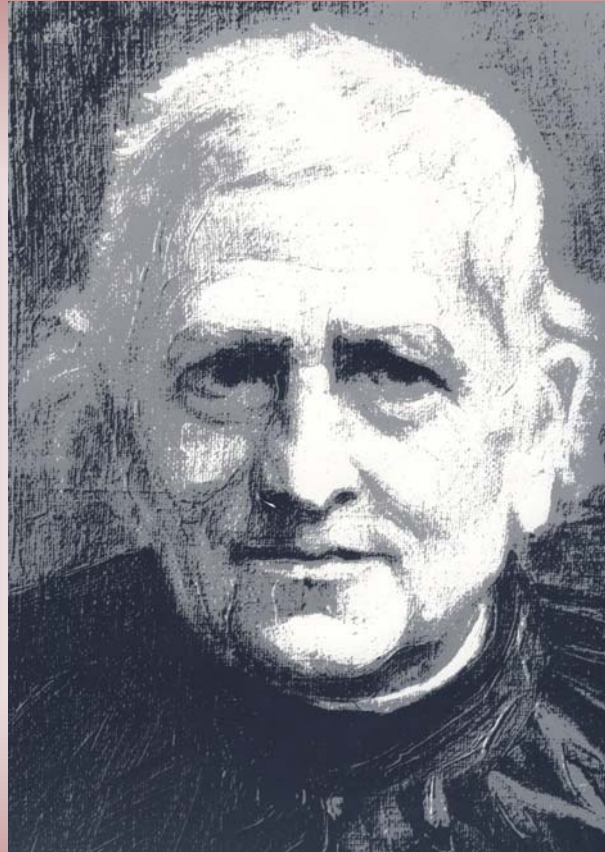


Father Jules Chevalier msc



March 15th 1824 - October 21st 1907



Founder of the...

- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart



- Daughters of our Lady
of the Sacred Heart



- Spiritual Founder of the Missionary
Sisters of the Sacred Heart



Jules Chevalier

- Born on March 15th 1824 in Richelieu
- His father was Jean-Charles Chevalier, his mother Louise Ory.
- Jules was their third child.
- The family was very poor but happy.



Jules Chevalier



was baptized as Jean-Jules the day after his birth in the parish church of Richelieu.

On one occasion his mother left the baby in church in front of a statue of Our Lady. "Take him, if you want, and do with him what you like," she prayed. When she returned, she saw little Jules smiling at Mary.



Jules Chevalier

desired to become a priest, but his family did not have the financial means necessary for studies. Jules took up a trade and became apprenticed to a shoe-maker.

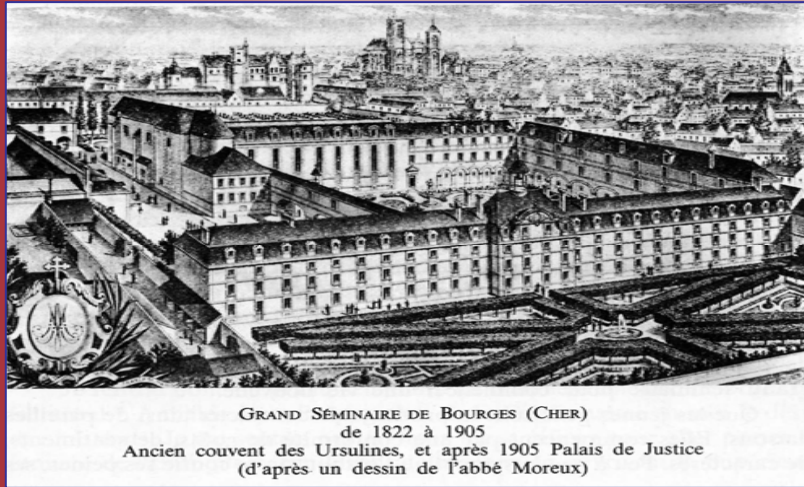


Later on a benefactor heard about Jules and told his father: "I believe that you have a son who wants to be a priest. I shall be happy to take care of his entry into the seminary".



Minor Seminary of St Gauthier

Jules Chevalier



Aged 22, he entered the Major Seminary of Bourges.

While studying Christology, the richness of the devotion to the Sacred Heart suddenly struck him deeply. He saw it as both central to and a summary of the whole of our faith. With some fellow students he founded an association called the "Knights (Chevaliers) of the Sacred Heart".

