

CHEVALIER INSTITUTE

A new heart and a new spirit



A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh...and you shall be my people and I will be your God. Ezekiel 37: 26, 28



2024 Brochure



Image: Bruce Woods

From the MSC Provincial

In 2024, the Chevalier Family marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Jules Chevalier, our Founder. As he grew up in a family of simple means, he experienced a desire to become a priest. As a seminarian being formed for priesthood, he began to dream of a community dedicated to the Heart of Jesus. As a young priest, he prayed for the signs of God's favour that his dream might be fulfilled. His prayer answered, he went on to found societies of vowed religious, an association of diocesan priests, and communities of lay men and women. All of them were committed to making known the love of God which is revealed in the Heart of Jesus and bringing compassion and healing to people in every place and time. Today they are collectively known as the Chevalier Family.

Jules Chevalier took as the motto which would inspire every dimension of his life and in turn become our motto, *Ametur ubique terrarum Cor Jesu Sacratissimum*, 'May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere'. In our own time, the rich and life-giving meaning of this motto has found expression in what we call the Spirituality of the Heart. This spirituality unfolds, as it were, through four movements. First, we enter into the depths of our own hearts and recognise our deepest desires for love, life and meaning; here we encounter Jesus, even if we do not necessarily know that it is him. Second, we are drawn by our searching to the Heart of Jesus and discover through intimacy with him the answer to our deepest longings and yearnings. Third, our hearts are changed by our experience of the heart of Jesus, and this conversion opens our hearts to others. And fourth, we seek to share with others all that we have come to know of the love of God, and this becomes our mission.

The Chevalier Institute seeks to open up the Spirituality of the Heart and its four movements through formation programmes tailored for adults who are open to the vision and mission first imparted by Jules Chevalier and to their own heart journeys. In this way, we come to know ourselves as deeply loved by God and in turn become bearers of that same love to others. I pray that all who participate in Chevalier Institute programmes in 2024 may come to share more deeply in what began with the birth of Jules Chevalier and continues in our own day to bring hope and meaning.

In the Heart of Jesus,

Stephen Hackett MSC
Provincial Superior



From the Director of MSC Education

A friend recently commenced a position in a large commercial organisation. The young man was very excited to begin work in his chosen field, as part of a team responsible for improving performance in the company. He had experience working in other western countries but was new to Australia. On his first day in a very large office building, he was greeted and inducted by his direct manager, though since COVID, the actual team to which he is attached almost exclusively works from home via videoconferencing applications.



As a newcomer to the company, my friend has found this situation extremely difficult to navigate. Three months in and he still goes into the office each day hoping to meet up with any staff members who may be around. He describes how hard it is to learn the culture of the company, to get to know his peers, and 'how things are done around here' without the 'in person' presence and incidental conversations that occur in any busy office.

As teachers, there is limited opportunity to work from home. Our workplace practice is a very intense and relational one. As MSC staff, quality relationships are at the core of what we are on about. It was Jesus' kindness and compassion that drew so many people to follow him. I quite often hear reports of how particular staff in our schools have had significant positive impacts on the lives of our students. All this care comes at a cost to the staff involved; so many of our staff speak of the weariness that comes with the increased demands upon them as they seek to ensure the wellbeing of students.

The programmes conducted by the Chevalier Institute give balm to the weary soul. It is so important to take some time away from the day-to-day grind, to reflect and relate personally to others who share in our vocation. And when these events are at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park this occurs in a very peaceful setting alongside peers from other MSC Colleges. The opportunity to reflect on 'the why' of how we operate as we do in MSC schools, coupled with the sharing with others in a similar situation is a most valuable one. I highly commend the Chevalier Institute programmes to all staff in our schools.

Mark McGinnity
Director, MSC Education

The Chevalier Institute Logo

The Chevalier Institute logo expresses symbolically the movement of a Spirituality of the Heart; namely, it calls us to make the journey into our own hearts, and from there, back out to the world, *'To be on Earth the Heart of God.'*



The logo reminds us that the journey to and from the heart is often a delicate and faltering one. The way of the heart requires a willingness to walk within the mystery of our inner 'landscape', and to thus be led into new ways of being in the world.

Spirituality of the Heart

A Spirituality of the Heart reverences the human heart as loved by God unconditionally, and as the privileged place of encounter with God.

Living such a spirituality involves making the journey into one's own heart and into the heart of the human condition, open to encountering there the compassionate heart of Jesus, the Heart of God.



