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## RENEWAL PROGRAM



3<sup>rd</sup> March – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Thursdays, 1:30pm - 4:30pm

## RENEW – REDISCOVER – REFRESH

### Background

- Ministry is the time when people so often loss their enthusiasm since they are involved in many different ministries. They get busy and so often have not enough time to be with one self, with others and with God. Renewal is an important time for every participant to pose for a while and to look back deeply into their life experiences. It is the time to listen, to discern and to strengthen one’s commitment to religious vocation and the mission of the congregation.
- The title of this renewal program is to “Renew, Rediscover and Refresh”. It is intended to provide some time and structures to help every participant to go back to the source: to the Gospels, to the Charism of the Founder and to the Spirituality of the Heart. It is to rediscover and to reconnect to oneself, to others, to creation and to God, to energize and to recharge.
- This renewal program is provided for the members of the Chevalier Family, “who are in transitions or in need of a change of space away from their typical environment and a busy life of ministry. It is the time for every participant to rediscover the depth and the richness of one’s being and to appreciate more profoundly the graciousness and the beauty of God”.

This renewal program too, is to respond to the needs of the participants for “personal healing since many of them come from contexts that are painful and wounding - like relationships in the religious communities, unresolved childhood issues due to dysfunctional family dynamics, oppressive religious structures,...etc. This is the time to heal and to be restored. The healing can take place as one integrates both the light and the dark aspect of one’s personality and experiences”.

## The objectives of the program

The main goal of this program is to provide some time, space, and structures for every participant to journey into one's own heart and into the heart of Jesus to:

- rediscover the depth and the richness of one's being;
- reflect more profoundly the graciousness and the beauty of the Heart of God;
- heal the hurts and wounds within the self and reconcile oneself with others, with creation and God;
- deepen the intimacy with oneself, others, creation and God;
- strengthen one's religious commitment;
- renew one's commitment to the mission;
- deepen one's commitment to living the Spirituality of the Heart;
- build communities of love for transformation.

## A Frame of Mind

The Charism of the Founder and the Spirituality of the Heart are the main focus in the program for the renewal of the heart of members of the Chevalier Family. The Charism of the Founder specifies three concerns as the three main gifts of the Spirit given to Jules Chevalier, namely: "A Deep Concern for Mankind", "Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the Remedy of the Evils of the Time", and "A Deep Sense of Mission" so as to make known and loved the Sacred Heart of Jesus Everywhere, and to Love With a Human Heart. Moreover, the Spirituality of the Heart recognizes four movements of the Heart. Contemplating these four movements of the heart we come to understand that the first two movements of the heart are a call and an invitation to be rooted in one's own heart and in the Heart of Jesus. The second two movements are a call to reach out to the hearts of others and to the heart of the world. It is a call for the mission.

Further, the first two movements are an invitation to go back to the source of the living water. For in our search for meaning and direction, there is a strong impulse to go down to the depth of our being while gazing upon the Heart of Jesus as the Source of Living Water. Jesus says to the Samaritan Woman: "Everyone who drinks from this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John, 4:13-14). In the second two movements we see the Samaritan woman going in haste back to the city and calls everyone in the city to come and meet Jesus, who has revealed to her the truth of her own self.

This renewal program is for members of the Chevalier Family in ministry. *“The completion of about ten years of perpetual profession, when the risk of life's becoming "a habit" occurs with the consequent loss of all enthusiasm. At this time it seems imperative that there be a prolonged period during which one withdraws from ordinary life in order to "reread" it in the light of the Gospel and the mind of one's founder. Various institutes offer their members such a period of intensifying their religious life, in what is known as the "third year," "second novitiate," "second probation," etc. It is desirable that this time be passed within a community of the institute”* (CICLSAL - DFRI #70). Reflecting on the characteristics of “the target group” for the Renewal Program and the Spirituality of the Heart as the main focus, the image of the prodigal Son in the Gospel of Luke 15:11-32 comes to mind as a powerful image that can help us organize the topics into the four movements of the Spirituality of the Heart.