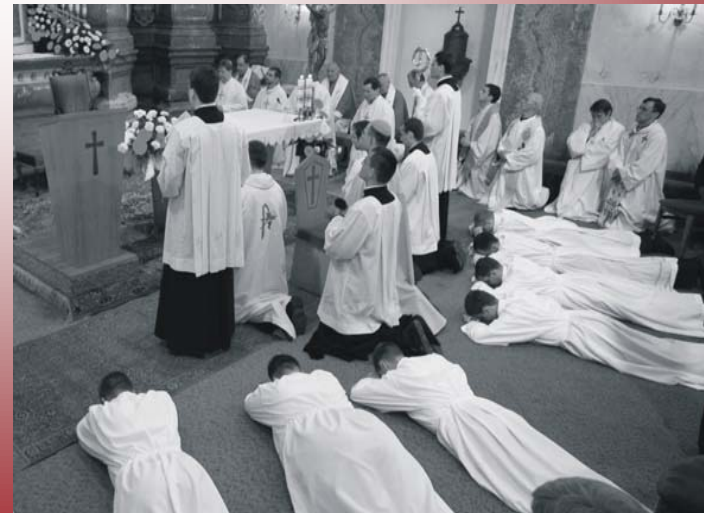




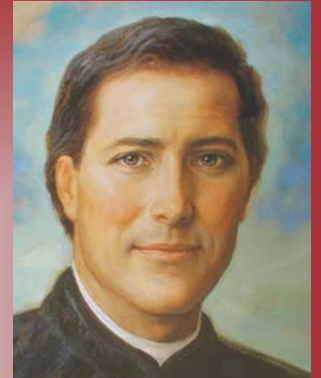
Jules Chevalier



was ordained priest
in Bourges
on June 14th 1851.



Curate Jules Chevalier
receives his appointment
to Issoudun.

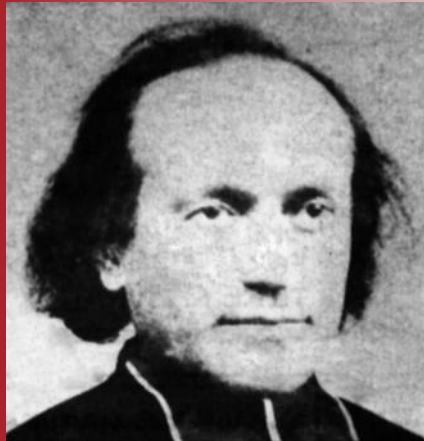




On October 14th
1854 he was
welcomed to
Issoudun by parish
priest Fr. Crozat



and a former member
of the "Knights of the Sacred Heart",



curate
Father
Emile
Maugenest



Church of St. Cyr

The coincidence of finding himself and Emile Maugenest together as assistant priests in the same parish seemed to Jules a sign of God's will that he form a group of "Missionaries of the Sacred Heart".



"Not only do I share your feelings" was Fr Crozat's reaction to the desire of the two young priests, "but I will help you all I can to establish a house of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Issoudun".

Together they decided to make a Novena which would conclude on 8th December 1854.



Fr Maugenest's painting:
two priests praying a novena.

December 8th 1854

A major feast in the world-wide Church and a feast in Issoudun

In Rome: it was the day of the
Proclamation of the dogma of Mary's
Immaculate Conception.



In the parish church St. Cyr of Issoudun:
after the celebration of High Mass, an
anonymous benefactor gave Fr Chevalier
20,000 francs for a house of missionaries.

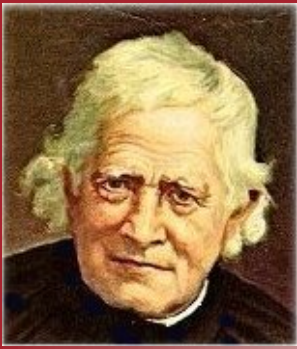
Ever since, December 8th 1854 has been
regarded as the day that the Society of
the MSC came into being.

