



# REPORT TO THE CHEVALIER FAMILY FROM THE INCOMING INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

Dear Chevalier Family,

For the moment, the incoming Council is following the pattern established by the previous Council of formally communicating with you at Easter, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, and during Advent.

This report is the first official communication following the Assembly of Laity in the Philippines. I am sure you followed the daily updates and recognised the graced and spirit-filled time it was for all of us. We are compiling the next edition of Encounter of Hearts, which will be a post-Assembly edition. In the meantime, all Assembly papers have been compiled into a Google Drive document, which we encourage you to explore.

This is the [link](#).

We encourage you, especially those who attended the Assembly, to share as much of the Assembly spirit and content as possible with your members. Encounter of Hearts will contain the official documents and resolutions.

During the Assembly, on your behalf, we farewelled and thanked the outgoing International Council. You will all be aware of how much work they undertook on your behalf over the last six years, and we wish them all a time of rest and recuperation following the Assembly.

One of the tasks during the Assembly was to elect the new General Secretary and to appoint the incoming Council. The process used was outlined in the 2023 edition of Encounter of Hearts. That process allows for a General Secretary to serve two terms if that is what the electors at the Assembly discern to be the movement of the Spirit.

So, to begin, we introduce ourselves to you.

I was re-elected at the recent Assembly of Laity as General Secretary, and I accept that endorsement for a further six years with a commitment to serve the global family to the best of my ability, with God's grace and your support.

Below is an introduction to the incoming Council. You will hear much more from all of us over the upcoming years.



# REPORT TO THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

## FROM THE INCOMING INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

### General Secretary: Alison McKenzie – Australia



I have been involved with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and have been a member of the Laity of the Chevalier Family for most of my adult life. I taught for 27 years in an MSC College and was the Director of the Chevalier Institute, a formation institute for lay people, for 10 years. I have formal qualifications in Education, Counselling and Theology and a passion and commitment to contribute to the vision of Fr Chevalier to assist in the creation of a movement of laity empowered and connected so as to be able to share the good news of the love of God in the Heart of Jesus as the remedy for the ills of our time. I gather for Eucharist with the FDNSC sisters and belong to a Christian contemplative prayer group with the intention of making space in our hearts for God's love to take root for the renewal of the world.

I am retired, and alongside my commitment to the lay movement, I work with a prison ministry team. I am a committed mother and grandmother. At home, I enjoy caring for Creation by growing food and raising chickens and bees.

### Petrus Sidarta Maringka - Indonesia



My name is Petrus Sidarta Maringka from Indonesia. I am married to my beautiful wife, Shirley Mohidi, and we have three children: Findley, Fidela, and Florian. I work as a dentist and have my practice in Jakarta. I am a passionate and driven individual with a keen curiosity for learning and exploring new ideas. I have mastered organisational skills, thrive on challenges, and am always eager to push the boundaries of my knowledge and abilities. Whether it is through creative endeavours or problem-solving in my professional or religious life, I strive to bring enthusiasm, empathy, and a positive attitude to everything I do. I value integrity, authenticity, and continuous personal growth, and I am committed to making a positive impact on the world around me.



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I grew up in the MSC parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Jakarta. Therefore, since childhood, many MSC priests have influenced me a lot with their way of life and thinking as I became their altar boy. Their motto, “May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere”, is also very familiar to me. I have accompanied a community, namely “New Heart Community”, for single Catholic young adults since 2007, and this community used to be under the MSC lay movement. Along with my presence with this community, I also went to many places in Indonesia, visited some Parishes or Dioceses outside Jakarta, and gave motivational and personality workshops to lay people. In July 2022, I was elected as National Vice Chair of the Laity of the Chevalier Family for a three-year tenure, and this was the first time that Indonesia had its own National Board.

## Patricia Antonieta Rivas Molina – Guatemala



I was born in the capital city of Guatemala. I am single by vocation. I studied and was also a professor at the Jesuit Catholic University of my country as a Public Accountant and Auditor. Years later, I also completed a degree in Theology at the same university. Since university until today, I have worked in Public Accounting and Auditing.

