



ENCOUNTER OF HEARTS

A Newsletter of Reports and Activities from lay members of the Chevalier Family across the world.
Assembly 2024 Edition



Spirituality of the Heart:

A way to open our hearts and participate in the healing
of the world.



CONTENTS

Section One – Introduction

	Page
How to use this Assembly Edition of Encounter of Hearts:	2
Editorial, Fr Hans Kwakman msc:	3-4
Thank you and farewell to Fr Hans:	5-6
Welcome to the new Spiritual Companion:	7
Welcome to our new Tri-Generalate members and farewell to those who are leaving us:	8-9
Report from the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family:	10-12
News from around the world:	13
Statistical data about the Laity of the Chevalier Family:	14

Section Two – The Assembly

Assembly Logo	15
Official invitation to the Assembly:	16
Introduction to the members of the Philippines Organising Committee:	17-18
Photos of past Assemblies	19-20
Invitation to participate digitally in the Assembly:	21
Pre-Assembly prayer:	21
Assembly theme:	22
Operating Principles of the Assembly:	23
Aims of the Assembly:	23
Introduction of Assembly keynote speakers and Workshop presenters:	24-25

Section Three – Matters for discussion and vote at the Assembly

The Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (for vote):	26-29
The Role of National Councils and National Council Chairpersons (for discussion):	30
The Role of Spiritual Companions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (for discussion):	31
Discussion Papers: – The Role of Spiritual Companion:	
Fr Michael:	32
Sr Gerardine:	33
Financial Contributions from National Councils for the Operation of the International Council (for vote):	34

Section Four – Voting and appointment process of the next International Council

Information regarding nomination of and Voting for the General Secretary and possible members of the next International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family:	36-38
Role Statement and personal attributes of the General Secretary	38-40
Nomination Form – General Secretary:	41
Nomination Form – International Council member:	41

Section Five – Care for Creation

Care for Creation quotes from our Laity documents:	43
Fr Hans' Online Course – Spirituality of the Heart as Revealed in Laudato Si':	43-44
Songs and Reflections:	45

How to use this Edition of Encounter of Hearts

This 2023 edition of Encounter of Hearts represents the culmination of six years of work by the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

It is a very important document. We suggest you use it in the following way:

Distribution:

- If possible, could you translate it into your own language. It will be attached to the Website and will be able to be Google translated if that is helpful.
- Send it out digitally or as print copies to all your members.
- Ask your members to read it carefully.

Preparation for the fourth Assembly of the Laity:

This edition of Encounter of Hearts contains all the documents you will need to prepare for the Assembly.

We ask Chairs of National Councils or local group leaders to organise discussions with your whole membership on the following aspects:

Section-One: contains Fr Hans' Editorial and the final Report from the Council as well as general information about our global family. Please read this section carefully.

The Report is very important and is needed to assist in the discernment process for the appointment of the next General Secretary and International Council. Could you read the Report carefully and use it as you discuss possible nominations.

Section-Two: contains important information about the upcoming Assembly of Laity. This material will be helpful in preparation for the Assembly. We ask that your entire membership familiarise itself with the material in this section so they can be a part of the preparations for the Assembly and contribute to the post-Assembly work.

Section-Three: contains matters for discussion and resolution by vote at the upcoming Assembly.

Ideally, delegates to the Assembly will discuss with their members the issues contained in this section so that the decisions made at the Assembly represent the views and opinions of the whole family of Chevalier Laity.

Section Four: outlines the voting process required for the next General Secretary and the process for the appointment of the next International Council.

Again, we ask that all members read this section carefully. If National Councils or local country groups wish to nominate people for these positions, the nomination forms, role descriptions and list of attributes of candidates are included in this section.

Section-Five: contains background reading that will be helpful to enable those attending the Assembly to fully participate in all the discussions and workshops that will occur.

One Mission

From the beginning till the end of his life as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Chevalier was urged to accomplish only one mission - that was, to spread the Devotion to the Sacred Heart in the rich and broad sense as he understood this Devotion. As is clear from all his writings, for Chevalier, spreading the Devotion to the Sacred Heart, "everywhere" and "by all means available" was a matter of great urgency.

Today's society is on the edge of the abyss, he used to say, and only when humankind consecrates itself and the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, can society be saved from ruination. Practicing and spreading the Devotion to the Sacred Heart was for Fr. Chevalier the best way of participating in the mission of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Gospels.

Chevalier considered the religious congregations that he founded to be spiritual centers around which diocesan priests and lay people would grow in their dedication to the Sacred Heart, and their mission in society. Therefore, Chevalier went out of his way to inspire as many diocesan priests and lay people as possible to join the mission of the Sacred Heart in society. While staying in their parishes and dioceses, the diocesan priests of the Sacred Heart would carry out the same mission as the religious of the Sacred Heart. The lay people would perform that same mission by living in secular society and performing their daily occupations. For Chevalier, incorporating diocesan priests and lay people in the mission of the Sacred Heart was as important as founding religious congregations.

One single family

In his article "The missionary Charism of Jules Chevalier in relation to the laity" (Encounter n. 74, autumn 2004) Fr. Dennis Murphy MSC (1927-2014) remarks that nowadays 'mission' is almost exclusively

described *"in terms of doing things, and not sufficiently in terms of being."* Chevalier's concept of mission, Murphy points out, comes closer to the understanding of mission as promoted by the Second Vatican Council, which takes up *"the rich, traditional view of the Church as communion."* Fr. Chevalier also fostered, *"a vision of the Church and its mission as communion."* To underline this statement, Murphy quotes the famous lines of Chevalier: *"Do you hear the cry that comes down to us through eighteen centuries? It is a testament of love: I want all to be no longer anything but one in love (John 17:11); to have but one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32); to form but one and the same single family.... Where does this call, this program of love, come from? From the Heart of Jesus"* (Le Sacré Cœur de Jésus, 1900, p. 241).

In his "Plan of the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart" of 1864, Chevalier stated: *"In order to fulfill its mission, the Society must spread as much as possible, but it will spread only so far as it answers the various aspirations of the people."* Therefore, Chevalier invited a variety of people to participate in the charism and mission of his Society. The communion and collaboration of religious men and women, diocesan priests and lay people, united by the Sacred Heart in one big family, formed an essential way of carrying out Christ's mission and a powerful testimony to a deeply divided society.

The ills of the time

All the documents, written by Chevalier in support of the foundation and mission of the different branches of his Society start with a description of the ills of the time.

This fact clearly shows Chevalier's conviction that each of these branches should participate in the same mission, in such a way that their presence and

EDITORIAL continued.

activities would be relevant to the healing and renewal of society.

Chevalier called the religious and social situation of society during those days “*disastrous*”. He was convinced that both Church and society of his days were afflicted by religious indifference and social egoism.

Nevertheless, for really committed Christians, he said, these catastrophic ills of the time would become a strong challenge to involve themselves in the mission of the Sacred Heart for the renewal and healing of Church and society. As Fr. Murphy remarks, Fr. Chevalier would have found it unthinkable and even impractical to speak of changing the world and its values without involving laity, for they are the ones more intimately immersed in that world.

The General Assembly of 2024

Fr. Chevalier's charism and sense of mission clearly resonates in the theme of the upcoming General Assembly of the worldwide lay movement of the Chevalier Family (January 2024 in Cebu, the Philippines.) This theme reads: “One in Heart in Caring for Our Common Home.”

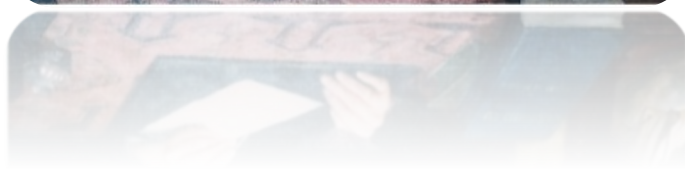
This theme is likewise inspired by Pope Francis' two social encyclicals “*Laudato Si*, on care for our common home” and “*Fratelli tutti*, on Brother - and Sisterhood and Social Friendship.” During the General Assembly these two important documents will lead our reflections and deliberations. They are clearly inspired by a Spirituality of the Heart, encouraging us to be concerned about the modern “ills of the time” in creation, society and humanity.

Our world today is plagued by many crises: climate crisis, energy crisis, economic crisis, refugee crisis, aggravated by wars and violent conflicts in several countries. More than ever, our times call for people, who, each in his or her own way, are aware of their mission to contribute to the establishment of a

world, governed by justice, peace and care for God's creation.

The upcoming Assembly will certainly strengthen our sense of mission, nourished by the Spirituality of the Heart, which we inherited from Fr. Chevalier. Let us pray that this assembly will bring together many representatives from the worldwide laity of the Chevalier Family.

Hans Kwakman MSC, Tilburg, January 2023



THANK YOU TO FR HANS KWAKMAN MSC

Spiritual companion of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

Fr Hans Kwakman will step down from his role as Spiritual Companion to the International Council and to the entire membership of the Laity of the Chevalier Family at the Assembly in the Philippines in January 2024.

He has been our Spiritual Companion since 2016, but his legacy is far greater than simply the roles and responsibilities he has filled. This tribute is our attempt to express for all times the gift of Fr Hans Kwakman to the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

Fr Hans was born in Holland on 4th September 1939. His early years would have been directly influenced by the deprivations in Holland during World War 11 and in the years immediately following. Hans became an altar server at an early age, and because he wanted to become a missionary, after primary school he went to the MSC Minor Seminary located within cycling distance of his parental home.

He entered the MSC novitiate in 1957, made his first vows on 21st September 1958 and was ordained on 1st September 1963.

In 1968, after finishing theological studies at the University in Nijmegen in the Netherlands, Fr Hans left for Indonesia. There he taught theology and other subjects at the Major Seminary of the dioceses of Manado and Amboina where the Indonesian MSC students attended lectures together with diocesan priests and future catechists. According to the custom of the time, he was simultaneously a lecturer and spiritual counsellor of the students. At the same time, he was a member of Marriage Encounter's ecclesial team for the accompaniment of married couples in the Diocese of Manado, and also, spiritual director of two religious communities, one active and one contemplative.

In 1995, Fr Hans was elected Provincial Superior of the Indonesian Province. After finishing his service as Provincial Superior in 2002, he went to the USA for two years to study Spirituality and Spiritual Counselling at Neumann College in Aston,

Philadelphia, in preparation for his ministry as a member of the Cor Novum Formation Team in Issoudun, France. Both in Issoudun, and on invitation from other parts of the world, the team offered formation programs in Spirituality of the Heart to professed and lay members of the Chevalier Family.

On 21st April 2016 Fr Hans was appointed Spiritual Companion to the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

Fr Hans' contribution has been immense. During his time in Issoudun, Fr Hans became very interested in the historical context in which Chevalier founded his congregations and the background to Chevalier's theological views and spiritual understanding of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart. He also elaborated the views of Fr. Cuskelly MSC and his General Council, who have pointed out that Chevalier's charism and understanding of the Sacred Heart. Devotion is nowadays best presented by living a Spirituality of the Heart.

In accordance with Fr Chevalier's charism, Fr Hans has tried to reflect on a Spirituality of the Heart as the revelation of God's Heart, which, thanks to the working of the Holy Spirit, is unfolding both in the Heart of Jesus Christ, as well as in the heart of every human being, the hearts of the Church and in the heart of God's creation. In this way, Fr Hans tried to connect Chevalier's charism and his special concern for the ills of his time with our present times, which are suffering almost the same ills. He has also researched the writings of Chevalier concerning Chevalier's vision of the laity as associated members of the Chevalier Family.