The First Movement of the Spirituality of the Heart is “to go down to the depths of our own soul in realization of our profound personal needs of life, of love and of meaning”. In the story of the Prodigal Son, as the youngest son goes down into the depth of his soul he realizes his “desires” and “needs” to leave home. His decision to leave the home is to search for his real self, of life, of meaning and direction. He takes courage to approach his father and asks for the share of inheritance to be his. To fulfill the hunger of the youngest son for life, for love and for meaning the father divides his property into two and gives him his share.

The youngest son sells his share and leaves the home of the father with the hope that he could find himself, life and meaning. Yet the attitudes that he develops in dealing with his life and surroundings fail to help him to meet his needs. Instead, he “spends all the money he has to the point of nothing left”. He comes to realize the real needs of himself, of life, love and meaning and direction when he reaches the situation of the dire need of “food and drink” to keep his life going. He decides to “go back to his father’s home”, where he can eat and drink as much as he can.

**Recognizing the real needs and the inner longings of the youngest prodigal son in the participants, Cor Vitae offers topics such as Journaling, Group Dynamics, Intimacy and Affective Maturity, Coming Back Home and Inner Conversion.**

The Second Movement of the Spirituality of the Heart is “to find, through faith and reflection, the answer to our own questioning in the heart of Christ, i.e. in the depth of his personality, where man’s yearning and God’s graciousness meet in redemptive incarnation”. In this stage we look at the decision of the Prodigal Son to go back home. His decision to go back home is based on his deep awareness of the “richness” he could have in his Father’s home. In his real suffering he says to himself: “How many of my Father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger. I will rise and go to my father....”

The youngest son is in dire need for life. But on the other hand, he is also deeply aware of the richness of his father in his home. He decides to go back home at all cost: guilt and shame of whether he will be accepted or not. With the feeling of guilt and shame he has one request: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants” (Luke 15:18-19). In his guilt and shame, the youngest son loses the sense of his son-ship. It needs to be restored. The restoration of the son-ship happens when he meets the father – and in the way the father treats him.

The “Coming back home” of the prodigal son is the most long-awaited time for the father which becomes a very joyful and delightful experience of the Father. In his long wait he welcomes his younger son with a joyful heart. While the son “was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him”. He does not even let his son finish his confession. He immediately says to his servants: “Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost, and is found”. The way the father treats the son is an unexpected experience for the ‘Prodigal Son’. It is a real and deep restoration of his son-ship as the father accepts, clothes and loves him unconditionally. The guilt and shame within the son disappear at once. His sins and transgressions are forgotten. The son experiences a real and deeper healing as he is loved unconditionally by the father.

**Topics that can respond to the needs of the youngest prodigal son in the participants are: Charism and Spirituality of the Heart, Discovering Jesus in the Bible, Getting to know Mary Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and Religious Life in the Memory of Jesus. These topics are intended to bring an inner conversion and reconciliation within the participants.**

The Third Movement is entering into the hearts of others in order to create within the self “an understanding heart, open to, feeling for and giving to our brothers and sisters in Christ”. The crucial point of the coming back of the prodigal son is the acceptance of the eldest brother in the Father’s home. His eldest brother who is very faithful to the father and stays all the time with, and serves, the father in the home is not ready to accept the “coming back home” of his youngest brother. Hearing the sound of music when he comes near the house from the farm, he stops for a while outside of the house and investigates what is happening. And knowing that his younger brother has come back home – he decides not to enter into the house and not to join the celebration. Thus, the father goes out and says to him: “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found”.

