



27th November, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It gives me great pleasure to send you an update on the work of the Council for 2021.

I write this Report to you aware that so many of you have been affected by the Pandemic and I want you to know that we are holding the global family in our hearts and in the Heart of Jesus.

As I write this Report we welcome Peter Cheong from Korea as an associate member of the International Council and we thank Peter for his willingness to serve you in this way.

This Report offers a summary of the work undertaken by the International Council this year.

Most of our work is done through daily email communication between Council members. Twice each year we have face-to-face Zoom business meetings where we finalise the decisions we have been working on and begin the planning for new initiatives. Our business meetings this year were held on 20th March and 30th October.

In addition, we have held several Zoom meetings with the Organising Committee for the next Assembly in the Philippines and one joint planning meeting on 24th July between the Trigenalate representatives, (Sr Nicola msc sisters, Fr Polce msc, and Sr Merle fdnsc,) the Philippines Organising Committee headed by Debbie Mellijor and the International Council. (Details follow)

Papers and documents:

We have collaboratively worked on many documents this year:

- The finalisation of the editing of the Guiding Principles and Statutes which will be presented at the Assembly in the Philippines for ratification
- The completion of a document on the role of and replacement process for the Spiritual Companion. That document is with the Trigenalate for discussion and consideration.
- The completion of the explanation of the International and National Logo which was sent to you on December 8th and is available for use in formation for groups.

Communication:

One of the main focus points for the year has been trialling different and more effective ways of communication with the global family. We are trying to diversify the way we communicate so that, hopefully, by one means or another, you will hear from us in a suitable form. We have also identified people in Indonesia, Korea and Vietnam who can translate from English into the native tongue.

The main ways we have communicated this year is through:

Our Newsletter, Encounter of Hearts.

We produced the 3rd edition of Encounter of Hearts which you all should have received. We hope you enjoyed the Newsletter and shared it widely with your members. It entails many, many hours of work to produce and we hope it is useful. This year we used Mailchimp as the email form. Mailchimp is software that can be used to manage email communication and mailing lists and you will have noticed a slightly more professional digital format of the Newsletter as a result of Mailchimp capability. The major advantage is that Mailchimp allows us to track who opens the Newsletter. Some of you will have received a follow up email to check that you received and could open the document. We were very pleased with the diversity of perspectives in this edition and the International Council feels that there is a maturing of our self-identity and an acceptance of our diversity which is very pleasing.

We have decided not to produce an edition of Encounter of Hearts next year, but rather, to focus on preparation for the upcoming General Assembly in 2024. We will produce an edition in 2023 to be used in preparation for the Assembly and we encourage as many as can to contribute to that Newsletter.

Facebook:

We have developed a Facebook page and have been posting very regularly on that page. We encourage laity from across the globe to send us material to post and encourage you to read and share the material we post. We have more than 200 followers and some posts are shared many times. We are happy to use social media to share our message of hope.

You can follow us on: @LaityoftheChevalierFamily

We will launch our long-awaited Website early in the new year.

Email communication:

We have continued to communicate by email three times each year with a Report and letter from one of the Council members. We hope these communications are shared widely amongst the membership and followed up by National Council chairs.

The First Friday intention from the Trigenalate JPIC committee continues to be reminder to the prayer and action we are called to offer in supporting the integrity of creation.

Zoom meetings:

Each region has been regularly connecting by Zoom in national and regional meetings. They are very helpful in fostering the spirit of family and friendship amongst members.

Survey:

There is a survey attached to this letter. We ask all National Coordinators to complete the survey and return to us by the 15th January. This will provide statistical data that we can use to help us further develop our communication.

Assembly:

The planning for the forth international Assembly is well underway and we commend the Philippines Organising Committee for their outstanding work.

The dates are commencement late afternoon 21st January, 2024 with arrival 20th – 21st January and departure after lunch 29th January.

The theme is **One Heart in Caring for our Common Home.**

Early next year we will send you an outline of the theme, an official invitation, the cost estimates and an intention to attend form. We hope you are beginning to plan for the Assembly and we are aiming for participation from all 39 member countries.

Please remember, we are asking countries of means to commit to raising funds to subsidise participants from countries with less capacity to pay.

Book of Formators:

One project we are working on in preparation for the Assembly is a digital book that details the lives of the key professed formators who have contributed significantly to our development. We are very keen to preserve the stories of those who have given their lives to help form us as laity.

We ask you to send a one page account of the contribution of these great Religious Formators and a photo to us for inclusion in the book.

The scope of the project is:

The International Council is intending to collect brief biographical accounts of the contribution of significant Religious Formators and lay leaders to the emergence of the lay movement around the world. It is anticipated that we will collect these stories into a compilation that is published in time for the Philippines Assembly. We are aware and acknowledge that there are many thousands of Religious who have walked alongside the laity and we honour their work. The intention of this book is to capture the contribution of those with positions of responsibility who were inspired by the vision of Chevalier and used their position to encourage and enable the emergence of the vision.

Replacement of Fr Hans as Spiritual Companion:

We have already reported to you with great sadness that Fr Hans will step down as our Companion some time before the next Assembly. The International Council has developed a paper addressing the Role of and Process for replacement of the Spiritual Companion which is currently being discussed by the Trigenalate. As soon as we have details we will communicate with you.

I would like to thank Doris, Rita, Fr Hans for their daily commitment to our work. It can be lonely job sitting behind a computer working alone and the support from the other Council members has been untiring and absolute. I would also like to thank Maria-Olimpia Klose for her assistance in translating and her wise perspective in our discussions, Therese Poulton and Ana San Martin for their written translation which has been superb and to Brett Adamson for his technical assistance. Work on our goal of supporting all the members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family goes on every day of the year and we hold you all close in our hearts and into the Heart of Jesus.

Ametur

Alison McKenzie

Alison, Doris, Rita and Fr Hans.

Survey

National Council, membership criteria and numbers in member countries.

Please complete by 15th January, 2021 and return to:

Alison McKenzie

alisonmckenzie@misacor.org

Name of member country.

Do you have a National Council of the Chevalier Family in your country? Yes/no

If yes, what is the name and contact details of the Chair and the Council members?

Chair:

Council members:

What is the name and contact details of your Spiritual companion?

Email contact of Chair of the National Council.

If you don't have a National Council, how are you organised?

Does your organisational structure include all three branches of the Chevalier Family?

How many members do you have?

How do you identify membership of the Chevalier Family?

Do you receive the email communications from the National Council? Yes/no

Do you follow the Facebook page? Yes/no

Would you like your name and email to be added to our Contact List? Yes/No

Could you list the names of Religious Formators who have been significant in your country.

Many thanks for your help
Alison, Doris, Rita and Fr Hans Kwakman msc