



ANNALS FOR THE CHEVALIER YEAR

All throughout this Jubilee Year (from March 2023 to May 2024), we would like to invite you to remember the life, the works, and the words of Fr. Chevalier, and to reflect on what these mean for us today. To help us in our remembering and reflection, we will be sending out reflection pages every 15th of each month. You will receive the first of these monthly send outs with this Annals.

The monthly send outs are based on the excellent book of Fr. Andre Mayor, MSC entitled *Fifteen Days Prayer with Jules Chevalier*. This book is published in French and Spanish. An unpublished English translation is also available.

Use these monthly send outs in your personal and community prayer and reflection. Share them widely with members of our Congregations and with our lay members and lay partners in mission. Share them with students of our schools and with employees of our different institutions and houses. Share them with the youth, those discerning their vocation in life. Share them with as many people as you can.

Through the life and words of Fr. Chevalier, let us make the Heart of Jesus known and loved everywhere. Let us live out Fr. Chevalier's charism and spirituality. Let us fulfill his mission of being God's heart on earth in our world today!

These Annals are brought to you by the Chevalier Year Commission.



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CHEVALIER, IN HIS TIME...

His life: Jules Chevalier was born on the 15th of March 1824 in the small town of Richelieu. Jules was the third child of Jean-Charles, who was a rough but kindly man and Louise Ory, a devout lady. He shares “Soon after my christening, my mother took me to church and dedicated me to the Blessed Virgin and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus” (Personal Notes, 3).

His words: “...It is through love that God created everything; the atom, that nothingness. God loved it with an eternal love just like He loved the angels...” (SCJ 302).

For Fr. Chevalier, “every creature is a word of God” (SCJ 329). In every creature he hears a... “word of love”. And if he wants to improve his knowledge of God, he has to explore everything carefully. His prayer is contemplation and he hears a voice whispering and reassuring: “Do not be afraid... little atom...you are a word of God, a written word... And God would delete this word?...No! God deletes nothing; what God says is well said, and it is said for eternity” (SCJ 303). (from *Fifteen Days of Prayer with Jules Chevalier*, Fr. Andre Mayor, MSC, First Day)

CHEVALIER, FOR TODAY...



In our time, we hear the sentiments of Fr. Chevalier again in Pope Francis when he said “Together with our obligation to use the earth’s goods responsibly, we are called to recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God’s eyes: “by their mere existence they bless him and give him glory” and indeed, “the Lord rejoices in all his works” (Ps 104:31). ... The Catechism clearly and forcefully criticizes a distorted anthropocentrism: “Each creature possesses its own particular goodness and perfection... Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God’s infinite wisdom and goodness. Man must therefore respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things”. (Laudato Si’, 69)

How about you, what do you see when you look at creation? What do you hear when you listen to the sounds of nature?

If we recognize that every creature is “a word of love” from God, how are we called to relate with creation?

Listening to Fr. Chevalier and Pope Francis, how are we invited to care more for the earth, our common home?





PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Loving Jesus,
we are sons and daughters
of Fr. Jules Chevalier, MSC,
a man you have gifted with a heart
burning for love of you and
for the mission of making your
Sacred Heart known and loved
everywhere and forever.

As we commemorate the 200th
anniversary of his birth, we ask you
to give us his eyes, his hands and his
heart. That like him we may see every
creature as created in love. Set our
hearts on fire and strengthen our
hands that we may fulfill our mission
of being your heart in today's broken
and wounded world.

Amen.