Dès mon enfance, mes parents m’ont inculqué la « dévotion au Sacré-Cœur de Jésus », qui m’accompagnera tout au long de mon enfance et de ma jeunesse. En 1998, lors de la retraite paroissiale Since childhood, my parents instilled in me the “devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus”, which would accompany me throughout my childhood and youth. In 1998, at the parish Lenten retreat, we were invited to belong to the first community of lay people, and the experience of

deepening devotion to the formation of “the spirituality of the Heart of Jesus” began. I participated in the Spirituality courses organised by Cor América in Minas Gerais, Brazil (2014); in Lima, Peru (2023); and at the Third Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in Sao Paulo, Brazil (2017).

In my lay community, I took up formation after the first public promise. I am currently the Coordinator of the National Council. I have coordinated the animation server team of the group of seniors and the neighbourhood community to make the parish present in it through the liturgical year celebrations.



# REPORT TO THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

## FROM THE INCOMING INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

### Aidan Johnson - Australia



I am Aidan Johnson. I am married to Clare and a member of the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. I completed my schooling at Chevalier College (MSC), Bowral and have remained heavily involved with the MSCs and the wider Chevalier Family. I have forensic science, education, and theology qualifications and have taught science in Australian Catholic schools for over ten years. My wife Clare and I are members of the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. I established and continue to oversee Heartworks, an MSC Young Adults Community, and I manage the social media platforms for the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

### Dorothy Pion – Papua New Guinea



Hello everyone! I'm Dorothy Pion from Papua New Guinea (PNG). Since 2012, I have been actively involved as an MSC Lay Associate, serving as the Coordinator from 2015 to 2021. I am delighted to be part of the Chevalier Family as a Laity. My life is blessed with my marriage to Nicholas Pion, and together, we cherish our four wonderful children.

Professionally, I work with the Geological Survey of PNG, a division of the Mineral Resources Authority Papua New Guinea, where I am a Senior Cartographer. In this role, I engage in map-making and work extensively with GIS and geological data.

Within the St Charles Lwanga Parish community in Gerehu, Port Moresby, I actively participate in the Parish Pastoral Council, where I serve as the treasurer. Additionally, my husband and I are committed to facilitating Pre-Canas classes for couples preparing for marriage. I also dedicate my time as a Sunday School Teacher, contributing to the spiritual education of our parish community whenever I am in attendance.

I ask for your prayers to serve you in the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family and please be assured that I will be praying for you as well.



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## Eve Jaike Morandante (Ainne) - Philippines



I am Eve Jaike “ainne” Morandante. I’m the eldest daughter in our family: I have two sisters, one brother, one niece, one brother-in-law and a widower father. I studied Computer Science and worked in Makati before my mother got sick, leading me to return home to Surigao.

Initially, I was attracted to the Chevalier Family Lay Associates because of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and upon completing the formation (sometimes one-on-one session with Sr. Betty, FDNCS), I became a full member of the Chevalier Family on 29 June, 2015. Until today, I’m trying to live out the Charism and Spirituality of the Heart of Fr Jules Chevalier despite the challenges of everyday life. I was an assistant secretary in Surigao District in 2016 and a district secretary since 2017. I have attended various assemblies and meetings at the local and national levels.

Currently, I am the Parish Secretary of Virgen de la Paz y Buen Viaje in Bilang-Bilang, Surigao City, since 2019, a Parish Formator, and PPC Secretary from 2017-2021. Aside from being a Chevalier Associate, I’m also a Chevalier Partner in Mission with the DOLSH. Before the pandemic, I was actively present, volunteered, and participated in the apostolate of the DOLSH Sister with the Badjao Community here in Surigao City since 2015, especially in teaching basic lessons to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

I believe through these; giving myself, my time and some talents, I could give back all the blessings I continuously received from our Almighty Father with the intercession of Our Lady of Sacred Heart. I commit myself to serve as a Chevalier Family Lay Associate in the local community, national, and international as a temporary member of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.