*"The little Society of the Sacred Heart
is not the work of man but of God!
It came to birth in the Sacred Heart of Jesus
under the powerful protection of Mary."*



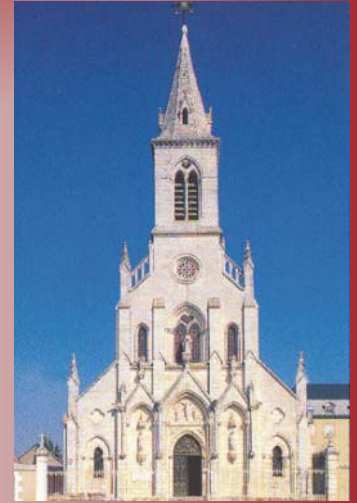
In the year 1857 Father Chevalier gave to Mary,
for the first time, the title

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

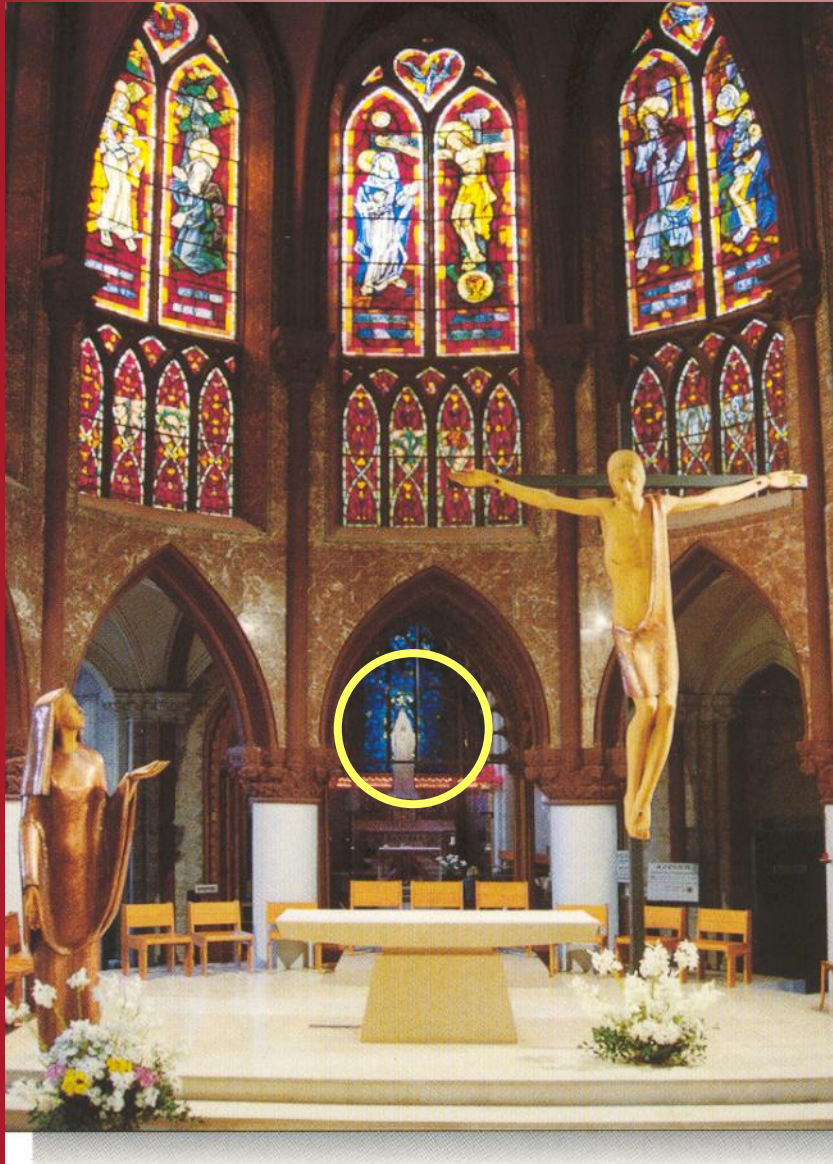


The Congregation grows

- 1859: Beginning of the construction of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.
- 1864: Foundation of the "Confraternity of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart", which 25 years later had 18 million members, amongst them Pope Pius IX.
- 1866: First edition of the "Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart". At one stage their circulation reached 280,000 copies.
- 1869: Coronation of the new statue in the presence of 16 bishops, 700 priests and 30,000 pilgrims.