Image: 'Broken Heart'
Bruce Woods, Chevalier College

It is this encounter which has the power to transform brokenness into blessing, to create the world anew.

Chevalier Institute Mission and Team

The Chevalier Institute is a ministry of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in the Australian Province. Our Mission is to facilitate and support lay, adult faith formation in the Chevalier Family's Spirituality of the Heart.

For further information and booking of Chevalier Institute Programmes please contact:

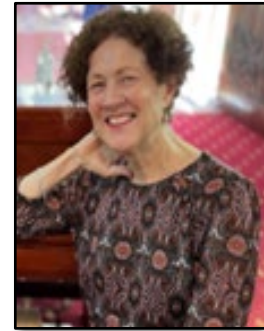
Chevalier Institute:

Website: www.chevalierinstitute.org.au

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Anne McAtomney
Director



Rosanna Abraham
Administration Assistant



Fr Bob Irwin msc
Spiritual Director

Chevalier Institute works closely with those responsible for Mission in Australian MSC Colleges:



Alexander Abbey
Chevalier College (NSW)



Cheryl Hamill
Daramalan College (ACT)



Andrea Collins
Downlands College (QLD)



Danny Franc
Monivae College (VIC)

Welcome to Alexander (Sandy) Abbey - AP Faith Formation and Mission, Chevalier College

Sandy comes to Chevalier College from 10 years at St Matthew's Catholic School, Mudgee, most recently serving in the role of Leader of Mission. Prior to this, Sandy served at St John's College, Dubbo in various roles including Religious Education Coordinator – Curriculum, Assistant REC – Curriculum, and Teacher. Sandy has also been involved with teams of teachers across the Diocese of Bathurst to develop programs for the Religious Education Curriculum and for Studies in Catholic Thought.

Sandy is known to the MSC Family. His deep appreciation for the MSC Charism has been influenced through his years of formation as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC) from 2009 to 2013, and in recent years, as a member of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (LCF) National Council. He is excited about the possibility of continuing the animation of Spirituality of the Heart within the Chevalier College community and is passionate about awakening in young people an awareness of God's love, forming them to be agile learners inspired for mission.

Sandy and his wife Amy both grew up in Central West NSW and are looking forward to taking their son on many adventures in the Southern Highlands and beyond.

Summary of Chevalier Institute Programmes

Induction and Introduction to MSC Education and Spirituality of the Heart

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Designed For</u>
The Heart of Our Spirit (1 day)	An induction for new staff into the spirit and mission of their College	All school staff
Heartwork (1 day)	An introduction to an MSC workplace and Spirituality of the Heart	All school staff
The Heart of Pedagogy (1 day) (5 endorsed hours ACT)	An introduction to the spirituality, ethos, values and philosophy that underpin the MSC Vision in Education	All beginning teachers or teachers new to MSC Education
The Basin and the Towel (1 day)	An exploration of the way Servant Leadership is lived in an MSC school	All school staff
You Work in a Catholic School (1/2 day / twilight)	An introduction to the context of the Catholic school workplace and a brief overview of the history of Catholic Education in Australia	All school staff

Personal Spirituality

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Designed For</u>
Journey to the Heart (1 week)	An induction into Spirituality of the Heart – a reflective retreat experience	All school staff
Nurturing the Heart (1 day)	An opportunity to consider the possibility that our most challenging experiences can be the source of life's greatest gifts	All school staff
Love: The Heart of Creation (1 week)	A deeper retreat experience that offers insights and experiences of heart as the place of encounter with God	All school staff

On-going Professional Formation

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Designed For</u>
Teaching with Heart <i>(1 day)</i> <i>(5 endorsed hours ACT)</i>	An exploration of Spirituality of the Heart as a way of life that enhances personal wellbeing and facilitates the creation of connected learning communities	Teachers experienced in MSC Education; this programme is generally undertaken after The Heart of Pedagogy
Strong in Faith <i>(1 day)</i>	An exploration of a contemporary understanding of the shared motto of our schools: Strong in Faith	All school staff
‘Our Spirit’ <i>(1 day)</i>	An exploration of MSC Constitution #32	All school staff
Spirituality of the Heart – a way of life for all <i>(1/2 day / twilight – 3 hours)</i>	An explanation of Spirituality of the Heart and the possibilities it offers both personally and professionally	All school staff
Feed My Sheep <i>(1 day)</i>	An opportunity to form a cohesive, trusting and functional team	Pastoral Care teams

