

A Pierced Heart



CHEVALIER, IN HIS TIME...

His life:

Born from a poor family with a hard work ethics in order to survive, Chevalier, must be recognised, in the process of becoming a person and a Christian, always had his feet on the ground. He was incarnated and walked in the harsh reality of his time. Those were difficult years. The ideology of the French Revolution was being imposed and the era of industrialisation was emerging in the West. Everything was changing and many Christian values were disappearing from common life. Jules called this whole negative set of his time: "The evils of our time". Trying to summarise them, he used two words to describe them: selfishness and indifference. And he perceived both attitudes in the socio-economic field as well as in the field of faith. He was pained by their causes and consequences in poverty, marginalisation, slavery and secularism. It was in his student days that he discovered that God, who is Love, was not satisfied with this human suffering. Therefore, he saw in Christ, who loves us with a human and divine heart, the answer and solution to the challenge of his society. God's Love, manifested in the image of his heart pierced by the suffering of his brothers, was a challenge to work for the liberation of the human being: "Whatever you do to a brother/sister, you do to me".

His words:

"Is it not in this Heart where the love which descends towards creation and the love of all creation which goes back to God meet?" (S 88) "His pierced Heart is the last word of God's love, it shows us clearly all that God's love wanted to give us to see and to love" (S 84). "United to Him whose Heart is open for us to enter in order to drink from His fountain of life....". "And in entering into His Heart pierced by the lance, we discover that we are the mysterious complement without which Christ would not be all that He should be" (S 86 - cf. Ef 1,23).



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CHEVALIER, FOR TODAY...

In the new millennium, in this change of era, we cannot deny that there are many 'evils of our times', where selfishness and indifference are increased by new ways that go against the majority of human beings and for the benefit of a few. It is enough to look at our horizon to notice that we continue to trespass the Heart, the Love of God, fully revealed in Jesus of Nazareth. **Like Jules Chevalier, we believe that only love, incarnated and committed, can save the world. In short, if loving is, as St John Paul II said, "putting the you before the self", it is the only way to overcome selfishness and indifference and the suffering consequences of both for the majority of humanity.**



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PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Lord,
You inspired Jules Chevalier
to be deeply moved by the evils
afflicting the people of his time.
We pray that,
as we contemplate the Heart of Christ,
in whom the compassionate love
of the Father is revealed,
we too may discover in him
the remedy for the ills of the world.
Moved by this love
and guided by the Holy Spirit,
may we be witnesses
of his love everywhere.

Amen.

Cf. MSC Constitutions, no. 3.

