

CHEVALIER YEAR OCT 2023

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



CHEVALIER, IN HIS TIME...

His life:

In this month of mission, we especially remember the 116th anniversary of the death of Fr. Chevalier. He was a man with a mission, until the end of his life. *“Some time before his death, when he was walking with great difficulty, he went to the far end of the town to bid farewell to a poor invalid whom he visited from time to time and to whom he left generous offerings.”* (WITNESS 71, Notes by Father Claude Hériault). The mission, Jules Chevalier expressed in the motto: *“Ametur ubique terrarum Cor Jesu sacratissimum.”* For this mission, after the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC), two women's congregations were founded: the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (30 August 1874) and the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (25 March 1900). Lay men and women also joined the mission in what we now call the *“Chevalier Family.”* To become a good missionary, Fr. Chevalier did not forget to develop the spiritual qualities. *“Despite his immense occupations, he never neglected any of his spiritual exercises... He never went to bed without reciting the rosary. He often did the novena of ‘Memorare.’ In his breviary, I found the ‘Memorare’ novena pamphlet, so worn and greasy: a sign of long and frequent use.”* (TESTIMONY 71, Notes by Father Claude Hériault)

His words:

“... The Eucharist is the commemoration of all the virtues practiced on earth by the Savior: his profound humility, his tenderness, his patience, his obedience, his spirit of sacrifice and immolation, his zeal for his father’s glory, his unquenchable thirst for the salvation of souls, his immense love for all those who suffer” (M II 23). For Fr. Chevalier, our life must be transformed into a daily Eucharist. *“Examine your conscience...Change your ideas for most of them are false and contrary to the Gospels...”* (M I 347). *“Let us never forget that what we possess over and above the necessities, belongs to the poor, this is a law of the Gospel. Beware of squandering it like that farmer in the Gospel... Don’t we often use the superfluous to satisfy our love of luxury, our vanity, our greed, our worldliness, our avarice, or some other failing?”* (M II 157).

(From Fifteen Days of Prayer with Jules Chevalier, Fr. André MAYOR, MSC, Eight Day)



a man with a heart on fire for mission!

1824-2024

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CHEVALIER, FOR TODAY...

“The urgency of the Church’s missionary activity naturally calls for an ever closer missionary cooperation on the part of all her members and at every level. This is an essential goal of the synodal journey that the Church has undertaken, guided by the key words: communion, participation, mission. This journey is certainly not a turning of the Church in upon herself; nor is it a referendum about what we ought to believe and practice, nor a matter of human preferences. Rather, it is a process of setting out on the way and, like the disciples of Emmaus, listening to the risen Lord. For he always comes among us to explain the meaning of the Scriptures and to break bread for us, so that we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, carry out his mission in the world.” (MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2023).

Pope Francis' words have been Fr. Chevalier's dream when he started the little society of MSC. For him forming a network of people (religious priests, diocesan priests, sisters, brothers, laity) to work together in building up the new world is very important. **Have we realized the synodal way of working among members of the Chevalier Family in our workplace?** For a synodal work, we need to avoid the virus of clericalism, because this virus is the root of all abuses in the church and its mission. **We say always that the Eucharist is very important in our spirituality and our mission. How well do we celebrate this sacrament in the diverse circumstances of our daily lives? How do we relate our liturgical celebration of the Eucharist with our devotion to the Eucharist outside of Mass?**



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PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

God our Father,
In the Heart of your Beloved Son,
You show us the infinite richness
of your love for humanity.
Following Father Jules Chevalier,
we see in the pierced heart the birth of a new world.
May his burning missionary zeal inspire us
to be missionaries of Your Son,
with the spirit of faithfulness, gentleness,
humility and self-giving without limits.
By the gift of the Spirit,
you make us "participants and witnesses"
of your love so that the world may believe.
God our Father, your Son has given us,
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, for our Mother.
As she accompanies us with her prayer in our
missions, may we know how to hear your call
to holiness in a renewed way.
We pray this, through Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.
AMEN.

(adaptation of a prayer of the MSC
on the occasion of the General Chapter 2005)



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