THANK YOU continued.

His book, *Jules Chevalier's Charism and the Identity of the Chevalier Family* is an outstanding resource, exploring the charism of the Chevalier Family, with regard to the spirituality of the laity. Another of Fr Hans's contributions is his Online Course of 70 sections that systematically explore our charism and spirituality, in particular, as expressed by Pope Francis. The *Online Course* is designed as a formation course for groups and individuals and is available in many languages on the website:

<https://misacor.org.au/chevalierfamily>.

Fr Hans has written many other articles and presentations as well, which you may obtain by sending a request to 'jjmkwakman39@gmail.com'. Hopefully, in the not -too -distant future, some of these articles will also be available in an e-book.

Fr Hans has been actively involved with the lay movement from the time of the renewed understanding of Chevalier's vision for the place of the laity re-emerged in the 1970s. He was involved with the European Council of Laity as they began to connect the emerging world-wide groups, and that history is also on the website.

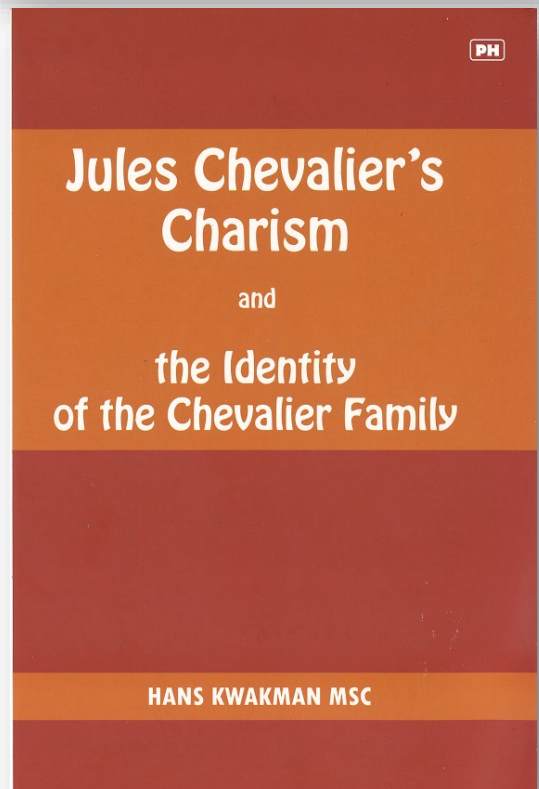
Fr Hans has an expansive vision of the laity – he trusts the laity and can see how lay people can contribute to the mission. His encouragement and wise council has been very significant in the development of the lay movement. Fr Hans was actively involved in the development of the first Guiding Principles document and he encouraged its acceptance in Brazil. He also guided the election of the first General Secretary and International Council.

Since his appointment in 2016, the International Council members have been the recipients of Fr Hans' vision, his encouragement and his support. When we are unsure, we ask Fr Hans – his advice is prudent and wise. When we lack courage, we ask Fr Hans and he helps us speak our truth. When we are criticised, we ask Fr Hans and he helps us find ways through the difficulties. He understands how to companion – he has never dominated; he walks beside us and accompanies us on the journey.

I know I speak for the entire, world-wide Chevalier Family when we say thank you, Fr Hans, for all you have done for us.

We wish you a restful retirement and we assure you of our ongoing prayerful support and gratitude.

Alison McKenzie on behalf of the Chevalier Family.



WELCOME TO THE NEW SPIRITUAL COMPANION

The Trigenalate 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 together with Fr Hans until the Assembly in Cebu, where she will be welcomed and commissioned.



Sr Merle, a Filipino born in Tarlac in 1968, is a member of the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, an international missionary congregation founded in France in 1874. Prior to joining religious life in 1995, she was a Certified Public Accountant and worked as a manager for Budget and Financial Planning. She made her first profession in 1998.

As a religious, she served her Congregation in the areas of formation and administration. In addition to her training as formator, she also pursued graduate studies and earned a Masters in Religious Studies major in Scripture from the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies writing a thesis on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. She promotes knowing Our Lady of the Sacred Heart as Mother-Disciple of Jesus. In 2011, she was elected to her Congregation's General Council. While at the General Council, she was in charge of formation and the accompaniment of their lay members. She was in this role until September 2022.

In her almost 11 years in their General Council, 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 fulfill 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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TRI-GENERALATE MEMBERS AND FAREWELL TO THOSE WHO ARE LEAVING US FOR OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

On behalf of the world-wide Chevalier Family members, we welcome our new Tri- Generalate members to the International Council. The General Administrations of the MSC Fathers, MSC Sisters and the Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart are very generous in appointing one member of their Leadership Teams to work with and support the Council and all members of the Chevalier Family.

With great pleasure, we introduce our two new members.



We welcome Sr Deborah Reho MSC to the International Council – originally from USA

Sr Deborah has been an MSC Sister for 36 years. She is an administrator/teacher by profession and has been involved in schools throughout the USA and Papua New Guinea. For the past 11 years she has been the Provincial Treasurer and Provincial Counsellor for the USA Province and since November 2022, has been serving on the MSC sisters General Council. Sr Deborah says she is very happy to be the MSC Sisters liaison for the International Laity of the Chevalier Family.



Sr Fabilene Santos Castro FDNsc

I am Sr Fabilene Santos Castro; my name means - **Fabilene** : relic, companionship; **Santos** : sacred; **Castro** : Castle, fortified.

My parents are Joana Maria Santos Castro and Benedito Castro. I have five brothers and two sisters. I am the eighth child. I grew up in a simple, quiet and poor family environment, based on good Christian principles and human values. My parents always made sure that we had a good school education.

I love religious life and my congregation. I try to be attentive to the needs of the sisters and maintain a good relationship with them. I have an open heart for the mission and I have lived with the most vulnerable and the poor. During the time I was in Maranhão, Apicum-Açu and São Paulo, Eldorado, I had the grace to live with and encounter many people who shared their lives, pains, wounds and miseries with me.

Our community developed some social projects to meet the needs of many families; we distributed many basic baskets, clothes, food, toys. We brought joy to many hearts. This gave me immense joy.

I am very grateful to be part of this new Generalate team that is at the service of the Congregation and I thank God who led me here. I ardently desire to learn new languages and at this time, I am learning English.



Thank you to Fr Laurentius Paulus Pitoy msc for his on-going commitment to the Laity of the Chevalier Family as the member from the MSC General Council.

THANK YOU continued.

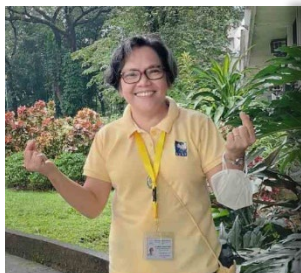


We welcome Sr Bonaventura Kim as the incoming General Superior of the MSC sisters, Sr Marife Mendoza and Fr Mario Abzalon Alvarado Tovar who continue to serve as leaders of the FDNSC and the MSC fathers.

We thank them for their faithful support of our lay family.

With sadness and gratitude, we farewell Sr Merle and Sr Nicola from our International Council and Sr Barbara as General Superior of the MSC sisters.

Thank you to Sr Merle Salazar FDNSC



Sr Merle has been a gift to the International Lay Family. She has journeyed with the European Council and the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family as the Tri-Generalate member since 2012.

Sr Merle has brought a clear and focussed understanding of the possibilities for lay participation within the family. She has guided and supported our work with wisdom and warmth and her enthusiasm has been infectious. Sr Merle is very generous with her time and talents and we owe her a great debt of gratitude for all she has contributed. Sr Merle is currently on Sabbatical leave in the Philippines while she discerns her next appointment.

Thank you to Sr Nicola Sprenger MSC



Sr Nicola has journeyed with the laity and the International Council since 2014.

Sr Nicola has also been a gift to the Laity of the Chevalier Family. Sr Nicola has worked in many different cultures and mission assignments and she has brought a deep understanding of cultural context to our work. Sr Nicola understands how human communities function and her guidance on this and many other aspects of our work has been invaluable. Sr Nicola is living in the mother house in Germany in semi - retirement.

Thank you to Sr Barbara Winkler MSC



Sr Barbara is stepping down from her role as General Superior of the MSC sisters. We thank Sr Barbara for her ongoing support of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.



REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

It is with great pleasure that we present this Report to the entire, world-wide membership of the Chevalier Family, formally present in 39 countries.

We represent different cultures and nationalities; we do not share language or customs, but we are bound together by one thing - and that is, our own experience of the transformation of heart that comes from a belief in and an experience of the love of God as revealed in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In each and every one of us, our hearts burn with a passion to be more fully present to our own experience of God, and to share that encounter with the whole world as a remedy for the ills of the world, and it is this that binds us as a family.

We, as an International Council, have worked very hard over the past six years on many tasks, and every task has been undertaken with one desire - and that is, to participate in sharing Jesus' Heart with the world.

The pages of words that comprise this edition of Encounter of Hearts reflect that work, and we sincerely hope that you will read each section very carefully and undertake the tasks we ask of you, in preparation for the upcoming Assembly.

In overview, we can summarise our work over the past six years under the following headings:

Learning to work together as a Council:

When this Council was elected, we came from Europe, Australia and South America. We did not know each other, we do not share a language and our cultures and customs are very different. We have only been able to meet twice face-to-face. The rest of our work has been done over Zoom meetings and daily email communication with each other. We must all work for our living, we have families and homes we care for and many other voluntary commitments that are close to our hearts. We have learned much as we have gone along, doing our best for our shared mission and along the way we have gained wisdom to share with the next Council. We have invited Peter to join us from Korea and Maria-Olimpia and Olguita have also contributed greatly to our work. We could not have achieved anything without our Trigenalate members Sr

Nicola, Sr Merle and Fr Polce and our Companion, Fr Hans. The whole of this Assembly edition of Encounter of Hearts reflects the work we have done together.

Communication

Previous European Councils, General Administrations and national Provincial Administrations have worked very hard prior to the establishment of the International Council to find ways to connect the world-wide family and to communicate regularly with everyone. Many hours of our work as a Council has been dedicated to further developing our Contact Lists and our means of communicating. There is still much work to be done; sometimes the task seems overwhelming, but please know that every time you reply to a communication our hearts sing. If you are not familiar with our Website and our Facebook page have a look: <https://misacor.org.au/chevalierfamily>.

We write to you three times each year and most years we publish an edition of Encounter of Hearts which we hope that you distribute and discuss with your members. Where we can, we have Zoom or face-to-face meetings with groups or regions. Communication is still our most pressing task.

The new International Council will need to continue this work.

The Distinctiveness of the Lay Charism

We, as a Council, believe that the professed and the laity are interconnected but autonomous, neither above nor below each other. As Fr Hans has pointed out many times, it would have been unthinkable to Fr Chevalier that the mission could have been undertaken without the laity. But, he also understood that the way we live our shared charism is different from the way the professed live. As a Council, we have been working hard to develop language that describes the lay way of belonging to the Chevalier Family. We have invited writing teams from around the world to contribute to this task and the articles we have written are on our website. There is still much work to be completed as we mature and come to understand more fully our identity.

Developing policies and procedures to enable our work:

When we began our work as a Council, we used a document that had been developed by the European Council entitled: *Guiding Principles and Statutes* (2017) to underpin our work. Very quickly, it became apparent that that initial document needed to be amended.

