

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Date of Foundation: August 30, 1874

Place of Foundation: Issoudun, France

Founder: Rev. Fr. Jules Chevalier, MSC

Date of Arrival in Cebu: December 31, 1999

Vision

We the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Philippine Region, belong to an International Missionary Congregation, who lived the Spirituality of the Heart of Jesus. Our experience of being loved impels us to spread this love to others. Like Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, compassion, expressed in simplicity and hospitality is our distinct mark.

Mission

We show genuine care for one another, for people we serve and our partners in mission the Chevalier Family. We work collaboratively in all areas-vocation promotion, formation, community, leadership, ministry and finance. Convinced of the relevance of our charism, we eagerly promote vocations in witnessing this charism, our lives we attract new members; Formation, enhanced by regular faith life sharing, keep us rooted in the Spirituality of the Heart and enable us to fulfill our missions: May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved! Forever!

Our Heart Spirituality

The special gift that founders of religious congregations have been given, is called a '*charism*'. It is passed on to all who follow them. It includes a unique way of understanding the gospel message and is expressed through the *spirituality* of the congregation.



The charism and the way it is expressed, enriches the Church, the people to whom it is given, and those with whom they work. It gives each congregation its identity, it determines its spirit and its mission in the world.

The gift given to Fr. Chevalier and through him to us, is to see that in Jesus, God loves people with a *human heart*, and that he is the answer to their hopes, their questionings, their every need.

This is the prism through which we today, see and relate to our world.

Fr. Jules Chevalier wrote that '*gentleness and strength appear in Jesus in an incomparably striking way*'. Our heart spirituality calls us to imitate Jesus, so that everyone we encounter will discover through us, the strength of his love to support them in their fragility, and the gentleness of his love to bring them the compassion and understanding for which they long. We are the hands and feet, and especially the heart of Jesus in our world.

Mission

The context of our mission is as wide as the love of the Heart of Jesus. From the very oldest to the very youngest member of our religious family, the passion to be with and for others is alive and aglow in our hearts.

As Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, we are sent to the world of today, not to the world of yesterday and not yet to the world of tomorrow. So, it is essential for us to understand this world, the societies that are part of it, and the social and cultural forces that shape it.

Jesus took flesh and dwelt amongst us. Jesus chose to become like us, to live among us and to remain with us. This is the aspect of Jesus that is so dear to our hearts.

As those committed to continuing Jesus' mission, we too stay close to one another and to the people we serve. We are only evangelizers to the extent that we really encounter the sufferings of

the world. We desire to create a climate of dialogue, of respect for others, of recognition of the rights of all peoples. As an international congregation, we work tirelessly for reconciliation and for peace among peoples.

Our last General Chapter (2005) stated:

We are called

- To develop our understanding of reparation in a world torn apart by violence, enmity between peoples and nations, individual brokenness and the exploitation of the environment, and to renew our commitment to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.
- In our work for social justice, to give special emphasis to HIV/AIDS, refugees, trafficking of women, and the victims of globalization and natural disasters.

Our last Provincial Chapter wrote as its Mission Goal:

As members of an international missionary congregation, to re-affirm our commitment to our mission expressed through our diverse ministries within and beyond our communities. We are open to the Holy Spirit who calls us to present new responses to the new problems and possibilities of today's world, taking into account our current resources, and being free to risk undertaking new ventures with courage and vision, particularly among the poor and marginalized.

Inculturation

Our internationality is more than simply the diversity of nationalities that make up the Congregation. It is also an attitude and a perspective for continuing the mission of Jesus in today's world. An understanding of inculturation is built upon our incarnational theology and spirituality.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, inculturation respectfully recognizes and introduces Gospel values into human cultures. It requires discernment, adaptation, transformation, the witness of love for others and evangelization. It is a way for us to authentically live our charism.

Inculturation asks for

- Adaptation, according to the Gospel, of the religious values, cultures and needs of the local situation in which we are living, and in some areas, a profound transformation of thinking and life style.
- The sensitivity to understand verbal and non-verbal ways of communicating that include gestures, behaviour, meaning, attitudes

- Contemplation of the mystery of God
- Familiarity with God's word
- A great love and respect for people

Inculturation respects the dignity of each culture and the right of cultures to exist. From a religious viewpoint, it respects especially the right of people to make use of their own cultural heritage in worshipping God.

As an example of inculturation, see the images of [Our Lady of the Sacred Heart](#).