Formation for Leadership

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Designed For</u>
Heart-Centred Leadership <i>(1 week)</i>	An immersion into the nature and implications of Heart-Centred Leadership using the research of Kouzes & Posner as a framework	All staff in middle management or leadership positions or those preparing for leadership
Your Hands are Jesus’ Hands <i>(1 day)</i>	To empower leaders in MSC schools to be faith leaders in their area of responsibility	All middle and senior managers in MSC schools

Chevalier Institute Programme Outlines

The Heart of Our Spirit (New Staff Induction) - 1 day

This programme has been developed as an induction for all staff and board members in MSC Colleges. The programme introduces the story of the foundation and vision of the MSC and the historical context of each particular College.



The contribution of those whose names live on in the buildings and culture of the school is highlighted. School songs, footage of significant events and key documents are offered as examples of the way in which the spirit and mission is embedded into the life and practices of the Colleges. New staff are invited to consider how they can contribute to this spirit, ongoing.

Heartwork – 1 day



This programme honours the role work plays in our lives, acknowledging that our work not only provides us with the means to live, but also plays a role in forming our identity and our sense of worth and wellbeing.

Work can also be seen as a means by which we can contribute to the creation of a better world. Participants are invited to reflect on the way in which their skills and talents and life experiences contribute to the building of community.

An explanation of Spirituality of the Heart is offered as a pathway to personal growth and to the building of community.

The Heart of Pedagogy – 1 day

The Heart of Pedagogy programme offers five hours of endorsed professional development to teachers in ACT but is also foundational to all beginning teachers and those who are new to MSC Education. The course introduces participants to the spirituality, charism, values and philosophy that underpin the MSC Vision in Education and inform College goals, codes of conduct, programs and policies. The MSC Vision is embedded into every aspect of College life and practice, and offers a framework from which quality teaching and learning and enhanced student outcomes and wellbeing can flow. There is a focus on the importance of the formation of a web of relationships that fosters effective learning communities and is a core value of MSC Education.



The Basin and the Towel– 1 day



Image: Jesus Washing Peter's Feet –
Ford Madox Brown, 1821-1893

This programme rests on the premise that Servant Leadership aligns succinctly with the ethos of an MSC school, contributing to the culture that flows from this ethos. The day offers an opportunity for participants to tap into their collective wisdom while exploring in some little depth what we understand by the term in contrast to other styles and theories of leadership - its scriptural origins, its (secular) development and its implications, inclusive of its gifts and challenges.

You Work in a Catholic School – 1/2 day, 3 hours



This programme is designed for staff who are unfamiliar with a Catholic workplace, and specifically, with a Catholic school. Participants will be introduced to the principles that underpin Catholicity through the work of Thomas Groome, inclusive of what is meant by 'a Catholic worldview' and will be invited to reflect on the implications of those principles for their work in the College. They will also be offered a snapshot of the history and contribution of Catholic Education to the development of education as a whole in Australia.

Teaching with Heart – 1 day

Teaching with Heart is a programme designed for all experienced teachers in MSC Colleges; it offers five hours of endorsed professional development to teachers in ACT. In conjunction with The Heart of Pedagogy, it covers all aspects of Professional Standard 6, the mandatory standard to be completed in Endorsed Professional Development.



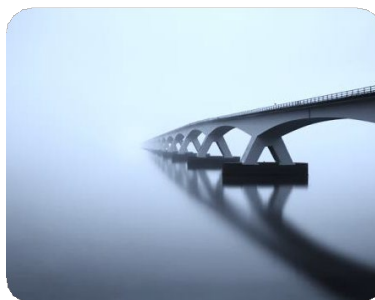
The programme recognises the complexity of contemporary teaching and the demands of the profession on the lives of individual teachers. The aim of the programme is to develop knowledge, understanding and capacity in maintaining wellbeing and to offer Spirituality of the Heart as a way of supporting, encouraging and deepening personal wellbeing and spirituality.

The connection between critical reflection on professional practice and effective teaching is established, and frameworks are offered to facilitate this practice. Spirituality of the Heart is offered as a way of life that supports personal spirituality, wellbeing and reflective practice.

Strong in Faith – 1 day

Strong in Faith explores the common motto in all four Australian MSC Colleges – Fortes in Fide.