That was done and at the Assembly we will vote on the new guidelines, now entitled: *Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family* (2023). The revised guidelines document is on pages 26 – 29.

In addition, we have also developed several very important Policy and Procedure documents to support our work. These include:

- a paper entitled *Role of and Process for Replacing the International Council Spiritual Companion* – available on request.
- a paper on the voting process for the next General Secretary and the appointment of the next International Council – on pages 36 – 38.
- a discernment process we used to work with the Trigenalate to collaboratively appoint the Spiritual Companion. If you would like a copy of this process, we can send it to you.

Planning the next Assembly of Laity:

We have spent much time planning the upcoming Assembly of Laity in January 2024 in Cebu, Philippines.

The theme of 'One in heart in caring for our common home' reflects the needs of our times and the focus of our work as a Council. We have worked very closely with the Philippines Organising Committee and we are confident that the Assembly will be prayerful, challenging and stimulating and that it will contribute to the ongoing development of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

Later in this Newsletter you will find all the documents we have developed so far in preparation for the Assembly.

Issues for the next Council

1. As we communicate with you, we have begun to see that there is no real clarity or understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the international, national and local organisational structures outlined in the Guiding Principles document.

We have allocated a significant amount of time at the Assembly to discuss the following:

The role of National Councils

The role of the Chair of the National Council.

The role of the Spiritual Companion

The working relationships between National Councils, Provincial Councils and Spiritual Companions

The responsibilities of National Councils to enact the decisions of the Assembly.

The responsibilities of National Councils to support the International Council, according to their means.

You will find discussion papers on each of these topics from pages 30 – 31 in this Newsletter.

The next International Council will be working to implement the decisions of the Assembly regarding our organisational structures.

2. To further embed the commitment of the Trigenalate to implement the directions of *Laudato Si'* and the Declaration from the Trigenalate JPIC committee.

As a Family, we are committed to Ecological Conversion and our responsibility to work at the grassroots level to implement the principles of *Laudato Si'*.

We have allocated significant time at the Assembly to explore this commitment and to make resolutions about ways we can support this urgent need of our time.

REPORT continued.

3. To continue to establish effective communication between our members and to further develop our identity and self-understanding.

Ongoing collection of accurate data from every member country regarding the groups that exist, numbers of members, ways of defining membership and details of National Councils and Spiritual Companions will be a very important task for the next Council.

In addition, we must encourage an awareness amongst our membership, and especially amongst National Councils that prompt replies to our communications are essential to enable us to work efficiently. We have neither the time nor the money to visit our members so digital communication is our only means of contact.

4. The next Council will also need to engage in discussions and reflections about the distinctiveness of our identity as laity to enable the ongoing maturing of our self-understanding.

What we are asking of you:

Please pray for the Assembly.

We are contemplative people; we know that contemplating the Heart of Christ is the foundation for who we are and what we do.

There is a pre-Assembly prayer in this edition – please pray for us.

Please read this edition of Encounter of Hearts.

This Newsletter represents the conclusion of six years' work by this Council.

We ask, as best as you can, that you read the material in this Newsletter very carefully and discuss the issues for voting with your entire membership so the participants at the Assembly can adequately reflect the views of your people.

We can do nothing alone.

For those who are participating in the Assembly – recognise that you represent all your people.

For those who are not attending – recognise that your role is to support your representatives, to participate in the preparation and to cooperate in the implementation of the Assembly decisions.

If you can – join by live-stream or watch what is recorded in your groups. Details about how to connect will be sent later.

In conclusion, we, as the first International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family thank you for your outstanding support and prayer.

We have worked very hard for our shared mission and we offer the incoming General Secretary and International Council our support and prayer.

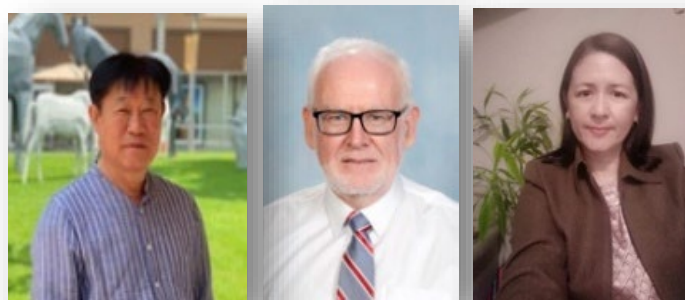
Ametur

Alison, Doris, Rita, Peter, Fr Hans, Olguita, Chris and Maria-Olimpia.



Meeting of the Tri-Generalate and the International Council: Rome, December 2019.

Missing from the photo: Peter, Olguita and Chris.



News from the International Council of the Laity of the Sacred Heart

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere

Dates to Remember:

Asia/ Pacific Regional Zoom meeting:

European Council meeting:
2nd – 4th June in Issoudun

Jubilee year of the 200th anniversary of the
birth of Jules Chevalier celebrations in Brazil:
March

International Council meetings:
25th February and 14th October

MSC General Chapter:
16th September – 7th October
(IC members will be present)

Combined meetings of the Trigeneralate
members, the Philippines Organising
Committee and the International Council:
monthly until the Assembly

Dates to Remember continued:

Fourth Assembly of the Laity:
21st January – 29th January 2024

Closing date for registration to attend the
Assembly:
30th September

Nominations for the position of General
Secretary of the International Council of the
Laity of the Chevalier Family:
30th October

Suggestions for International Council members:
30th October

**Welcome to groups with which we have
made contact or recently heard about Wallis
and Futuna in the Pacific**



New Spiritual Companion

Sr Merle Salazar fdnsc
Email - leyfdnsc.68@gmail.com
WhatsApp and Viber 00 63 8415839

Contact details: International Council members

Alison: alison.mckenzie21@gmail.com
Doris: dmsdoris@hotmail.com
Rita: rit.cleuren@skynet.be
Peter Cheong: petercheong@hanmail.net
Fr Hans: jimkwakman39@gmail.com



Statistical data regarding the members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

In December 2021 we sent a survey to all members in both digital form and hard copy. Not everybody was able to reply but this is the data we were able to extract from the replies we received.

We will update this data at the Assembly and we ask all member countries to come prepared to complete a second survey.

Country País Pays	National Council Consejo Nacional Conseil National	Chair Presidente Président	Number of members Número de miembros Nombre de membres
Belgium	yes	Jozef Bouwens	200 full members plus 100 interested people
England/Ireland	no		10
France/Switzerland	no	Silvie Bargon	
Germany	yes	Maria-Olimpia Klose	23
Italy	yes	Elena Cedrola	29 groups - total approx. 2000
Slovakia	yes	Zuzana Svetilkova	25
The Netherlands	yes	Fr Jan Jetse Bol	18 plus 2 candidates and 3 people interested
United States of America	yes	Marie Pellish and Lyn Ditlow	100 - 150
Indonesia	yes	Mr Hasan Merauke	+/-2000
Papua New Guinea	yes	Dorothy Pion	23 in Port Moresby plus many more in the regions
Australia	yes	Fred Stubenrauch	200
India	no	Thomas Saviour	12
El Salvador	yes		16
Guatemala	yes	Sergio Lopez	40
Mexico	no		46
Paraguay	no		25
Peru	yes	Olguita Garcia Ocampo	10
Philippines	yes	Fr Bernard Corpuz	100
Namibia	no		49
Cameroon	yes		
Democratic Republic of Congo	Yes		
Congo Brazzaville			

FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

21ST – 29TH JANUARY 2024



The logo is an abstract representation of the theme: *'One in Heart in Caring for Our Common Home.'*

The first element is the Hands. The hands in the centre symbolize the unity of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. Facing downward, the hands gives us an image of a dove that is engulfed in flames. The colour denotes the colour of an inflamed heart, reflecting the virtues of love, passion, and care.

The second element is highlighted through the colours Green and Blue. They represent Mother Earth, our common home. Our home is enclosed in the flaming hands to convey that with love and passion, the Laity of the Chevalier Family is committed to care and protect our common home.

The last element is a "Salakot," a symbol of our Filipino culture and identity. It is commonly worn by our farmers in their day-to-day lives, and represents resilience, dedication, and hard work. As members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, we must have inflamed hearts, imbued with commitment and hard work, to become true stewards of God's creation, our common home.

OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE ASSEMBLY:



MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART (MSC)

22 Gilmore Ave., New Manila, 1112 Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. (+63 2) 8721 7776; Tel/Fax: 8721 7760; Email: misacorphilippines@gmail.com

February 03, 2023

To:

4th International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family Theme: "One Heart in Caring our Common Home"

Mabuhay!

RE: LETTER OF INVITATION

May we inform you that the Chevalier Lay of the Philippines will be hosting the **4th International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family this coming January 21-29, 2024** which will be at **Don Bosco Retreat House, Lawaan, Talisay, Cebu City**. There are Four (4) aims of this Assembly, to wit:

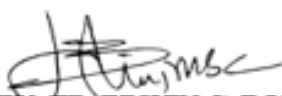
1. Deciding/Discerning together our mission as laity;
2. Enhancing global solidarity;
3. Formation in Spirituality of the Heart;
4. Organizational matters.

In connection with this, I am inviting you to send one or two (or more) of your active members of the Chevalier Lay to the said assembly. The registration fee is one thousand US dollar (US\$1,000.00) which will cover travel expenses from Mactan Cebu International Airport (MCIA) to the Retreat House – vice versa; payment of board and lodging as well as food in the Retreat House, payment of travel for MSC Parish Visitation in Lapu-lapu City, Cebu, Pilgrimage to the Basilica Minore del Sto. Nino de Cebu in Cebu City and payment of translation machine which is needed for the assembly.

It is my hope that you will support this endeavor of our Chevalier Lay as they assemble together to continue to discern their role as the Third Branch of the Chevalier Family being collaborators and partners to the mission to spread the love of God that Fr. Jules Chevalier gave to us.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere, now and forever!

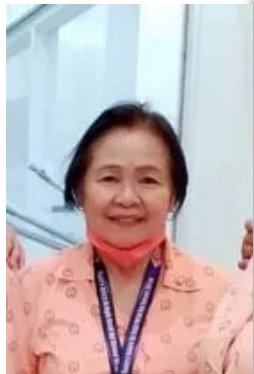
In Corde Jesu,


REV. FR. EDWIN C. BORLASA, MSC
Provincial Superior
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
Philippine Province



INTRODUCTION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINES ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair



My name is Debbie Mellijor. I was born and raised in the province of Bohol in the town of Dimiao. I am married with two children, both in medical professions. My husband is a retired sailor.

I was educated at St. Nicholas Academy then pursued my college education at the University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu City to obtain a degree of Bachelor of Science, Major in Accounting. I worked with International Pharmaceuticals as Internal Auditor and moved to Pilipinas Kao, (a Japanese Corporation) as Head of Business Processing Group.

Armed with a spirit of volunteerism, I started to work in our parish, Nuestra Señora de Regla Parish National Shrine as Cluster Coordinator then became a VP of the Parish Pastoral Council and by the grace of God, sat as the President of the Parish Pastoral Council.

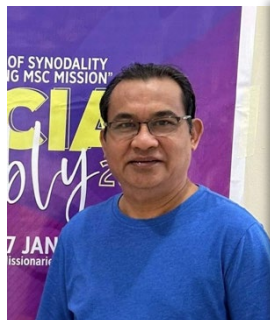
I was invited to attend the Orientation about the Life of Fr. Jules Chevalier in 2006. His life inspired me with his sense of mission, charism and spirituality. My interest to learn more about this 'Man with a Mission' captivated me and I loved his passion for sharing with others his love and zeal for the Heart of Jesus.

