

CHEVALIER YEAR NOV 2023

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



CHEVALIER, IN HIS TIME...

His life:

The month of November is traditionally a time in which the Catholic community remembers those who have died. Father Jules Chevalier wrote: *“My mother died on July 19, 1876, aged 86. I loved her very much, but I didn't talk about her much, especially in my letters...”* (L 18730210). Chevalier was in Richelieu, for the summer vacation before the death of his father. His father passed away on August, 20, 1848. Fr. Chevalier described his feelings. *“What a touching scene. I no longer have the strength to go on. My emotion betrays the truth that I tried to hide from you....! Death...does not take long in arriving. But first, the young man had the consolation of seeing his father return to the God he had abandoned and of closing his eyes in the peace of the Lord.”* (“MR 36 *“Plan sur le Cœur de Marie pour le mois de mai”* -Manuscrits sur la Très Sainte Vierge, pp. 44-45). His father's conversion was a powerful moment of grace in Jules' life.

His words:

In his meditation about the brevity of life, Chevalier wrote: *“...death comes quickly. Our days pass with frightful rapidity. Weeks follow weeks, years follow years, without us realizing it, so to speak. Our life is like a vapor that a light wind quickly dissipates... Let's take care, and be ready... We die only once and eternity depends on death, how not to do everything possible to die well!”* (M II 318-321). To die well, we should respond with an open heart to God's invitation (Luke 14:23). *“No one is excluded! Everyone is invited...Come to me, you are entitled to gather at my table... If you are already holy, you will become holier; if you are ill, you will be cured; if you are weak, you will be made strong; if you are cold, you will find warmth; if you are sinners, you will be converted, as long as you respond to my love and bring a true desire of amendment”* (M II 27). (From Fifteen Days of Prayer with Jules Chevalier, Fr. André MAYOR, MSC, Ninth Day)



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CHEVALIER, FOR TODAY...

“Let us thank the Lord that so many men and women are devoted to caring for the poor and the excluded; ...They do more than give alms: they listen, they engage, they try to understand and deal with difficult situations and their causes. They consider not only material but also spiritual needs; and they work for the integral promotion of individuals...Our gratitude to these many volunteers needs to find expression in prayer that their testimony will increasingly prove fruitful.” (MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2023 WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, no 5).

“Our zeal for the salvation of our neighbor must be constant.” (Jules Chevalier, M II 350). In setting up the tents of hope, we can imitate the spirit of Fr. Jules Chevalier. “How many times Jesus has been at the side of the suffering, the sick, the dying, since He made himself available in the holy Eucharist!” (Jules Chevalier, M II 33).

How does the transforming power of the Eucharist flow through me, through us, to the world in which we live? Remember: “in this house of ours, which is the world, everyone has a right to experience the light of charity; no one must be deprived of that light.” (MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2023 WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, no 10).



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PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

God the Father,
the source of our strength,
We thank you,
for you have given us Fr. Jules Chevalier.
He had set a living example for us.
During his life,
he had truly lived the words of Jesus, your Son,
to lead all people to eternal happiness,
in the eternal banquet in heaven.
We pray for many men and women
who are devoted to caring for the poor
and the excluded.
The sacrifice of their lives truly inspires us
to also give of ourselves for others.
Father,
we also remember all the missionaries of the past,
both priests, brothers, sisters and lay people
in the Chevalier Family who have passed away.
May you forgive their sins,
and may they rest in peace with you in heaven.
May they also pray for us
who are still on pilgrimage in this world.

Amen



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