Participants will be encouraged to explore faith from an expansive and experiential perspective.



The programme will encourage participants to look for the constant presence of the God of love within their life's journey and to consider faith as the courage to believe and live within the mystery of what cannot be proved, but only experienced.

In the Christian context, faith takes form in the life of Jesus and in our desire to live our lives following the way of Jesus. This requires that we have the courage and the insight to search for meaning and to affirm life and its goodness, despite our doubts, difficulties and sufferings.

Above all, faith is an expression of the heart's ability to love.

'Our Spirit' – MSC Constitution #32 – 1 day

This is a Constitution that is well known and loved by many in our schools, and which enables staff to embrace Spirituality of the Heart; the words roll off the tongue easily, yet there can be little time to draw out their full meaning for our lives.

This programme offers participants an opportunity to delve more deeply into the richness of the words and the 'way of being in the world' to which they point – living Spirituality of the Heart.



Image: Anna Bartlett, Downlands College

Spirituality of the Heart—a way of life for all - 1/2 day, 3hrs

This programme offers an explanation of Spirituality of the Heart to staff in MSC Colleges. Spirituality of the Heart is a way of life that is lived by many staff and students in MSC schools and is embedded into every aspect of the life of the College.

New staff will be offered a framework, descriptions and stories about Spirituality of the Heart and will be invited to explore the connections to their own lives as well as the implications for professional practice.



Image: The old gates – St Mary's Towers



*St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park
Photo: Heide Van Rensburg
Downlands College*

Feed My Sheep – 1 day

This programme offers an opportunity for pastoral care teams – continuing or newly-formed – to explore all that combines to form a cohesive, trusting and functional work group. Individual members are invited to take the time necessary to recognise their strengths and their weaknesses as pastoral carers as the team moves towards articulating what it values as a group. The programme is underpinned by our understanding that in an MSC school, ‘relationship’ is at the core of pastoral care, and this is at the centre of Spirituality of the Heart.



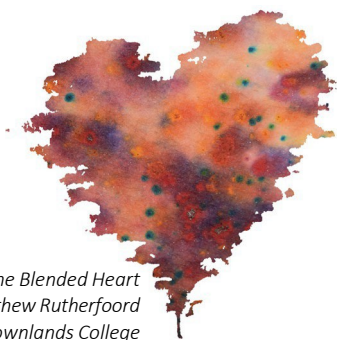
Journey to the Heart – 1 week

This five-day retreat at St Mary’s Towers, Douglas Park, offers staff from MSC Colleges and other MSC connected schools and ministries an experience in Spirituality of the Heart. In a beautiful and peaceful setting, staff can



relax and take time out from the usual commitments of life to gain some perspective, to meet people from other schools and ministries, to reflect and to recreate. Participants will be invited to attend to the movement of love that we call God, which flows through the events of life, and to recognise the sustaining possibility of this love. They will be reminded to keep their gaze on Jesus and to learn from him how to love with a truly human heart.

Love: The Heart of Creation – 1 week



*Image: The Blended Heart
Matthew Rutherford
Downlands College*

This five-day retreat is offered at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park as a follow-up to Journey to the Heart. The retreat builds upon and deepens the personal exploration of spirituality and the quest for meaning and purpose offered in Journey to the Heart. The focus is on love as the centre point of Chevalier's vision and Jesus' mission.

The retreat offers a variety of perspectives that draw from the work of Jules Chevalier and contemporary thinkers and writers who explore the theme of Sacred Heart.

The retreat assumes an openness to and an experience of reflective and contemplative practice and a willingness to probe our charism. The content and processes are designed to be accessible to a range of diverse viewpoints.

Nurturing the Heart – 1 day

This programme offers participants an opportunity to stop and take stock. The busyness of everyday life sometimes prevents us from taking the time we need to nurture ourselves and simply 'be with' our life experiences. The programme does not offer solutions for specific issues; participants are invited to experience the healing benefits of listening to their hearts and allowing themselves to be still and reflective. The programme draws on our Catholic tradition, scripture and Spirituality of the Heart to offer wisdom and guidance in the face of difficult and challenging experiences. The process of the day is gentle, invitational and reflective.



*Image: Matters of the Heart
Sandra Kay*

Heart-Centred Leadership – 1 week

This is a five-day, residential programme conducted at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park. The programme focuses on the inner journey of the leader by attending to the movements of the heart which shape our leadership.