I was elected in an Ad Hoc Committee as District Coordinator of Chevalier Family Lay Associates and later, modesty aside, became the National Coordinator.

I travelled to different districts covered by the mission areas of the MSC and DOLSH. I was fortunate also to have attended the 3rd International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in Sao Paolo, Brazil with our Spiritual Companion.

With a deep dedication to God and inspired by the virtues Fr. Jules Chevalier instills in me, I always pray to God that I could share his spiritual legacy with others as workers in the Lord's vineyard.

Spiritual Companion



My name is Fr Bernard 'Bong' Corpus MSC and I am the Spiritual Companion of the Chevalier Family Laity in the Philippines. It is a joy to be with our Chevalier Laity guiding and helping them discern their unique role in fulfilling the mission of Fr Chevalier. The laity in the Philippines are eager to host and welcome all the participants in the fourth International Assembly of Laity in Cebu City, Philippines.

Liturgy Committee



My name is Victoria B. Ballios and I am the Lay Chair of the Liturgy Committee for the upcoming Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

I encounter the hearts of others through serving my family, my church and marginalised people - especially young people. I have become more compassionate as a result of encountering the Heart of Jesus in those I serve.

Finance Committee



My name is Bienvenida M. Usog. I am a married woman and I am the Lay Chair of the Finance Committee. I have studied Accounting at university and I use my finance skills to help with parish ministry. Since 2001, I have served in the role of Parish Pastoral Council secretary, treasurer and auditor. I currently manage the finances of both the local and international group.

INTRODUCTION continued

Registration Committee



My name is Ana Aleth L. Doce and I am a College graduate. I am married. I have been a Parish Pastoral Council Assistant Secretary between 2001 – 2005 then Secretary until 2007. I was the Gun-ob Cluster Coordinator from 2011 – 2015 and since 2015, I have been the Parish Communication Chairperson and the Procession Committee member. I have been a CFLA member for 19 years.

Food Committee



I am Ermenita Pogado, the incumbent Co-ordinator of the CFLA, Cebu district, Cebu. I am an active server in our church of Nuestra Senoran de Regla Parish National Shrine in Lapulapu City, Philippines.



Transport Committee



I am Nicanor Calumba at your service. I am in charge of the transportation committee during the 4th International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. I have been an active Chevalier lay member in Cebu City since 2017. At present I serve our parish as an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist.



Accommodation Committee



I am Rochel Silfavan. I have been a member of Chevalier Family Lay Associates since 2009 emulating the spirituality and charism of Fr Jules Chevalier and actively participating in the CFLA activities for almost fourteen years. As a formator for ten years, it has been quite a great challenge for me to persevere and continually live out the Spirituality of the Heart as Father Jules has inspired us to do. I have also been a partner in mission of the MSC Fathers in the parishes where I have rendered my service as a Finance person attending to the general accounting, preparing financial reports, staffing and human relations. Currently, I am the Parish Pastoral Council Secretary of Nuestra Senora de Regla Parish and National Shrine, one of the MSC Parishes in LapuLapu City. I am also one of the Board Members of the Nuestra Senora De Regla Multipurpose Cooperative, a cooperative within the MSC jurisdiction and a finance Staff of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Marigondon, LapuLapu City administered by MSC.

PREVIOUS ASSEMBLIES OF THE LAITY



PREVIOUS ASSEMBLIES continued.



Ways we are trying to ensure as wide as possible participation in the Assembly by all Chevalier Family members all around the globe.

Digital Signage of the Chevalier Family

In order to reduce our impact on the environment, we ask that you do not bring pamphlets, merchandise or other materials to advertise your country and the work you are doing. Instead, we intend to showcase the activities of as many member countries as possible through the use of digital signage. Please prepare a short 2 – 3 minute slideshow of images, text and/or video and we will inform you later about the file type and the address to which to send it.

Live-streaming of the Assembly

While it will not be practical to live-stream the whole Assembly, we will live-stream significant events throughout the Assembly. We will notify you shortly of the links and the times for these live-stream events.



4TH
INTERNATIONAL
ASSEMBLY
OF THE LAITY OF THE
CHEVALIER FAMILY
CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

Prayer in preparation for the International Meeting of the Lay Chevalier Family, 2023.

Theme: One in Heart in Caring for Our Common Home.

In the coming weeks and months many delegates from many countries will make their way to Cebu, Philippines, to make decisions that will strengthen, promote and connect our community and deepen our Spirituality of the Heart.

This Assembly is happening in a world marked by many crises: pandemics and diseases; increasing hunger and poverty; people fleeing from human rights violations in their countries; disrespect for minorities; hatred and violence leading to wars; and endless suffering.

Our Mother Earth is being plundered and violated and we are recognising that we are all interdependent and interconnected.

Our institutional Church is often more concerned with its structures and maintaining its power.

The Spirit of Jules Chevalier, on the other hand, was filled with the LOVE that is God revealed in Jesus Christ. This LOVE unfolds its power when we let it flow through us. It becomes visible and tangible in and through us and in all people who carry goodness and mercy into the world, no matter what their origin, religion or conviction. We are connected, just as Jesus taught us in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Thus we pray:

You great LOVE, lover of all living things,
Creator of all life,

Most Sacred Heart, who walks with us
and works in our midst

Let us, with all the love of which we are capable,
help each other and the world to live.

Strengthen our community.

Give us a heart full of breadth and trust,
a heart full of compassion and mercy.

Let us perceive your divine presence
in the heartbeat of Mother Earth.

So we pray, who are children of heaven and earth.
Amen.

Elisabeth Hartmann – Germany

ASSEMBLY THEME

Fourth International Assembly of the
Laity of the Chevalier Family in Cebu,
Philippines

General Assembly theme: One in Heart
in Caring for our Common Home

General Assembly scripture: The Good
Samaritan. Luke 10;25-37

Synopsis of General Assembly theme:

This General Assembly, scheduled for January 2024 will occur in the midst of troubled times. These times will be viewed through the lens of Spirituality of the Heart as the remedy for the ills of our time.

The shared experiences of 2024 may well include:

- the consequences of a global pandemic that may or may not yet be controlled;
- an urgent imperative to find ways to live sustainably and justly on the earth for the earth's peoples;
- a loss of hope in the face of inequality, injustice, violence, over-consumption and greed.
- and more ...

The reality of the pain and suffering of the world and the possibility of hope and healing that can come through Spirituality of the Heart will be woven into the Assembly program.

Our hope is that as a result of the Assembly, participants go home more deeply formed in Spirituality of the Heart and better able to be the Heart of Christ in their own communities.

The phrases that make up our Assembly theme are drawn from Pope Francis' encyclicals *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*, which together offer a road-map for humanity to face the challenges of these times.

The Assembly content will draw upon these two important documents. One in Heart reminds us that we are one in the Heart of Christ. This oneness does



not happen automatically - it must be worked towards. The content of the General Assembly must allow for the diversity of experiences of life and of Church and a variety of understandings and expressions of Spirituality of the Heart.

We begin as separate hearts and leave 'Heart-Bonded' as One Heart to carry out our mission to care for our common home.

Heart, in Spirituality of the Heart, draws us to our belief in Jesus' compassionate Heart that reveals God's unconditional love for every human being and all of creation. Belief in, or an experience of God's unconditional love is what transforms our own hearts and is the remedy for the ills of society.

Our prayer is that God's loving presence will draw each person deeper into their own hearts, in an encounter with our God of love, an encounter that offers renewal and transformation.

The mission of the laity is to live our lives undertaking our obligations, and to be people of deep contemplative prayer, while at the same time looking for every opportunity to go beyond those commitments to be a source of kindness, understanding, compassion, mutual forgiveness, gentleness, humility and simplicity to those we encounter.

In other words, the mark of our lives is to try to live our whole life in a spirit of family, and thus, to be a source of hope and healing to the world. This is our shared mission.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF THE ASSEMBLY

We ask all member countries and participants to the Assembly to familiarise themselves with the Operating Principles and to adhere to these Principles.

In particular, we ask that participants refrain from bringing trinkets or small plastic items to be given away to the Assembly.

Later in the year, we will be asking for digital signage of activities in member countries to showcase the culture, spirituality and mission of all our members. This will form an ecologically sustainable way of sharing our very different cultures.

Environmental Responsibility:

Consistent with our commitment as laity to *Laudato Si* and to the Chevalier Family Declaration we agree that:

as far as possible the Assembly be environmentally responsible – e.g. no single use plastics, paper cups, no give away trinkets, responsibility with paper ...

Prayerfulness

We acknowledge that we cannot do anything but for the grace and presence of the Spirit and we will ensure that the preparation for the Assembly and our time together will reflect the prayerfulness required to enable the Spirit to be active.

Reflection of the diversity of membership

As far as possible there needs to be a balance of presenters that reflect both lay and professed, male and female, regional and cultural diversity and differing ecclesiologies – being careful to ensure that lay voices and expressions have a significant place in the program.

Ensuring as wide a participation as possible

We recognise that the Assembly is for the whole of the global family and that the participants stand in for, and represent, the entire family. Thus, we must ensure that:

- we work very hard to ensure that as many countries as possible are represented in person.
- the pre-assembly preparation and formation is for all laity (eg a formative edition of Encounter of Hearts) and connects the whole family (including the professed) to the Assembly.
- participants recognise that they stand in place of their people and their professed branches and perhaps could be symbolically and ritually confirmed as the representative of the group in national gatherings next year. They are also challenged at the Assembly to take the commitments made in the Philippines home to their respective countries.
- We utilize Zoom and other digital technology to transmit the Assembly globally so as to include those not physically present.

AIMS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

We intend to invite an Evaluation of the Assembly at the end of the gathering. One measure of our success will be the level to which the Aims of the Assembly have been achieved.

Further, the Aims, and the components of the Program designed to fulfil the Aims, can be used by National Councils in member countries to evaluate the success of their gatherings.

There are four Aims that will direct the Assembly program:

1. Deciding/discerning together our mission as laity
2. Enhancing global solidarity
3. Formation in Spirituality of the Heart
4. Organisational matters

The components of the program that will assist in successfully achieving these Aims are:

Deciding/discerning together our mission as laity

- Opening keynote address
- Workshops: Role of National Councils, Chairs of National Councils, Spiritual Companions, characteristics of mature groups
- Sharing resources
- Election preparation and process
- Regional meetings, planning and sharing
- Highlighting environmental and interpersonal responsibilities
- Determining the goals for the International Council for the next six years

Enhancing global solidarity

- Conviviality and meeting others; forming relationships
- Further developing communication channels – Email/ WhatsApp communication, Facebook, Website, Encounter of Hearts, 3 X per year, accurate communication lists. reports and letters from International Council
- Participation in and contribution to Mission Outreach projects
- Pilgrimage and parish visits – Philippines
- Heightening our understanding of interdependence and connection
- Keynotes and workshops on *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tuitti*

Formation in Spirituality of the Heart

- Keynote: Spirituality of the Heart
- Prayer and liturgy that deepen experience and understanding of Spirituality of the Heart
- Pilgrimage and parish visits – Philippines
- Sharing at a personal level.