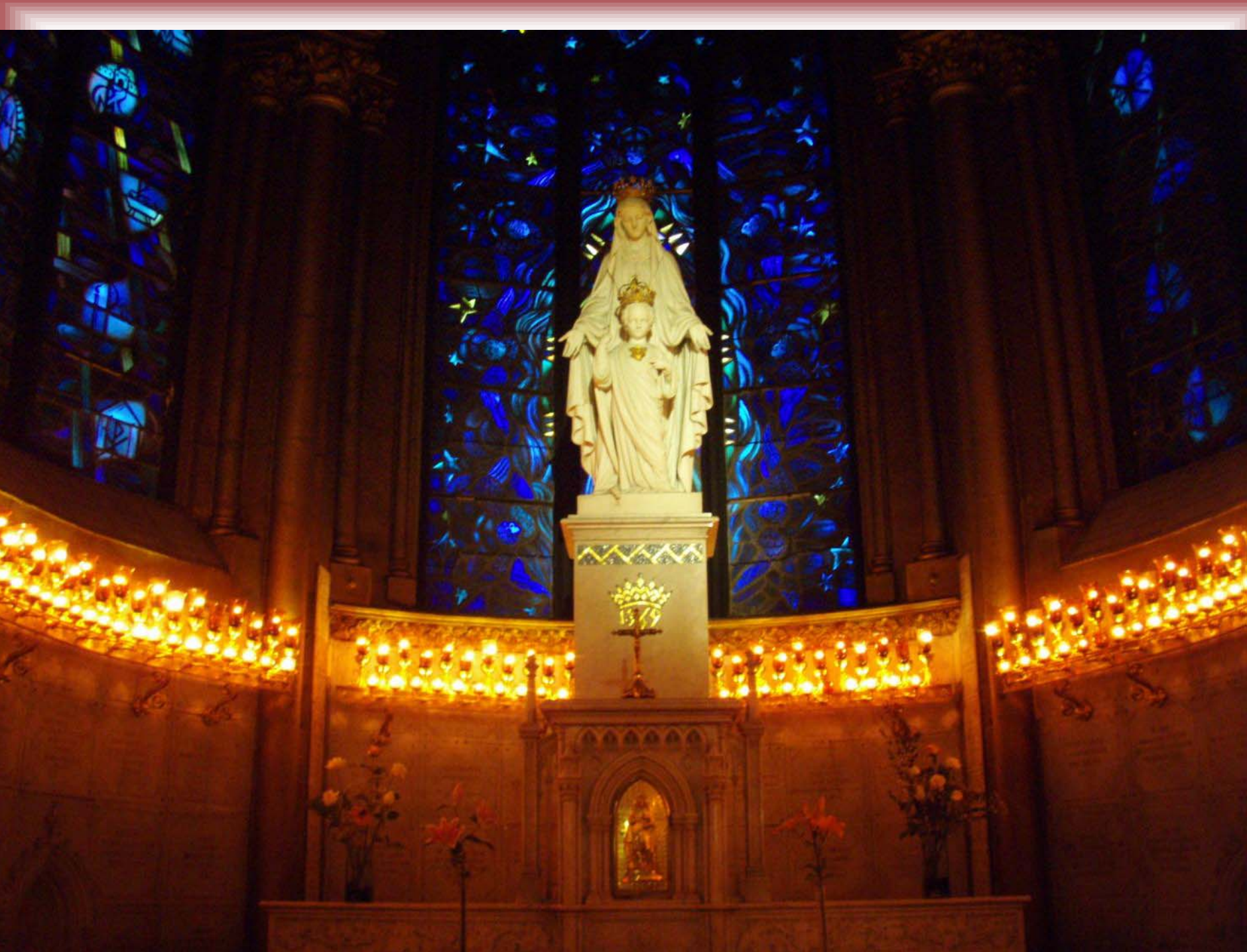
The interior of the Basilica

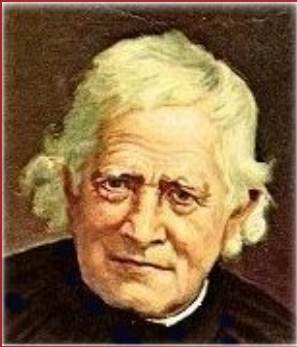


Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

"Hope of the hopeless"

"Advocate of difficult cases"





Further developments

1874: The "Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart" are founded.

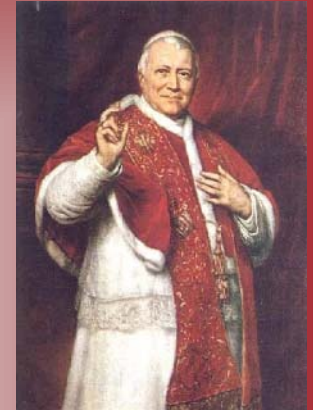


1881: Pope Leo XIII entrusts to the MSC and the missions of Melanesia and Micronesia.