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## Spiritual Companion: Sr Merle Salazar FDNsc - Philippines



Hi. I am Sr Merle Salazar, fdnsc, a member of the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. It is my honour and pleasure to be the Spiritual Companion of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family for these coming years. I stand on the shoulders of a great MSC, Fr Hans Kwakman, who finished his service as Spiritual Companion to the IC last January. I was at the 4th International Assembly in Cebu, where I met a number of you in person. We experienced very clearly that the Spirit is with us and leading our Chevalier family. It is my wish and prayer that, walking together as companions on the journey, we may truly become more and more the Heart of God in the places and circumstances where we find ourselves. At the moment, I am based in Manila, and my main mission is to be the Sabbatical Program Coordinator at the East Asian Pastoral Institute (EAPI), a Jesuit-run institute that forms pastoral leaders and missionaries for a renewed Church. Together, let us make the Sacred Heart of Jesus everywhere loved, forever!

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For this Easter communication, we include two significant Assembly documents that were voted on and approved in Cebu and need to be circulated amongst your members.

Firstly, the Assembly Statement that synthesises the Spirit of the Assembly. The International Council hopes that every member of our Chevalier Family has access to this statement and can prayerfully consider what it means in each place where the Chevalier Family is present.



# FOURTH INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY STATEMENT



22-29 JANUARY 2024

The Laity of the Chevalier Family, inspired by Jules Chevalier's charism, lives Spirituality of the Heart. It leads people to an encounter with the Heart of God and to move from this inner encounter to an outward embodied and lived mission. We are one in heart and yet diverse, and so with open hearts and by being present, we will participate in the healing of the world. We are like a bridge over troubled waters, connecting people and encouraging them to cross safely during these challenging times.

We commit to a *'greater love for our Creator, each other, and the home we share'* (Laudato Si, 14). We recognise our interconnection with our Creator, each other, and Creation. Love and care for Creation is at the centre of Spirituality of the Heart. We will advocate, educate, and celebrate actions that show our embodied love and care for our common home - *'from little things, big things grow'*.

We will accompany with love, compassion, and empathy those people experiencing poverty, exclusion, or unjust treatment. We take the inclusive, welcoming example of Jesus as our guide on how to be one in heart with the suffering and oppressed. We draw inspiration from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, mother-disciple of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our model and companion. We accept the challenge of transforming our hearts to *'be on Earth the Heart of God'*.

We reviewed and approved the revised *'Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family'* and are committed to supporting the work of the International Chevalier Family.



Bruce Woods

The painting is made up of a series of layered symbolic images. In the foreground is a stylised heart with a faint cross following the contours of the form. The heart floats above the centre of a white flower known as a sampagiuta in the Philippines. This image, in turn, floats above an opalescent dark background. The painting has been framed in a simple white floating box frame.

The iconography of the work is related to the 4th International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family held in the Philippines from 22-29 January 2024. The Assembly theme is *'One in Heart in Caring for Our Common Home'*.



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The second important resolution to be shared is the agreement on the financial responsibility of member countries to support the work of the International Council. A snapshot of the sources of finance and the expenditure of the Council was presented to the Assembly. Over the past six years, the International Council has been supported by contributions from the Trigenalate, the Australian provinces of the MSC, the FDNSC and MSC Sisters, Korean Provinces of the MSC men and women, as well as European, Australian, and Korean Laity. The Assembly voted to accept the responsibility of all member countries to contribute according to their means, to the finances of the International Council beginning in June 2024. The International Council committed to forming a finance committee to oversee the finances and determine ways to transfer money. You will hear more of this very soon, but for now, please share the following Assembly agreement with your members and begin discussing how you can contribute.

For now, we share a summary of the financial agreement from the Assembly:

### Finances

*The International Council depends on the financial support of the National Councils and local groups in different countries. These contributions will help cover the expenses incurred in carrying out the responsibilities of the International Council.*

*Each National Council, or in the absence of a National Council, the local country group commits to financially supporting the work of the International Council with a minimum contribution of US\$100.00 in June each year unless alternate arrangements are made with the International Council.*

*The International Council commits to transparent reporting on their financial affairs in December of each year.*

*The incoming International Council will begin its formal work on 17 March 2024 with a retreat facilitated by Sr Merle. Please pray for us as we pray for you.*

God bless,

Alison McKenzie (on behalf of the International Council)