In this third movement, the renewal program provides an atmosphere where every participant will experience acceptance and love for whatever they are. For the experience of such love and acceptance will help every participant to reconcile within himself/herself with all the guilt, the shame, and all kinds of self-defense-mechanism that operate within the self. The ability to let go of all the masks will help every participant to reach an inner deeper healing within the self, inner peace and true reconciliation with others. **Thus, topics such as Recognition and Appreciation of Different Culture and Nationality, Managing Differences and Conflict Resolution, and Living With and Among Others are offered.**

The Fourth Movement is “We will not be dis-heartened or discouraged in the face of difficulties, for ‘we follow Christ who loves with a human heart’ and together with Jesus and others we will work whole heartedly for the civilization of love. It is our call to mission.

The ending of the story of the Coming Back Home of the Prodigal Son is untold. It is not clear to us what the final decision of the eldest son is, whether to come into the house and join the celebration or to remain standing outside of the house while the celebration continued to the end. Yet we assume that like the younger son and through the wisdom of the merciful father, the eldest son finally decides to enter and join the celebration. As he enters the home he sees his youngest brother sitting at the side of the father and he too approaches and sits at the other side of the father. His decision to come in and join the celebration would give him several benefits: first, he would experience forever the goodness and the richness of the father in the father’s home; second, by letting himself go into the house, he let go of his negative thoughts and feeling toward his youngest brother; third, he would reconcile himself with the youngest brother and the father as well; fourth, he would live a true new life with the his youngest brother and father; fifth, he would be with others celebrating new life.

**Responding to the complaints and cries within the prodigal eldest son inside the participants Cor Vitae offers sessions such as Integrity in Ministry, Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation, Celebrating Life - Midlife Transitions and Wellness and Self-care.**

### **The New Context: Change of Era**

In this Renewal Program 2022, we are aware of the “change of era”. (“The situations that we are living in today therefore pose new challenges which, at times, are also difficult for us to understand. Our time requires us to live problems as challenges and not as obstacles: the Lord is active and at work in our world. Thus, go out into the streets and go out to the crossroads: call all those whom you find, excluding no one (cf. Mt 22:9). Accompany especially those who are on the roadside, ‘the lame, the maimed, the blind, the dumb’ (Mt

15:30). Wherever you may be, build neither walls nor borders but village squares and field hospitals.” Pope Francis, Speech in Florence, Italy, November 10, 2015).

The call of renewal today asks: What is the human heart yearning for in this time? What are we looking for? The call of rediscovery today invites us again to be where Jesus has always been: with the poor, the abandoned, the oppressed on the roadside, in the fields, in the environment. When we find ourselves with Jesus, in his original place, we will be refreshed: finding the living Jesus, in prayer, in people, in creation. Then we will find new creative energies to love, to build new communities of transforming love, out there where the people and creation are, to rebuild and liberate our common home.

**Thus, the following courses are designed exactly towards this end.**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Resource Person:</b>
<b>March: First Movement</b> 3	Journaling	Sophy Francis msc
10	Group Dynamics	Chris Chaplin msc
17	Coming Home/Conversion	Ben Alfoque msc
24	Intimacy and Affective Maturity	Roger Champoux SJ
<b>Second Movement</b> 31	Charism and Spirituality	Carl Trante msc
<b>April:</b> 7	Discovering Jesus in the Bible	Ben Alforque msc
14	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	Merle Salazar fdnsc
21	Religious Life in Memory of Jesus - The Vows	Diarmaid O’Murchu msc
<b>Third Movement</b> 28	Interculturality	Pernia svd
<b>May</b> 5	Managing Differences/Conflict Resolution	Arsie Lumiquid msc
12	Living with and Among Others (Community Living)	Michael McGuire ssc

<b>Fourth Movement</b> 19	Integrity in Ministry	Chris Chaplin msc
26	JPIC	Ben Alforque msc
<b>June</b> 2	Mid-Life Transitions	Joy Luz rscj
9	Wellness and Self-Care	Ms Daisy Santos

We need to emphasize: People, especially the poor, and Creation in Asia – Pacific Islands – Australia (APA) and other Countries as the place to find the Heart of Jesus. How? - This serves as a reminder to our speakers/resource persons.