



## CHEVALIER, IN HIS TIME...

### His life:

On December 8th, 1854, shortly after arriving in Issoudun, Fr. Jules Chevalier founded the “little society” of MSC with his companion, Fr. Maugenest. We often find in the writings of Fr. Chevalier, both his private and official letters, the use of the phrase “the little society.” In his Last Testament, in April 1903 he writes: “The Good Lord, in spite of my unworthiness, was willing to make use of me, like an instrument, to found the Little Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart...». “Little” in the sense of that which is of humble origins, “this Society has such a beautiful future, because God has great designs, if it always shows itself great in its modesty and humility.” (*Annales de la Petite Société*, Series I, Opera Jules Chevalier, M.S.C Vol 1, p, VI; *Florilege Chevalier*, 12 Septembre, p. 290). Fr. Chevalier modeled this quality. “...I always saw him as humble, with a simple and frank humility; with a spirit of admirable Christian simplicity, reporting everything to God, giving Him the glory and taking advantage of nothing.” (*TESTIMONY 16, From Father Charles Piperon, MSC, Issoudun, April 2nd, Easter Day 1899.*)

### His words:

“... From the crib to the cross, tenderness and strength are displayed in Him with incomparable brightness. I am the Good Shepherd. All the steps He takes are accompanied by compassion... and His power never leaves Him... (SCJ 200). Fr. Chevalier asked his followers to be kind and humble of heart. By these virtues, they will see their apostolate bear fruit abundantly: “Sheep are led easily, they recognize their Shepherd as well as his voice; they follow him...” (M I 525-526). “What an honor for us to be involved in His work, displaying the same virtues as He” (M I 525). “Learn from me...” says Jesus to his disciples. Fr. Chevalier truly responded to this invitation of Jesus. He embodied it in a spirit of forgiveness to those who hurt him, especially to his own confreres who reported him to the archbishop of Bourges at the time of their suspicions. He loved them all, even promoting one of them to the position of canon of the archdiocese of Bourges. (From *Fifteen Days of Prayer with Jules Chevalier*, Fr. André MAYOR, MSC, Seventh Day).



# CHEVALIER YEAR SEPT 2023

from Fifteen Days of Prayer with Jules Chevalier, Fr. Andre Mayor, MSC, Seventh Day



## CHEVALIER, FOR TODAY...

God's style is closeness, a special, compassionate and tender closeness. The three words that define the life of a priest, and of a Christian too, because they are drawn precisely from God's style: closeness, compassion and tenderness. (Pope Francis, *Address to the Symposium "For a Fundamental Theology of the Priesthood,"* Thursday 17th February 2022). We are called to the revolution of tenderness. "Tenderness is not weakness, it is strength. Tenderness is the love that is close and concrete, it is a movement that starts from the heart to reach the eyes, ears and hands. It is taking care of the other. The tenderness is the language of the smallest, of those who need the other. Tenderness is therefore stooping to the level of the other." (Pope Francis stressed in a video message in Italian, broadcast on 25 April 2017 at the TED2017 conference held in Vancouver, Canada.)

In our relations with others, are we easy to forgive? Or do we prefer to gossip or backbite when we're unhappy with certain people? Remember that: "The tendency to blame, to criticize, to disclose the things in others that one believes to be blameworthy comes from pride, or maybe from secret jealousy, or from wounded self-love, or from ill-disguised hostility." (Jules Chevalier, *M II*, 98).

Fr. Chevalier showed us by his words and example that God's style is not distance, indifference or condemnation. **As members of the Chevalier Family, how can we live out God's style in our relations with others? As parents, pastors or teachers, how do you live out the "Gentle Parenting and Educating" in the school and in the family?**



a man with a heart on fire for mission!

1824-2024

# CHEVALIER YEAR SEPT 2023

*from Fifteen Days of Prayer with Jules Chevalier, Fr. Andre Mayor, MSC, Seventh Day*



## PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Jesus the True Shepherd,  
from the crib to the cross of Golgotha,  
you have always expressed  
the power of your tender love for all people.  
The qualities of your Heart  
inspired Jules Chevalier, our spiritual father.  
He wanted us, his followers,  
to spread the richness of your Sacred-Heart.  
As we commemorate  
the 200th anniversary of his birth,  
we ask you to give us a new heart for the new world.  
Transform our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh,  
so that, like him, we may become  
"your Heart in this wounded world".

Amen.



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