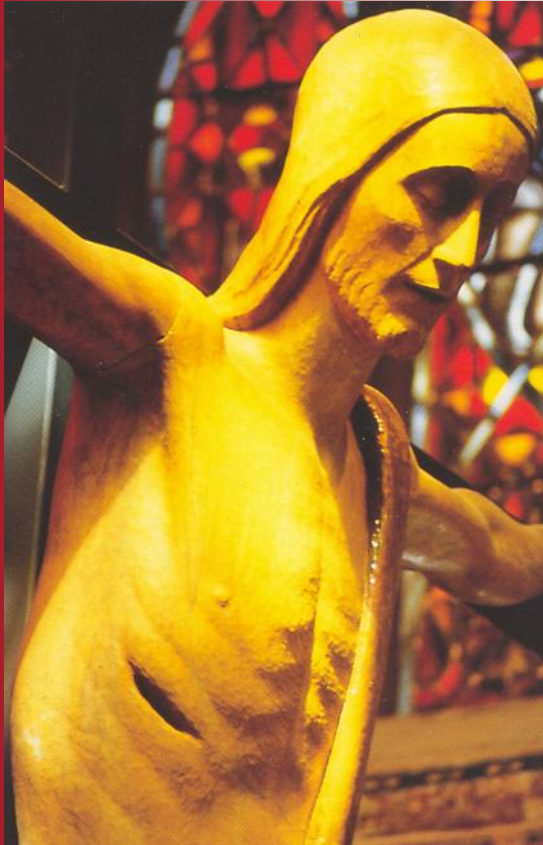
1882: The first missionaries depart for Papua New Guinea.



Consecration of the whole Church to the Sacred Heart



Pius IX



In less than six months Father Chevalier collected letters of support from many cardinals, archbishops and bishops as well as 3,000,000 other signatures.

In response to this petition on June 16th 1875 Pius IX consecrated all the faithful to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Darker hours and blessings

1880: A new republican Government wanted to confine religion to the domain of private life. On November 5th, the Basilica was closed and declared off limits for religious worship.



The MSC's were expelled and forced into exile. They went to Belgium, to Holland, to Austria, to Spain and even further afield. Faster than anyone could have thought possible, they spread everywhere.





*"If God wants a work done,
obstacles for him become means"*



Father Chevalier



The work of Father Chevalier develops further

- 1899: In Germany Father Hubert Linkens MSC founds the Congregation of the MSC Sisters.



- In the Confraternity of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart members pray for one another.



- Laity are expressing the desire to live the Spirituality of the Heart.



Today the Fraternity of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Issoudun receives an average of 300 - 400 letters a day, with prayer intentions, thanksgiving and testimonies.



Each letter receives an answer
from MSC co-workers



The walls of the Basilica are full of messages of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Jules Chevalier as author



- 32 books
- Many articles in different periodicals
- Thousands of letters
- Furthermore he composed some 250 canticles and hymns

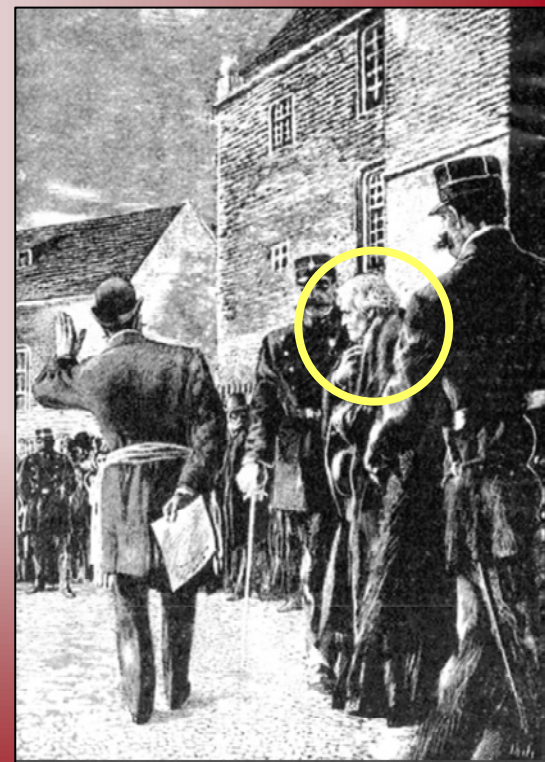


Last years

In spite of many hardships of all kinds his pastoral activities for the Congregation and the parish of Issoudun continue.