Organisational matters

- Discussion and Acceptance of Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family document
- Discussion and commitment to financial responsibilities of National Councils
- Responsibility of National Councils to share information and communicate with International Council.
- Defining the role of national Spiritual Companions
- Clarifying the role of Chair of National Councils
- Clarifying the role of National Councils

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT THE ASSEMBLY

Sr Merle Salazar: FDNCS – Philippines



Sr Merle has been a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for nearly 25 years. Originally from the Philippines, her mission assignments have included teaching, formation and administration. Her main field of study is Marian Theology, with a special focus on Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Sr Merle has served two terms of the General Council of the Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart and is currently on Sabbatical Leave in the Philippines. While in Rome, Sr Merle has journeyed with the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family as one of the Trigeneralate representatives since 2012. Sr Merle will offer a keynote address entitled: *One in Heart in Caring for our Common Home*.

Rita Cleuren – Belgium



Rita is unmarried, the second of seven children, and her family is the foundation of her life. She is a Social Worker. Since 1970, Rita has been working as a volunteer in DISOP, a recognised Belgian NGO that supports projects of the Belgian MSC in Brazil. In 1989 she became a member of the Belgian Council of Laity and member of the MSC commission 'Justice, Peace and Wholeness of Creation' and in 1999, a member of the International and European Lay Council. She believes that Father Jules Chevalier saw the laity as an indispensable link in his life's work. She sees him as a prophet and a revolutionary, whose vision has much to offer the wider institutional church. Rita will present a Keynote address entitled: *The journey to the Heart always leads to a journey back out into the world..*

Hans Kwakman MSC



Following his ordination in 1963 and completion of his theological studies, Fr Hans lectured theology and other subjects for 25 years at the High School of Theology in Indonesia, followed by seven years as Provincial Superior. Fr Hans served for 15 years as a staff member of the Cor Novum Team in Issoudun. From 2015, he has been involved as a Spiritual Companion to the International Council of the lay movement within the Chevalier Family. Currently, he is a retired member of the Dutch MSC Province in Tilburg, the Netherlands. His interest continues to be in deepening and spreading a Spirituality of the Heart. Fr Hans will present a Keynote address entitled: *Spirituality of the Heart as reflected in Laudato Si' and Fratelli Tuitti*

Bonifacio Dano - Philippines



Bonifacio Dano is a former seminarian of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC). He was elected as the first Chevalier Family Lay Associates National Coordinator. Boni believes that being a member of CFLA is an opportunity to proclaim God's love and through his little ways, to give remedy to the ills of our times. In the last 30 years, he has served as Parish Pastoral worker helping in the formation and the building and strengthening of the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC). He is also a member of the Parish and Diocesan Family and Life Apostolate. Boni will present a keynote address entitled: *Spirituality of the Heart – a remedy for the ills of our time*.

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOME OF
THE FACILITATORS AT THE
ASSEMBLY

Aidan Johnson - Australia



Aidan Johnson is a member of the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. He has been teaching science in Catholic schools for over 10 years. Aidan believes that Science and Religion go hand in hand to answer the big questions in life. Aidan has visited Kiribati a number of times on student immersion trips and to offer teacher training to the I-Kiribati. It is here that he has seen the impact of climate change on the I-Kiribati and their land, and the important role of education for everyone. Aidan established and runs the Heartworks MSC Young Adults Community and manages social media platforms for the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

Aidan will present a workshop on *Practical Ways of Embedding Laudato Si' principles into our Lives and Groups*.

Maria-Olimpia Klose – Germany



Maria-Olimpia Klose was born in Barcelona (Spain) and grew up in Berlin (Germany). She is married and a mother of three now adult children. She works at day care in a primary school. She has a contemplative orientation, and she has been a member of the Chevalier Family for ten years attending a group in Duisburg (Germany). The holistic way of Spirituality of the Heart offered to members of the group provides a wide space for inner growth.

Maria-Olimpia has also participated in the work of the International Council offering wisdom and translation.

Maria-Olimpia will participate in a workshop on the *Formation of Effective Groups*.



Image: Gemma Farrugia

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION BY VOTE AT THE UPCOMING ASSEMBLY



We ask all National Councils and Local Country groups to lead a discussion with their entire membership about the following documents in preparation for voting in the Philippines.

It is very important that all members are aware of the significant matters that will be discussed and voted upon at the Assembly.

- The revised Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family.

- The Roles of:

National Councils

National Council Chairs

Spiritual Companion

- Financial Responsibilities of National Councils.



1st January 2023 – to be accepted by the members in the Philippines.

GENERAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTIONS OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

After being reviewed and accepted by the General Assembly, the final text of these amended Guiding Principles and Organizational Directions will be made available to the National Councils and local lay groups.

In the Manuals, this “Guiding Principles and Organizational Directions” document may be elaborated and specified in accordance with the local situation and cultural needs. However, faithfulness to the spirit of the Guiding Principles and adherence to the Organizational Guidelines is requested.

PART I: CONTENTS of the GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Identity of the Laity of the Chevalier Family
2. Charism and Spirituality of the Heart
3. Mission
4. Formation
5. Resources.

1. The Identity of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

We, the lay members of the Chevalier Family, are a communion of people, animated by a Spirituality of the Heart, which has its roots in the Holy Scriptures, as envisioned by Fr. Jules Chevalier and faithful to the charism he received and shared with others.

Together with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, we belong to the Chevalier Family, and share the same Charism, Spirituality and Mission with various religious congregations that were founded by or through the inspiration of Fr Jules Chevalier, or were inspired by a Spirituality of the Heart.

GUIDING PRINCIPALS continued.

2. Charism and Spirituality of the Heart

We believe that Jesus' compassionate Heart reveals God's unconditional love for every human being and all of creation. Belief in, or an experience of God's unconditional love is what transforms our own hearts and is the remedy for the ills of society.

We draw strength from the pierced Heart of Jesus as a source of new life and the birthplace of a new world.

We trust in the Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus Christ to love people unconditionally with a human heart. We also believe that the same Spirit enriches our hearts with gifts of love, gratitude, joy, courage and faithfulness, as well as respect for every human being and creature.

In Mary, honoured as "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart", we discover a mother who guides us to the Heart of her Son, and forms us in living a Spirituality of the Heart.

Our motto is: "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere."

3. Mission

We participate in the mission of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the world, and are committed to live and spread a Spirituality of the Heart, taking as a model the Heart of Jesus Christ.

Jesus was concerned about people and cared for their needs. His Heart went out to them, and he took action accordingly. In him we experience that God has a heart for us too. He calls us and sends us to be God's Heart in today's world. Our commitment to him and to his mission gives our lives meaning and purpose.

In our personal relationships, professional occupations and social engagements we try to make visible and real God's love and compassion, while paying particular attention to our sisters and brothers who are poor, excluded or treated unjustly.

4. Formation

To answer our call to mission, we need formation. This is a life-long, process that leads to an integration of Spirituality of the Heart into every aspect of our lives.

New members will be offered an initial formation program, and permanent members an ongoing formation program. By allowing ourselves to be formed by the experiences of daily life and by prayerfully reflecting on them in the light of the Gospel and our Charism, we are providing an opportunity to be constantly renewed. Formation should not be a burden, but an incentive to live a Spirituality of the Heart joyfully.

5. Sources we draw on

- the Word of God by reading and reflecting on the Holy Scriptures;
- writings from the tradition of the Church, Papal Documents and other publications reflecting a Spirituality of the Heart as lived especially by the laity;
- our understanding of the charism given to Jules Chevalier as entrusted to us through his life and writings and the development of these through the writings of others;
- personal and communal prayer;
- the support of a group whose members try to live a Spirituality of the Heart.

PART II: ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTIONS

Organisation

The communion of lay members of the Chevalier Family consists of members who are related to any of the Congregations founded by or through the inspiration of Fr Jules Chevalier or inspired by a Spirituality of the Heart.

Some members are committed to live a Spirituality of the Heart as individuals, and other members are committed to live the same Spirituality while belonging to one of the local groups within their country.

Local Country Groups

Each Local Country Group:

- is free to organise its local administration according to its needs and customs;
- may develop its own program, while respecting the Guiding Principles and Organizational Directions;
- will accept the accompaniment of the National Council of the Chevalier Family in the particular country, if there is one already or in the absence of a National Council, the accompaniment of the religious Congregation to which the local country group is related.

The National Council

The National Council relies on the support and collaboration of the Leadership of the Chevalier Family Congregations in each country for its establishment.

As far as it is possible, the National Council will consist of one or more representatives of the local administration(s) of the Lay Group(s) in the country, together with one or more officially appointed representatives of the Leadership of the Chevalier Family Congregations present in that country.

GUIDING PRINCIPALS continued.

The tasks of the National Council include:

- acknowledging the leaders and their plans and collaborating with them;
- encouraging and supporting ongoing formation of the members in a Spirituality of the Heart;
- ensuring that each local group has a spiritual companion, lay or religious, who practises and promotes a Spirituality of the Heart.
- supporting collaboration of the administrations of the Local Country Groups with the wider Chevalier Family;
- promoting the continuous presence of the laity of the Chevalier Family in a country, even when congregations founded by or through the inspiration of Fr Jules Chevalier are no longer present in the country concerned;
- sending, if possible, at least one (1) representative to the General Assembly, preferably appointed by the National Council.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is a meeting of representatives of National Councils or local groups from the different countries where members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family are present. It is called and organised by the sitting International Council. It deals with matters of a general nature that have relevance to all participating groups. Upon the agreement of those present, decisions made by the General Assembly are binding on the International Council and all National Councils and local country groups.

The membership of the General Assembly is made up of the following persons:

- Members of the International Lay Council.
- 1 (One) representative of each country;
 - In countries where there is a National Council, this representative is sent by the National Council. Each National Council will decide how this representative is chosen;
 - In countries where there is no National Council, this representative is one sent by the Local Country Groups. The Local Country Groups will agree among themselves how this representative is chosen;
- other participants who would like to attend.

The following members of the General Assembly have the right to vote:

- One official representative of each country present at the General Assembly;
- Every member of the International Council.

A person is elected and matters are determined, preferably by consensus or by a simple majority of votes; this means 50% plus one of voting members present and participating in a particular vote.

The term of office for the General Secretary and the Council members is for the 6 (six) years between Assemblies.

The General Secretary and Council members may serve no more than two terms of 6 (six) years, consecutive or not.

The General Assembly will come together every 6 (six) years.

The tasks of the General Assembly include:

- reviewing the general situation and circumstances of the Laity of the worldwide Chevalier Family;
- reflecting on and deepening their understanding of the Spirituality of the Heart and how it is lived;
- evaluating the functioning of the sitting International Council;
- reviewing and making amendments to these Guiding Principles and Organizational Directions;
- electing the General Secretary who will then choose the members and form the International Council;
- making recommendations to the newly elected International Council, including suggestions regarding the host country for the following General Assembly, to be held after six years.

The International Council.

The International Council is the international coordinating body of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. It calls, organizes and presides over the General Assembly. The General Secretary is elected by the General Assembly. Other members of the International Council (at least three people) will be appointed by the General Secretary in consultation with the Spiritual Companion and will endeavour to have a balanced representation of the different groups from the different parts of the world where lay members of the Chevalier Family are present.

The Laity of the Chevalier Family are spread over different parts of the world, the members speak various languages and are from different cultures. The main task of the International Council is to foster unity within this truly diverse organization - a unity founded on the charism and spirituality passed on by Fr Jules Chevalier; and a unity fostered to fulfil the one mission that all members share, that of making known the love of the Heart of Jesus everywhere and forever. It is thus essential that the General Secretary forms a collaborating team whose members represent the richness and diversity of the whole organization.