The programme explores the characteristics of Heart-Centred Leadership using the research of Kouzes and Posner as a framework from which to explore these characteristics.



*Image: The Washing of the Feet
Sieger Koder*

Each of the Kouzes and Posner exemplary practices is reflected on in the light of Spirituality of the Heart and participants are invited to consider the implications of Spirituality of the Heart for their own lives and leadership. There is a focus on the Heart of Jesus as the model for heart-centred leadership.

Your Hands are Jesus' Hands – 1 day



This programme has been developed for staff who hold middle and senior leadership positions in MSC Colleges. The purpose of this programme is to assist those in positions of responsibility to recognise that faith leadership is a key aspect of their leadership role and that faith leadership is exercised explicitly and implicitly within their work. The programme reflects on the necessity to create a culture that reflects the spirit of an MSC community. Participants are encouraged to reflect on the Heart of Jesus and to learn from him 'how to love with a truly human heart'. Time is offered to be drawn into a story of Jesus that has touched each person and to develop a way of re-telling that story as an explicit formation tool for those for whom they are responsible.

Chevalier Institute Programme Dates

The Chevalier Institute team facilitates programmes, courses and formation experiences for adults in Spirituality of the Heart.

Residential Programmes for 2024

Journey to the Heart Staff Retreat (St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park)	<i>19th Feb – 23rd Feb</i> <i>27th May – 31st May</i>
Love: The Heart of Creation (St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park)	<i>5th Aug – 9th Aug</i>
Heart-Centred Leadership (St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park)	<i>18th Mar – 22nd Mar</i>
MSC Colleges' Staff Formation Network	<i>8th – 10th May - CRC</i> <i>30th Oct – 1st Nov-D.P.</i>
Australian Gathering of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (LCF)	<i>20th – 22nd Sep – D.P.</i>
LCF International Assembly Cebu City, Philippines : 'One in Heart in Caring for Our Common Home'	<i>20th – 29th Jan</i>
Issoudun Pilgrimage	<i>25th Sep – 2nd Oct</i>

Programmes Facilitated at MSC Colleges in 2024

Chevalier	Daramalan	Downlands	Monivae
<i>13 - 17 May</i>	<i>29 Apr - 3 May</i>	<i>10 - 14 Jun</i>	<i>4 - 8 Mar</i>
<i>11 - 15 Nov</i>	<i>19 - 23 Aug</i>	<i>21 - 25 Oct</i>	<i>2 - 6 Sep</i>

Associated Ministries

St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre

@ contact@towersretreat.org.au



Heart of Life, Melbourne

🌐 www.heartoflife.melbourne



Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family



@ aus.lcf@gmail.com

f [aus.lcf](https://www.facebook.com/aus.lcf)

🌐 chevalierlaity.com.au

📷 [aus.lcf](https://www.instagram.com/aus.lcf)

International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family



@ Alison McKenzie - alisonmckenzie@misacor.org.au

🌐 chevalierfamilylaity.org

f [LaityoftheChevalierFamily](https://www.facebook.com/LaityoftheChevalierFamily)

Douglas Park Heartworks

The Heartworks group gathers monthly at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park.

@ heartworks.msc@gmail.com

🌐 www.facebook.com/heartworks.msc

Downlands Heartworks / Young MSC Spirituality Group

(Years 11 and 12) meets twice in most school terms on a Sunday at 7:30 pm, following the Borders' Mass



THE CHEVALIER INSTITUTE and YOU

"The Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart has education as one of its principal tasks. All among us who accept the care of young people should never lose sight of the sublimity of such an important mission." Jules Chevalier, 1877



You are a staff member of an MSC College in Australia and I hope and pray that you are finding it an enjoyable, fulfilling, and rewarding ministry for you, despite all the challenges that can arise in any large workplace filled with hundreds of young people, and many adults, like yourself, who are striving to do their best for the young in their care.

The Chevalier Institute is one of the main supports to help your school to stay true to its fundamental purposes, and to help you in your ministry, and in your own personal life and spiritual growth.

Let me try to explain that.

The Chevalier Institute was founded 21 years ago to support lay adult faith formation in the Chevalier Family's Spirituality of the Heart.

Why the name CHEVALIER? Obviously, it is named after the Founder of the MSC, Jules Chevalier, but perhaps it could have been called after E J CUSKELLY, one of our own past students, a Downlander. As the Superior General of the MSC, after Vatican 11, he moved us from Devotion to the Sacred Heart to the Spirituality of the Heart. As with the Institute today, Cuskelly understood something of the changing times, and provided a language for the times to help better understand the fundamental insight of Fr Chevalier.