"Christ's love urges me"

On January 21th 1907 Fr Chevalier was expelled from the presbytery. He found asylum in the home of a friend, Baron de Bonneval on Daridan Street in the town of Issoudun.





Monday 21. October 1907

Father Jules Chevalier MSC dies.



"God in his infinite mercy chose this hour to call to himself his faithful servant. The time was 16.30. The bells of the parish church were ringing the Angelus"

Father Piperon msc



Thursday 24th October 1907

The last escort...



... was a procession more triumphal than funereal. Over one hundred priests together with civil servants and a huge crowd of the faithful accompanied his remains from the parish church of St Cyr to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

His last resting place: the crypt of the Basilica



PERE JULES CHEVALIER
Fondateur et premier Supérieur Général
de la Congrégation des Missionnaires du Sacré-Coeur de Jésus
Fondateur de la Congrégation des Filles de Notre-Dame du Sacré-Coeur
Fondateur spirituel de la Congrégation des Soeurs Missionnaires du Sacré-Coeur
Né le 15 mars 1824
Décédé le 21 octobre 1907



The work continues...

... so that

"the Sacred Heart of Jesus may be loved everywhere"

MISC
 SIVSC
 FDNSC

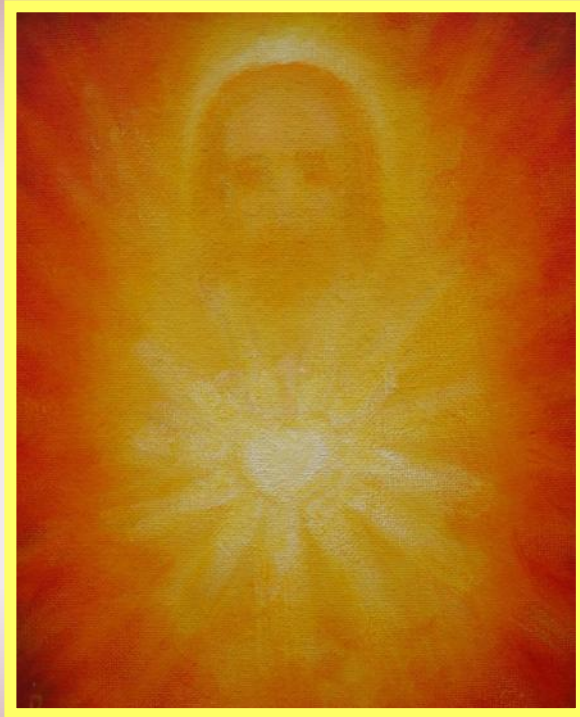
Date de la Fondation
 • Afrique du Sud 1850-1973 • Allemagne 1885-1900 • Angleterre 1892-1948 • Argentine 1948 • Australie 1885-1885-1928 • Autriche 1887 • Belgique 1866-1902 • Brésil 1911-1920 • Burkina Faso 1990 • Cameroun 1990-1946 • Canada 1973
 • Chine 1926/1997-1932 • Chili 1990 • Colombie 1987 • Corée du Sud 1985-1965 • Croatie 1997/2000 • Cuba 1998 • Curaçao 1985 • Equateur 1887/1996 • Espagne 1880-1963 • Fidji 1973-1989 • France 1854-1874 • Guatemala 1955-1995
 • Haïti 1990 • Honduras 1989 • Îles Marshall 1894/1995-1988 • Inde 1982-1976 • Indonésie 1903-1920 • Irlande 1909-1932 • Italie 1875-1926-1955 • Japon 1950-1995 • Kiribati 1888-1995 • Mexique 1893-1993 • Namibie 1995
 • Nauru 1902-1970 • Nicaragua 1967 • Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée 1882-1887-1902 • Paraguay 1998 • Pays-Bas 1880-1911 • Pérou 1838-1938 • Philippines 1908-1998-1994 • R. D. du Congo 1924-1925 • Rép. Dominicaine 1986
 • Roumanie 1897 • Russie 1995 • Rwanda 1995 • Salvador (Le) 1988-1989 • Samoa 1995 • Sénégal 1863-1955 • Slovaquie 1993-2002 • Soudan 1995 • Suisse 1802 • USA 1876-1955-1900 • Venezuela 1987-2001 • Vietnam 2002

Today some 5000 spiritual sons
and daughters of Father Chevalier
work in over 50 countries on all
continents,

... in order "to make Love loved",

Everything leads to Jesus Christ.

"I am the beginning and the end" he says.



And in Jesus everything leads to his Heart.

Father Chevalier