family)

Lyrics

*I thank my God, each time I think of you.
And when I pray for you, I pray with joy.*

Now there is one thing I am sure of,
He who began his work in you,
Will see that it is truly finished,
When the day of Jesus comes.

That I should feel like this towards you
Seems only natural to me.
For you have shared with me my labours,
The gospel privilege with me.

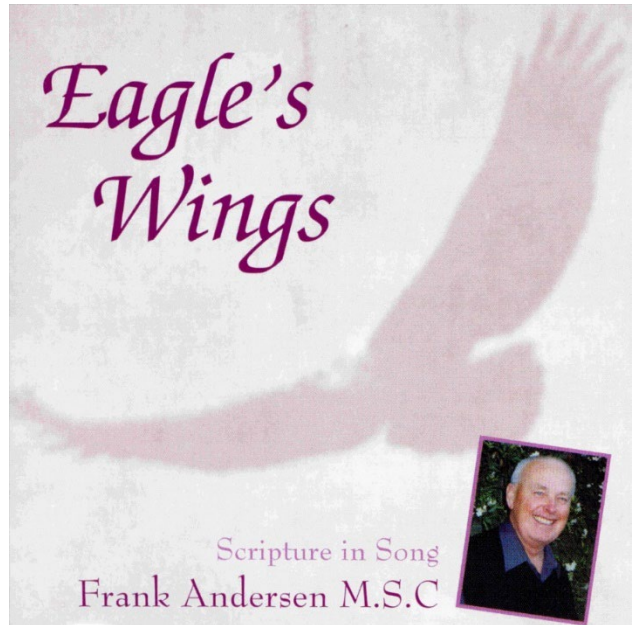
Since you have borne with me my burdens,
I now bear you within my heart.
And God alone knows how I miss you,
I love you just as Christ loves me.

I pray your knowledge may be deepened,
Your love be mutual and strong.
Then you will reach the perfect goodness,
And to the Lord, you will belong.

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 [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 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.