

MSC HISTORY - I

1825-1851

MAY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS BE LOVED EVERYWHERE!

I. EARLY LIFE

- A) Jules Chevalier
 - 1) Born March 15, 1824
 - a) Touraine, in Richelieu, France
 - b) Diocese of Tours
 - 2) Youngest of 4 children
 - a) Charles (b. 1813)
 - b) Louise (b. 1815)
 - c) Jules (b. 1824)
 - 3) Baptism
 - a) March 16, 1825
 - b) "Jean Jules Chevalier"
- B) Parents (Married: January 22, 1811)
 - 1) Father--Jean Charles Chevalier
 - a) Eldest of 4 children
 - b) Defender of Justice and Truth
 - c) Not very pious
 - d) Well educated
 - e) Baker
 - 2) Mother--Louise Ory
 - a) Youngest of 13 Children
 - b) From a family of Bakers
 - c) Raised by unmarried aunt, Agnes Taffonneau, a devout Christian.
 - d) Endowed with "sound judgment, bright, steady character, unaffected piety...shrewdness of mind and unflinching courage." (2, 1)
 - e) Very pious
 - f) Strong dislike for disobedience, lying, greed, and was relentless in combatting faults.
 - g) Fostered Christian and Human Values for the children:
 - Catholic Faith
 - Stress Education
 - Train in virtue
 - Love of God
 - Hatred of Sin
 - Gentleness shown to children
 - 3) Parents were poor, but were able to meet basic needs.
- C) Personality of Jules
 - 1) "I was lively and hot-headed and my impetuosity exposed me to many dangers."--Jules Chevalier 1,2)
 - 2) His sense of Humor came from his mother.

- 3) From Mother--Courage and tenacity, especially in difficult situations; control over impetuous character.
 - 4) Typical Child--irresponsible, practical joker, would go into hysterical laughter, etc.
 - 5) Love for the Church
 - a) Altar Boy
 - b) Often played priest, imitating homilies, etc.
 - c) Sense of piety
 - 6) Sickness
 - a) Pleurisy--age 9
 - b) Croup
 - 7) His ADULT LIFE was described as: "He inspired confidence, a confidence that commanded respect. He was of medium height, well built, with an upright stance and plenty of hair. He had a pleasing appearance, a warm voice and spoke rather slowly. His modesty, his zeal, his careful attention to duty, his affable piety, and his prudence in his relations with others were things one noted." (1, 17)
- D) First Communion--May 29, 1836 (Trinity Sunday);
Confirmation--May 22, 1839
- E) Desire to become a Priest, but because of financial difficulties, Jules had to take up a trade--he became an apprentice Shoemaker.
- F) Parish Retreat--1838
 - 1) Fr. Louis Redon--Superior of the Vincentians
 - 2) "Priests of the Mission"
 - 3) Jules felt deep within, "What a beautiful vocation is that of a missionary." (2, 7)
 - a) Miss Elsa Gillet
 - b) The study of Latin
- G) Opportunity to enter the seminary free of charge fails because of the seminary's heavy debt.
- H) 1841--Family moves to Berry
 - 1) Father takes a job offered by a Mr. Jute to be Forest Administrator around Vatan.
 - 2) Mr. Jute understood that Jules wanted to be a priest and offers to help him enter the seminary.
 - 3) Jules, at first, continues his study of Latin under the Assistant Pastor, Fr. Deldevese.

II. SEMINARY DAYS

- A) Minor Seminary of St. Gaultier
 - 1) October, 1841 to 1846
 - 2) Age 17
 - 3) An Outsider
 - a) From Richelieu, not Berry
 - b) Among youth 4 or 5 years younger
 - c) Experiences boredom and rejection

- d) Seriously doubted vocation; wanted to return home, but at the advice of the superior, stayed.
- 4) Average student
- 5) FALLING OFF A CLIFF WHILE HIKING (c. Winter, 1842)
- B) Parents Return to Richelieu, July, 1842
 - 1) Jules is exempt from military service; father draws a lucky number from a lottery.
 - 2) Father dies, August 20, 1848 (Age 65)
- C) Major Seminary, St. Walter, October, 1846 to 1851
 - 1) Friendship--Detrimental for pursuing priesthood
 - 2) Retreat given by Fr. Mollevaut, January, 1847
 - 3) Studies--(Sulpician Professors/Spirituality)
 - a) Openly challenged things in class.
 - b) Labeled as an "ultramontanist."

III. GOD HAS SPECIAL PLANS--BEGINS TO SENSE A CALLING (Major Seminary, 1847-1849)

- A) "Reading the Annals of the Propagation of the Faith awakened in me the desire for the missions." (2, 13)
 - 1) Discusses desire with Director and Superior of Seminary, Fr. Ruel.
 - 2) Fr. Ruel discourages Jules; the diocese would oppose his departure.
- B) "Thesis on the Devotion to the Sacred Heart"
 - 1) Addition to Treatise on the Incarnation by Fr. L. Pellissier.
 - 2) More than a simple devotion or isolated dogma.
 - 3) "It is a synthesis of all Catholic doctrine, summed up in the love of Jesus Christ for us and of our love for Jesus Christ." (2, 55)
 - 4) Words of Jules Chevalier: "My heart was touched and the more deeply I penetrated this doctrine, the more attractive it became." (2, 13)
 - 5) Read Life of the Blessed Margaret Mary by Bp. Languet.
- C) Desire to become an Apostle of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart
 - 1) Conceived of a plan to bring some "holy and zealous confreres [priest-missionaries] and to work to propagate Devotion to the Sacred Heart." (2, 13)
 - 2) Singled out 2 confreres in the seminary who would be good members for the group but kept it silent.
 - 3) Organized the "Knights of the Sacred Heart" with permission from his seminary superiors.

IV. PRIESTHOOD

- A) Ordained June 14, 1851
- B) Yvoy-le-Pre--Assistant Priest--June, 1851-January, 1852

- C) Chatillon-sur-Indre, Assistant Priest--January, 1852-October, 1853.
- D) Aubingy-sur-Nere, Assistant Priest--October, 1853-October, 1854
- E) Issoudun
 - 1) Assistant Priest--St. Cyr--October, 1854-June, 1855
 - 2) Founder: MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART--December 8, 1854.
 - 3) Archpriest of Issoudun--March, 1872--October, 1907
 - 4) Died at Issoudun, October 21, 1907.

QUOTES TAKEN FROM:

- 1) Cuskelly, E. J., Jules Chevalier.
- 2) Personal Notes (Fontes MSC, Series I, Vol. 2)