GUIDING PRINCIPALS continued.

The tasks of the International Council include:

- deciding on the priorities of the Council
- carrying out the recommendations of the General Assembly;
- promoting unity-in-diversity among the various lay groups of the Chevalier Family all over the world, in accordance with these Guidelines;
- ensuring the communication and exchange of information among the various local lay groups in the worldwide Chevalier Family;
- building a contemporary register of suitable formation resources for the local country groups; and making available, through different means, various formation resources;
- promoting, in collaboration with the National Council or local groups of a particular country, the continuous presence of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, even when congregations founded by or through the inspiration of Fr Jules Chevalier are no longer present in the country concerned;
- calling a General Assembly every six (6) years, and prepare its program in collaboration with the National Council of the country which will host the General Assembly;
- two years before the next General Assembly, the International Council will draw up the official list of countries where there are active members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. Countries with “active members” are those with National Councils or local country groups that regularly respond to communications from the International Council. Based on this list, invitations are sent for each country to send one official representative to the General Assembly;
- keeping in regular contact with the Tri-Generalate for evaluation and planning.

Spiritual Companion

The International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family affirms the absolute importance of the presence of Spiritual Companions to the work of the International Council and to the work of the National Councils as well as, in support of the ongoing development of understanding of the role of laity within the Chevalier Family and in their formation.

We hope that the ministry of Spiritual Companions comes to be seen as one that is crucial ministry by Provinces.

The Tri-Generalate

The General Administrations of the three Congregations related to Fr Jules Chevalier and founded during his lifetime are collectively called the Tri-Generalate. They accompany the Laity of the Chevalier Family, directly, through their regular collaboration with the International Council, and indirectly through the provincial/regional/union administrations of the three Congregations in the different countries and the individual members of the Congregations who are appointed as spiritual companions of the lay groups.

Membership

Membership in a Local Country Group of the Laity of the Chevalier Family is possible for everyone who would like “*to grow in love*” (Chevalier) and to live a Spirituality of the Heart, according to the charism as expressed in the above mentioned Guiding Principles. They may also be accepted by a local country group and/or the National Council as eligible for membership. Each National Council or local country group will determine their criteria for acceptance.

Membership of a Local Country Group and a National Council to the communion of the Laity of the Chevalier Family is established through regular communication with, and financial contribution to, the International Council.

Finances

Each local country group determines how to raise the necessary funds to cover its own operating costs. It is ideal that every member of a Local Country Group take responsibility for and make a financial contribution to his/her own Local Country Group.

In the same way, each National Council determines how to raise the necessary funds to cover its own operating costs. Ideally, each Local Country Group contribute to the costs of the National Council.

The International Council is dependent on the financial support of the National Councils and Local Groups in the different countries. It is hoped that contributions are made to help cover the expenses of the members of the International Council in exercising their task.

The amount of the financial contributions by individuals, Local Country Groups or National Councils, is based on the capacities of the members and the groups in the respective countries.

The Role of National Councils and National Council Chairpersons

There appears to be a lack of clarity amongst member countries about what exactly is the role of the National Council and their Chairperson. Significant time will be allocated to discussion of this issue at the Assembly and we ask that all members read, reflect and discuss amongst yourselves your understanding of these roles in your country.

The following document is an excerpt from the revised Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions for the Laity of the Chevalier Family document.

PART II: ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTIONS

Organisation

The communion of lay members of the Chevalier Family consists of members who are related to any of the Congregations founded by or through the inspiration of Fr Jules Chevalier or inspired by a Spirituality of the Heart.

Some members are committed to live a Spirituality of the Heart as individuals, and other members are committed to live the same Spirituality, while belonging to one of the local groups within their country.

Local Country Groups

Each Local Country Group:

- is free to organise its local administration according to its needs and customs;
- may develop its own program, while respecting the Guiding Principles and Organizational Directions;
- will accept the accompaniment of the National Council of the Chevalier Family in the particular country, if there is one already, or in the absence of a National Council, the accompaniment of the religious Congregation to which the local country group is related.

The National Council

The National Council relies on the support and collaboration of the Leadership of the Chevalier Family Congregations in each country for its establishment.

As far as it is possible, the National Council will consist of one or more representatives of the local administration(s) of the Lay Group(s) in the country, together with one or more officially appointed representatives of the Leadership

of the Chevalier Family Congregations, present in that country.

The tasks of the National Council include:

- acknowledging the leaders and their plans and collaborating with them;
- encouraging and supporting ongoing formation of the members in a Spirituality of the Heart;
- ensuring that each local group has a spiritual companion, lay or religious, who practises and promotes a Spirituality of the Heart;
- supporting collaboration of the administrations of the Local Country Groups with the wider Chevalier Family;
- promoting the continuous presence of the laity of the Chevalier Family in a country, even when Congregations founded by or through the inspiration of Fr Jules Chevalier are no longer present in the country concerned;
- sending, if possible, at least 1 (one) representative to the General Assembly, preferably appointed by the National Council.



The Role of Spiritual Companions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family

The role of Spiritual Companion to members of the laity is another issue that will be discussed at the Assembly in the Philippines, with the intention of writing a document that outlines the scope of this role. It is intended that the document developed at the Assembly can be used by National Councils and Provincial administrations as a guide to their appointments.

The Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions for the Laity of the Chevalier Family states:

The International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family affirms the absolute importance of the presence of Spiritual Companions to the work of the International Council and to the work of the National Councils as well as, in support of the ongoing development of understanding of the role of laity within the Chevalier Family and in their formation.

We hope that the ministry of Spiritual Companions comes to be seen as a crucial ministry by Provinces.

The Website Homepage describes the interrelationship between laity and religious as:

The Chevalier Family consists of professed members from the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, as well as other professed groups and many thousands of lay people from 36 countries.

The laity have a very important place within the Chevalier Family sitting alongside the professed members. This was always the vision of Fr. Chevalier for an interconnected operational structure.

At the international level, the governing body of the Laity of the Chevalier Family is not considered to be underneath the professed members, it serves alongside the governing bodies of the professed. This is also the vision at the national and local levels and is a work in progress.

The professed and laity are interconnected, each with its own autonomy. This is Synodality in practice. The Laity of the Chevalier Family fulfils a need in people's lives who are called to a lay vocation. This need arises from a desire in people to deepen their spirituality as Catholics and to live their lives committed to following Jesus by living a Spirituality of the Heart as expressed by Jules Chevalier.

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 own hearts and at the same time enables us to participate in the healing of creation.

The International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family and the Trigenalate administration have developed a document that outlines: *The Role of and*

Process for the Replacement of the Spiritual Companion to the International Council.

He/she will offer formation and guidance to the members of the International Council, particularly in the area of a Spirituality of the Heart and its practical implications, through his/her presence at digital and face-to-face meetings and international gatherings, as well as offering wise counsel and support, as requested and needed by the International Council.

Personal Attributes:

Given the importance of the role of Spiritual Companion, the following personal attributes are desirable to undertake the role:

- expertise in and an authentic passion for a Spirituality of the Heart;
- an understanding of contextual theology and ecclesial protocols;
- energy, passion and a vision for the possibilities of the Lay Vocation;
- time and availability to fully engage with the role of Spiritual Companion, even though the role is not a full-time position;
- an understanding of a variety of cultures and a capacity to communicate in several languages, ideally, particularly a capacity in both English and Spanish;
- good technological and communication skills;
- an appreciation of the joys and challenges of the lay lifestyle.

The process for Appointment:

Important and fundamental guiding principle: the process for appointment be collaborative between the Tri-Generalate and the International Council of the Laity, and that the Role and desirable Personal Attributes to undertake the role be seriously considered.

The process includes conversations between the International Council of the Laity and the Tri-Generalate representatives to discuss a role description and a process for appointment that is suitable for both groups.

The appointment will be formalised with a letter of appointment that includes the role statement, length of appointment and an accountability statement.

TWO PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE ROLE OF THE SPIRITUAL COMPANION

1. Fr Michael Fallon MSC – Spiritual Companion to the National Council of the Laity in Australia and co-founder of the lay movement in Australia.



As members of the Chevalier Family, called to be on earth the Heart of God, each of us is graced to be a Spiritual Companion to the Priests, the Brothers, the Sisters and the Lay Members of our family.

I happen to be writing this reflection on December 29th 2022. Today's Gospel offers us an excellent example of a Spiritual Companion: the old man Simeon. Luke has Joseph and Mary doing what was expected of all parents: they take their new-born child to Jerusalem to consecrate him to God. 'Prompted by the Spirit, Simeon came to the Temple, and when the parents brought the child Jesus 'to do for him what the Law required', Simeon took the child into his arms' (Luke 2:27-28). He recognised the child as the one who would be a light to the pagans and the glory of Israel. He saw also that the child would be rejected, and a sword would pierce his mother's soul. Simeon acted and spoke in obedience to the Spirit that moved his heart, and so he was the heart of God for Joseph and Mary. 'They stood there wondering at what was being said about their son.'

Some of us in the Chevalier Family have had the privilege of many years of formation in the Spirituality of the Heart. For others, the call has been more recent. We can be tempted to compare our vocations and to think that one vocation is better than another. This, of course, is wrong. The most beautiful way to live is to follow the promptings of God's Spirit as we strive to carry out God's gracious will for us. Each person has a

unique grace, a unique way of listening to God, a unique way of opening our hearts to welcome a share in the love that fills the Heart of Jesus, a unique way of allowing Jesus' heart to reach out to others through us. Saint Paul expresses this well when he writes: 'I live no longer I. It is Christ who lives in me. The life I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God, loving me and giving himself for me' (Galatians 2:20). He knew that the faith he had in

God, in people and in himself was a sharing in the faith of Jesus. He believed that Jesus was loving him and giving himself for him, It was this belief that inspired Paul to be a Spiritual Companion to everyone he met. This is what the Risen Jesus wants of each of us. We are called to believe in the love of the Heart of Jesus for us and for everyone we meet. This is the call to be on earth the Heart of God.

It is likely that some groups, especially in the beginning, may want to call on someone with a longer history of commitment to assist in establishing a rich foundation for the group's prayer-life and mission. This can be a very appropriate desire, so long as we keep in mind, as has already been stated, that the Risen Jesus wants every one of us to be a Spiritual Companion who is graced to be the Heart of God in the world by enriching everyone to be in touch with and trust the promptings of love of Jesus' Heart dwelling in us and working through us. Each person has a unique way of loving, a unique and precious way of being on earth the Heart of God.



2. Sr Geradine Doherty FDNsc— after ministering for 20 years at Cor Novum in France (1996-2016), Gerardine then completed a Doctor of Ministry program at CTU, Chicago (2017-2020). She is currently Director for Clergy Formation in the Diocese of Townsville, North Queensland.



A Reflection – The Role of Spiritual Companion in the Chevalier Family

Father Chevalier's dream "to have an association of lay people closely united with the professed members in their spirituality and mission" (MSC Constitutions, 1877) is flourishing today around the globe. Alleluia!

Wherever you are in the world, this "dream," now a growing reality, is a relationship in process - a relationship primarily between professed members of the Chevalier Family with its lay members. In each country, and like all relationships, overtime, this relationship should ideally journey through different progressive phases - from a period of dependence to independence to interdependence. As expressed in the "Joint Communiqué" of the Tri-Generalate and Coordinator of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, 2009: "religious are encouraged to continue to devote time and energy to the formation of the laity," while it is hoped that "more and more laity themselves will become formators for lay members of the Chevalier Family".