Why called an INSTITUTE? Because it is much more than an organisation to deliver retreats and courses. One of its primary functions is to act as a real institute...researching, seeking, finding new ways to express the spirituality to meet the needs, the weaknesses and the progress of the times, but remaining true to the original charism of Fr Chevalier.

Such is becoming an ever more serious need in society and church, as disillusionment with the institutional church continues to increase.

WHY EVEN HAVE OUR CHEVALIER INSTITUTE? As the policy for Spiritual Formation for Staff and Board Members in MSC Schools in Australia states: *“The need for proactive formation of lay people and institutions in the MSC charism, is not just based on the diminished numbers of MSC, nor just because of the increased role of the laity in MSC Colleges. Importantly, it is by virtue of the fact that people in their living and working find deeper meaning in their lives, and if possible, encounter the Heart of the living Christ, and when able to bring Him to others.*

In other words, the Institute facilitates and supports, for example, lay school staffs, parents and students, in their journey with their God. Furthermore, true to another of Chevalier’s insights, the mission is now largely carried out by lay people, by you, helping other lay.

Belief in God’s unconditional love for all of us is our primary reason for confidence as we go into the future. We all know that there are many challenges, and we are not naïve optimists, but people of faith and hope. We know the way forward for ourselves and our colleges is to remain faithful to the MSC Vision.

We are ever grateful to Anne McAtomney, the current Director of the Institute, and each of the Directors of Faith and Mission in our Colleges. We also acknowledge with much thanks those who have been in those positions in the past, who taught us much.

I hope you are able to avail yourself of the opportunities to participate in some of the offerings in this booklet. I know you are very busy in your ministry already, but it is crucial to “sharpen the saw” sometimes. If you do, you can be sure it will make a difference in your own life and in the way you minister to others, be it in school or in other avenues in life.

Thank you for who you are and what you do. We are all in this together.

Take care. God bless.

(Fr) Bob Irwin msc



We are the Laity of the Chevalier Family- an explanation of the Logo



The Logo of the Chevalier Family is distinctive in its features. Along with the recognisable, but softly

drawn Sacred Heart and Cross of Jesus, the Logo also contains strong images of the human interconnection and interrelationship that are identifying features of the charism we share with the MSC, FDNCS and the MSC sisters, while at the same time pointing to the distinctiveness of our Lay Charism.

The centrality but openness of the heart: the universal symbol for love, human and divine, draws us to the transformation of our own hearts that comes through our offering of our lives to the Heart of Christ and which leads us to encounter for ourselves the love of God. It is from this transforming encounter that our interconnection and relationality flows. The configuration of the figures reflects this understanding, the different forms all flowing from the Heart of Christ. We are diverse yet animated by the same source. Our interconnection leads us deeply into the pain and suffering of the world, which could overwhelm us but for the Hope of Christ which is poured into our hearts to be a source of hope for others. It is from the flame of the charism that this transforming hope flows out of the heart encircling the people and connecting the interior symbols to the outer circle.

Green, signifying hope, encircles the central image and symbolically reflects creation, in which we live and from which we are sustained.

The Logo calls us, as members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, to our responsibility to participate in the creation of hope, meaning and purpose which is the birthright of all humanity.



Sacred Heart with Sampaguita
Oil on Board 2023

The painting titled *Sacred Heart with Sampaguita* was created at the request of Alison Mackenzie on behalf of the Laity of the MSC. The image is an oil painting on cradled beech board.

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

The iconography of the work is related to the Philippines Assembly to be held in January, 2024. The theme of the Assembly is “One in Heart in Caring for our Common Home”. I drew my ideas from this theme.

Each element of the work can be read symbolically. The stylised heart with the cross represents Jesus who loved with a human heart. The flower represents the Philippines as the sampaguita (Jasmin Sambac) is the national flower of the country. The flower has a rich symbolism associated with love, purity, dedication and fidelity. In the Philippines this is often used as a dedication to a saint. The flower has been painted in small strokes to look a little like woven fabric to represent a sense of unity as in many threads making a whole. The dark background acts as contrast to the graphic elements. I painted it in many transparent layers of blue and red to create a sense of soft, warm depth, like a tropical night.

Bruce Woods