Depending on what phase this relationship is at in your particular part of the world, the role of spiritual companion may appear in different forms. At times a spiritual companion may well be an advisor, at other times a formator, sometimes a prayer companion or animator of faith-sharing, while again a spiritual companion may be one who accompanies a particular discernment process. But always, a spiritual companion will be one 'walking with' the other/s, listening to the heart of the other/s, to the heart of God and to the heart of the world ~ a companion on the

journey towards integration and wholeness. Such an image is graciously synonymous with Jesus' own view of mature discipleship: "I call you friends" (John 15:15). It is also in complete harmony with the lived expression of 'Synodality' ~ Pope Francis' vision for the Church and more so, what he believes to be God's call for the entire Church today. There is no doubt that the ministry of spiritual companions is in keeping with the Holy Spirit's leading throughout the Church and, in particular, there is no doubt it is essential for the flourishing of the global Chevalier Family.

Whether the scenario for spiritual companionship is one-to-one or one-to-small-group or even one-to-large-group, the following process may be worth consideration and, where appropriate, adapted:

- ✚ Spend time gathering the 'threads of life' - return to one's heart after being 'on mission.'
- ✚ Enable the human heart to encounter the heart of God - break open **THE** story ~ listen **to** and share the experience, the question, the feelings, the fragmentation; the longing/desire of the heart; ... Listen **for** and share God's response.
- ✚ Surrender to the invitation of transformation that emerges from this sacred encounter ...
- ✚ Be in communion with God, with one another, with creation ... in order to "become what you receive" (Roman Missal, 28th August, St Augustine)
- ✚ Return to the world ~ affirmed, refreshed ~ hearts ready to evoke the Reign of God, to re-engage with God's presence in life: to live God's mission!

Such a process for spiritual companionship is, of its essence and overall flow, Eucharistic in character - gather to listen to the Liturgy of the Word as it breaks open in the midst of life. An authentic disciple's response to God's Word is surrender, transformation (Offertory; Liturgy of the Eucharist). 'Oneing,' to use the mystics' word, is the experience of Communion, the living expression of Jesus' prayer, "may they all be one" (John 17:21). Such an experience of 'oneness' inspires moving out once more, in active participation with God's mission as it is encountered in life's circumstances (Dismissal). And so, the process continues, and deepens.

Such spiritual companionship is beyond culture, beyond language, beyond borders. Such spiritual companionship is universal ~ AMETUR ~ Be on earth the heart of God!

Gerardine Doherty, OLSH

Townsville, Australia
February 2023.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NATIONAL COUNCILS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

The Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family require that the work of the International Council be supported by contributions from National Councils.

Finances

Each local country group determines how to raise the necessary funds to cover its own operating costs. It is ideal that every member of a Local Country Group take responsibility for and make a financial contribution to his/her own Local Country Group.

In the same way, each National Council determines how to raise the necessary funds to cover its own operating costs. It is ideal that each Local Country Group contribute to the costs of the National Council.

The International Council is dependent on the financial support of the National Councils and Local Groups in the different countries. It is hoped that contributions be made to help cover the expenses of the members of the International Council in exercising their task.

The amount of the financial contributions, by individuals, by Local Country Groups or by National Councils, is based on the capacities of the members and the groups in the respective countries.

To date, only the European Council and the Australian Council has contributed to the work of the Council.

Motions to be discussed at the Assembly.

1. We agree that we have a responsibility to support financially the work of the International Council.
2. A motion that outlines how to determine the level of support according to the means of the country will be discussed and put to the vote at the Assembly.

We ask all member countries to discuss the issue of financial responsibility with their members before the Assembly.



NOMINATION OF AND VOTING FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARY AND POSSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

All National Councils or representative bodies in a country are invited to participate in the nomination and voting process for the next General Secretary and for members of the International Council.

Nominations are invited for possible candidates to stand for election as General Secretary.

Nominations are invited for possible members to be appointed to the International Council.

Each member country will have one vote for the position of General Secretary at the Assembly of Laity in the Philippines to be held in January 2024.

We ask all member countries to engage in a process of prayerful discernment with ALL their members about who best will fill these positions in the months leading up to the Assembly.

To assist in this preparation, please read carefully the following documents:

The revised Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. (pages 26-29)

The Voting Process document for the position of General Secretary and for the appointment of International Council members. (pages 35-38)

The role statements for General Secretary and International Council (pages 38-40)

The Nomination Form for the role of General Secretary (page 41)

The Nomination Form for the role of International Council member (page 41)



VOTING PROCESS FOR THE POSITION OF GENERAL SECRETARY AND THE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Approved: International Council
28th November 2023.



Introduction:

The process for selection of the next General Secretary of the International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family will be undertaken in a prayerful spirit of discernment that will permeate the nomination of potential candidates by member countries, the consideration of those candidates and the final selection by a ballot at the Assembly of the Laity.

The process for selection will be a discernment process that recognises that the choice is for the common good of the whole of the Chevalier Family and is not based on personal or national preference.

Spirituality of the Heart understands discernment as the process of entering into our own hearts, becoming aware of what is happening, mindful of the intrusion of personal preference, and listening deeply for God's prompting. Spirituality of the Heart recognises that God guides us through the movements of our hearts and when our hearts are open, we allow ourselves be motivated more by God's promptings and less by our personal preferences. We believe that God speaks in and through what we experience in our own hearts.

We also understand that discernment is a communal process. It is about listening beyond what I am hearing to what we, as a body gathered at the Assembly, are hearing. We are not listening as individuals or as countries but as a 'heartbonded group' listening together. Therefore, countries will not come to the Assembly ready to promote their candidate but to participate as a whole body, in listening together.

The requirements of the Chevalier Family for the term of the appointment and the skills and attributes of each candidate to fulfil these requirements will be considered as a part of this discernment process.

1. Preparation for voting:

1. The international Council will write a Summative Report as a part of the Feast of the Sacred Heart mailout in Encounter of Hearts, 2023.

The Report will reflect on the needs of the laity, the issues that the next Council will need to address as well as the major achievements of this Council.

This could help the discernment of suitable candidates to fill the roles required by a new Council.

2. Included in Encounter of Hearts will be some information on the process of discernment that can be drawn upon to assist in the major decisions of the Assembly, including the election of the General Secretary. National Councils will be encouraged to explore the material in their countries, so those who attend the Assembly have an understanding of the place of prayerful discernment in decision making.

3. Encounter of Hearts will also outline:

- The voting process,
- The Role Statement from the amended Guiding Principles and Organisational Statutes document,
- The skills and attributes required to undertake the role,
- A clear explanation of the time demands of the role.

VOTING PROCESS continued.

2. Nominations:

Shortly after the publication of Encounter of Hearts, we will invite member countries to reflect upon and discern suitable candidates to nominate for the role of Secretary General and the role of Council member. The communication will also include some direction about how to engage in a discernment process in the countries.

Those nominations are sent to the Spiritual Companion by a specified date, around October 2023.

The invitation to nominate will include a Role Description, such as:

- The Role of the International Council: Revised General Guiding Principles document (pages 38-40)
- and a list of personal attributes and necessary skills. (pages 38-40)

It is anticipated that the Regional Coordinators will be actively engaged in this part of the process.

Nominations must include a biography that outlines the contribution of the nominated person to the Chevalier Family and a Statement of Acceptance from the nominee that includes the reasons for accepting the nomination.

3. Announcement of names of those nominated for the position:

Soon after the closing of the time for nominations, the Spiritual Companion will send out a communication naming the nominated candidates. That communication will include the biography of each candidate, as well as the statement of acceptance and the reasons for accepting the role from each nominee. The communication will also include

some direction about how to engage in the second phase of the discernment process.

Sharing at the Assembly from those nominated for the position of General Secretary.

Nominated candidates will be introduced personally on the afternoon of Day 3, but they will not be invited to speak in support of their nomination.

It will also be possible to nominate further candidates from the floor of the Assembly.

Appropriate paperwork will be included in the Assembly Booklet and will be due to the Spiritual Companion by lunch time on Day 3.

4. The voting process:

This will be four step process:

- A. The Report on the future needs of the lay movement will serve as a guide to the decision about the best person to be elected as General Secretary.
- B. Candidates will be introduced but will not be invited to speak personally. This will help the electors discern the best person for the role.
- C. The vote will be conducted by an impartial facilitator and two scrutineers. Electors will be asked to stay together, scrutineers will be introduced. Scrutineers will distribute the ballot papers and collect and count ballots. Ballot papers will be destroyed after the election.
It will be a secret ballot.
Election will be by a simple majority (ie 50% plus one of the electors present). If a clear majority is not obtained in the first ballot there will be a second round of voting.
- D. The successful candidate will be announced to the Assembly and upon acceptance, will be declared elected.

VOTING PROCESS continued.

5. Tenure

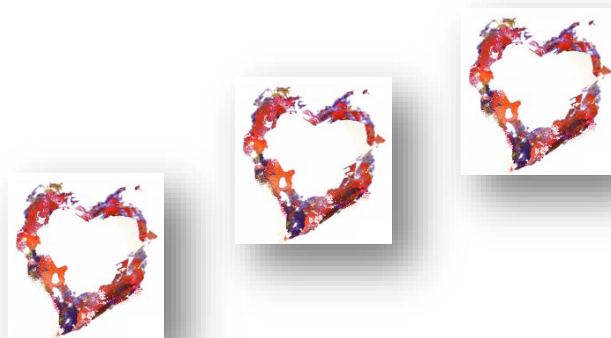
The current General Secretary will remain in the role until the induction of the new General Secretary at the final Eucharist and may, if required, continue in an advisory capacity for an initial period of time. It might be good to have a transition of 3-6 months where the previous General Secretary is available to help with the transition. The role will be for the period of time between Assemblies.

6. Selection of a Council

The Spiritual Companion and the General Secretary will consider the nominations and decide on a Council best suited to meet the needs of the laity over the next six (6) years.

Ideally, there will be one member from each continent – but it may not be so.

The Deputy will be chosen from the Council members by the Spiritual Companion and General Secretary.



ROLE STATEMENT AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (from the Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions)

The International Council is the international coordinating body of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. It calls, organizes and presides over the General Assembly. The General Secretary is elected by the General Assembly. Other members of the International Council, at least three (3) people, will be appointed by the General Secretary in consultation with the Spiritual Companion and will endeavour to have a balanced representation of the different groups from the different parts of the world where lay members of the Chevalier Family are present.

The Laity of the Chevalier Family are spread over different parts of the world, the members speak various languages and are from different cultures. The main task of the International Council is to foster unity within this truly diverse organization - a unity founded on the charism and spirituality passed on by Fr Jules Chevalier and a unity fostered to fulfil the one mission that all members share, that of making known the love of the Heart of Jesus everywhere and forever. It is thus

essential that the General Secretary forms a collaborating team whose members represent the richness and diversity of the whole organization:

- deciding on the priorities of the General Secretary;
- carrying out the recommendations of the General Assembly;
- promoting unity-in-diversity among the various lay groups of the Chevalier Family all over the world, in accordance with these Guidelines;
- ensuring the communication and exchange of information among the various local lay groups in the worldwide Chevalier Family;
- building a contemporary register of suitable formation resources for the local country groups; making available, through different means, various formation resources;
- promoting, in collaboration with the National Council or local groups of a particular country, the continuous presence of the Laity of the

ROLE STATEMENT continued.

Chevalier Family, even when congregations founded by or through the inspiration of Fr Jules Chevalier are no longer present in the country concerned;

- calling a General Assembly every 6 (six) years, and prepare its program in collaboration with the National Council of the country which will host the General Assembly;
- two years before the next General Assembly, the International Council will draw up the official list of countries where there are active members of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. Countries with “active members” are those with National Councils or local country groups that regularly respond to communications from the International Council. Based on this list, invitations are sent for each country to send one official representative to the General Assembly;
- keeping in regular contact with the Tri-Generalate for evaluation and planning.

From: General Guiding Principles and Organisational Directions for the Laity of the Chevalier Family pages 26 – 29.

Skills and Attributes required to fill the role of General Secretary

The suitable candidate must:

- be able to form and work with a multi-cultural team;
- be proficient in a variety of communication technologies and platforms, ie WhatsApp, email, FB Messenger - to cater for different countries' preferences;
- be proficient with digital technology, Cloud storage and transfer of data;
- be prepared to reply promptly as most communication is digital and delays in replying impede the completion of the work;
- have a basic understanding of English as English is the language used by the General

Administrations and by the majority of members;

- understanding this role will require significant personal time.

In order to carry out these tasks, the current International Council has found the following organisational structures and role distribution to be useful:

1. The Council elected in Brazil in 2018 has found that a good way to undertake these responsibilities is to divide the laity into regions and to appoint one Council member to oversee that region and report regularly to the Council.
2. All major communication comes from the General Secretary on documents that are signed and have the official logo attached. Supplementary communication can be undertaken by the regional co-ordinator ensuring that other Council members are included in that communication.

Organisational Responsibilities of the General Secretary are:

- to create a cohesive working team with the appointed members of the Council;
- to recognise and accommodate cultural and language differences and to actively seek ways of working with these differences to create a harmonious team;
- to maintain comprehensive records of the work of the Council and a set of archives that include minutes of meetings and major decisions to ensure smooth transitions from one Council to another;
- to communicate regularly with the global LCF, responding to current situations and always looking for formation opportunities for the wider family;

ROLE STATEMENT continued.

- to communicate, on behalf of the Council, with the three representatives of the Tri-generalate and with the Spiritual Companion;
 - to determine the skills and interests of Council members and to share responsibilities with the members;
 - to enable the Deputy to assume the responsibilities of the General Secretary, when asked and to assume full responsibility for some of the above tasks, according to interest and skills;
 - to oversee the finances of the IC and to ensure appropriate bookkeeping and auditing processes are in place.
- Responsibilities of Council members are:
- to be the link between their region and the International Council;
 - to communicate from the IC to their regions; supporting initiatives and requests from the Council and updating the Council on issues in their regions;
 - to be available, wherever possible, for all conference calls and face-to-face meetings of the Council;
 - to keep up to date with the workings of the Council – reading and responding to emails, WhatsApp messages etc;
 - to ensure that the central data base is accurate and includes the names of National Co-ordinators and Spiritual Companions for all countries in their regions;
 - to maintain a balance between national and international duties, recognising that our responsibility as an International Council is the international family wherever they are and whatever branch they originate from.

Responsibility of the Spiritual Companion of the IC:

- the Spiritual Companion will offer formation and guidance to the members of the Lay Council, particularly through their presence at digital and face-to-face meetings and international gatherings, as well as offering wise counsel and support;
- the Spiritual Companion will actively promote the vision for the laity within the Chevalier Family to professed and lay groups, when on visitations to various countries, and also, through supportive communication with the leadership of the professed in different countries. This communication is best undertaken in collaboration with the International and National Councils of the Laity;
- the Spiritual Companion may also be able to offer assistance in forming Religious Companions to work with lay groups so that this becomes a recognized and as an important ministry for Provinces.



NOMINATION FORM
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY
OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

Name of nominator:

Date of nomination:

Name of nominee for the position of General
Secretary:

Country of membership:

Biography of nominee (please outline contribution of
the nominee to the mission and ministry of the Laity
of the Chevalier Family in their country and the skills
and attributes they possess to undertake the role)

Please attach a Statement of Acceptance from the
nominee that outlines their reasons for accepting the
nomination.

Signature of nominator:

Signature of nominee:

Date:



NOMINATION FORM
MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF THE
CHEVALIER FAMILY

Name of nominator:

Date of nomination:

Name of nominee for the position of International
Council member:

Country of membership:

Biography of nominee (please outline contribution of
the nominee to the mission and ministry of the Laity
of the Chevalier Family in their country and the skills
and attributes they possess to undertake the role)

Please attach a Statement of Acceptance from the
nominee that outlines their reasons for accepting the
nomination.

Signature of nominator:

Signature of nominee:

Date:

PREPARATION FOR THE ASSEMBLY

The content of the Assembly program is entirely focussed on various aspects of formation in Spirituality of the Heart. Our charism is not one that is comprised of 'holy words and actions'. It is a way of living and loving that offers the possibility of hope and healing replacing apathy and self-interest.

'The phrases that make up our Assembly theme are drawn from Pope Francis' encyclicals *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, which together offer a road-map for humanity to face the challenges of these times. The Assembly content will draw upon these two important documents. 'One in Heart' reminds us that we are one in the Heart of Christ. This oneness does not happen automatically; it must be worked towards. The content of the General Assembly must allow for the diversity of experiences of life and of Church and a variety of understandings and expressions of Spirituality of the Heart. We begin as separate hearts and leave 'Heart-Bonded' as One Heart to carry out our mission to care for our common home.

We invite all participants and all who are supporting from home to spend some time, perhaps while flying to Cebu, reflecting on the connections between *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti* and Spirituality of the Heart.

The quotes and links will serve as a reminder of our responsibilities towards each other and to our common home, and we encourage you to explore them before the Assembly.

FROM THE WEBSITE:

The meaning of the logo:



"The use of green, signifying hope, encircles the central image and symbolically reflects creation, in which we live and from which we are sustained. Spirituality of the Heart recognises that creation powerfully reflects a God of life and relationship and reminds us, as laity, of our sacred task to commit to the preservation and protection of the creation from which all life comes. This understanding is enhanced through the depiction of our name within the circle of creation and by the flame of our charism pointing directly to our name. This clearly identifies the place of the laity within the Chevalier Family as a group that is distinct, yet completely connected to the common vision."

The statement of identity on the Homepage:

'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 own hearts and at the same time enables us to participate in the healing of creation.'



FR HANS' ONLINE COURSE SECTION 52 – 70 FOCUS ON SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART AS REVEALED IN *LAUDATO SI'*

You can access the Online Course by the following links:

English

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AmTqno0pbTh7j-hSKe-PUNR3gwxddg?e=GVOkzd>

Dutch

https://1drv.ms/u/s!AmTqno0pbTh7j-sP-IR3MSO_KBScgA?e=P44AK6

French

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AmTqno0pbTh7j-kj3l4gAxAk5YTk5g?e=CvghOf>

Spanish

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AmTqno0pbTh7j-lzYYlgJ91KJDUHcg?e=jh8ifY>

German

https://1drv.ms/u/s!AmTqno0pbTh7j-o_WnrOXoRQ0xCzUQ?e=PifabG

You will also find the Online Course on the website under Resources/Formation/Spirituality of the Heart – Online Course.

The course can be Google translated into many languages on this site.

The following excerpt is from Section 52 and offers a summary of the main themes. The final prayer comes from *Laudato Si'* and is reproduced in Section 70. Section 52

SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART IN 'LAUDATO SI': SOME CENTRAL THEMES Hans Kwakman msc

In Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* certain themes keep recurring. These show that the care for our common dwelling, the planet earth, is grounded in spirituality. David Cloutier, whom I also quote in the Reflection, mentions some central themes. I will briefly summarise his contribution.

Everything is interconnected. For the Pope this is the core of a healthy spirituality. Our spiritual life, our prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist should not be separated from our daily life, from caring for the world around us and for God's whole creation.

Everyone is connected. This forms the heart of our Christian faith: the human family is one, we are all brothers and sisters of each other and live in a common home. The Covid-19 pandemic makes this painfully clear once again.

The crisis in which the world is currently immersed cannot be resolved by purely technical measures. The solution to the crisis requires a conversion of the heart and a deepening of our relationship with God, with each other and with creation. Together with the Son, Jesus Christ, we are all sent to accomplish the Father's creative work. Under the inspiring guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are called to make this world a better place to live for everyone.

One of the things we thus need to do is to develop *a new way of living and interacting with one another*. The "throwaway culture" must make way for a culture of care and sustainability. This will also enrich us spiritually and deepen our relationship with God and with one another.

The earth is "our sister" and our "common home". These metaphors serve to express that we are responsible for our planet, as for our family members and for our own home. Planet earth is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be admired in joy and gratitude.

Moreover, the Pope repeatedly stresses that there is a close relationship between *the crisis facing the world and the widening gap between rich and poor*. The care of our common home needs, above all, to benefit the poor and the needy.

Section 70

"A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH"

*"All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.*

*Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.*

*Fill us with peace,
that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one.*

*O God of the poor, help us to rescue
the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and
destruction.*

*Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.*

*Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly
united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.*

*We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace."*

(Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* n. 246)



SONGS AND REFLECTIONS

The following songs will be used during the Assembly.

Participants at the Assembly may wish to purchase 'I Thank my God' and 'Woman of the Sacred Heart' from the Australian MSC Music site.

<https://misacor.org.au/works-and-ministries/msc-music/msc-music-about>

I Thank My God

... 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.

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

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 Thank my God each time I think of you.

And when I pray for you, I pray with joy.

... 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.

I Thank my God each time I think of you.

And when I pray for you, I pray with joy.

Frank Anderson msc

Woman of the Sacred Heart

In you our flesh he had to come
You grounded him upon our earth
Your feet that walked, your womb that held
Your pain that brought this love to birth.

The Sacred Heart of him you held
Can grieve and grow within the space,
Of patient love and listening;

A mother's choice o' mystic's grace.

In your delight, in your despair,
The smallest choices of each day;
The cost to you, your hope-filled yes,
Your courage lived shows us the way.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
Eternal sign of God surprise,
In you we know the poor as blessed,
This world transformed before our eyes.

O Woman of the Sacred Heart,
You heard the words of Gabriel.

Pray we may hear the call of God

And come to meet Emmanuel

His truth is witnessed in your face,

That he became and was and is

The Sacred Heart, the resting place;

Our hearts forever held in his.

James Maher msc

Ametur

The Luby setting of Ametur can be viewed on
Youtube at: **Ametur (T. Luby MSC) - YouTube**

Ametur ubiquae terrarum, Cor Jesu
Sacratissimum in aeternum

Thank you:

This edition of Encounter of Hearts would not exist without the hard work of so many people.

Mrs Rosanna Abraham:	Formatting and typesetting
Mrs Gemma Faruggia:	Updating cover graphics
Mrs Anne McAtomney:	Proof reading
Mrs Therese Poulton:	French translation
Mrs Ana San Martin:	Spanish translation

All the other translators who have made this edition accessible to our Family.

The International Council members for their tireless work over the past six years.

The Tri-Generalate members for their guidance and wisdom.

Fr Hans Kwakman – for his extraordinary ability to walk with us, wisely.