

June 27

1960 Mother Clarita Böckmann, elected as 4<sup>th</sup> Superior  
General of the MSC Sisters.

*Jesus' emotions touched his heart*

At times Our Saviour showed that as a person  
he was troubled, suddenly disturbed;  
as no doubt happened when his gaze fell upon  
some greater distress, some more pitiable misfortune:  
the widow of Nain behind the coffin of her only son,  
Mary weeping over the death of Lazarus,  
the Jewish people's failure to believe.  
On such occasions Jesus was deeply moved;  
waves of tenderness and love invaded his soul.  
His Heart reacted to these impressions,  
his blood flowed more rapidly;  
his face, his gestures and his tears  
betrayed the emotion he felt inside him,  
an emotion he would not restrain.  
*Turbavit seipsum.*  
Especially in the moving scene  
when he instituted the Eucharist,  
Jesus was deeply troubled,  
moved to the depths of his being.  
Only Saint John, whose head in that solemn hour  
rested on the breast of the divine Master,  
could tell us how violently his heart was beating,  
stirred by emotion.  
His brain was aware of this emotion,  
but it was his Heart that experienced it.

(SC, p. 129f)

## July 6

- 1886** *Father Chevalier visits Antwerp in connection with the new foundation, and goes from there to Tilburg.*
- 1965** *The Apostolic Prefecture of Kaolack, Senegal, becomes a diocese.*
- 1989** *Two MSC Sisters from the Spanish District commence missionary work in El Salvador.*

### *The Church born from the Heart of Christ*

When on the cross  
the struggle sets in between life and death,  
the Roman soldier will strike the Heart,  
as the source of life,  
in order to force it to let go  
of any life that might still be in it.  
The life of Christ has already left that refuge!  
But from that adorable Heart, torn by the lance,  
from which life had gone,  
another life appeared for us.  
The Word, coming from the Heart of his Father,  
made the world emerge from nothing;  
and from the Heart of the incarnate Word,  
pierced on Calvary, I see a new world emerging,  
the world of those he has chosen.  
And this creation, so fertile, full of grandeur  
and inspired by love and mercy,  
is the Church, the mystical body of Christ,  
which makes this new creation  
present on earth until the end of time,  
and which will live his divine life  
for all eternity.

(SC, p. 145f)

1872 On the feast of the Sacred Heart, Pope Pius IX receives Fathers Chevalier and Jouët at night in private audience, in his bed room.

### *The Heart of Jesus is the Heart of God*

What is the nature of the Word, his essence? His nature is the same as the principle from which he comes.

And if he is the splendour of the glory of his Father (*Heb 1: 3*), his power (*1 Cor 2: 6*), his image (*2 Cor 4*), the perfect copy of his nature (*Heb 1: 3*), he must also be the splendour, the power, the image, the copy, the substantial expression of the Heart of God, from which he is born. He must be eternal love (*1 John 4: 8*).

And this infinite love, basic to the very nature of God, and proper to his Heart, is contained in a human heart (*cf John 1: 14*), formed from the blood of a Virgin.

So one of the most profound theologians of our century exclaims:

"Christ is wholly God, his living sacrament, his complete gift, his Heart with which to love us" (*Mgr. Gay*).

(*SC, p. 146f*)

1888 Father Chevalier leaves Issoudun to visit Salzburg (A).  
1937 Erection of the Belgian Province FDNSC.

### *The Sacred Heart the quintessence of the faith*

The special object of each devotion to Our Lord is divine love considered under one aspect; but the object of devotion to the Sacred Heart is the love of Christ-God seen as a whole in all its manifestations and in each one of them.

"The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the quintessence of the christian faith; the epitome and substantial summary of the whole of religion.

The Christian religion is a work of love in its beginning, development and end; the Christian religion whose history is found wholly and entirely in the sublime statement:

"God so loved the world" (*John 3: 16*);

the Christian religion whose whole creed is reduced to these words of the beloved Disciple:

"We believe in God's love for us" (*1 John 4: 16*),

that is, we believe that, in the work of God, the Heart has done everything;

the Christian religion, finally, whose whole morality is contained in the single word, *Diliges*:

You shall love; that is, you shall render love for love, you will give me your heart

in exchange for all that mine has done for you;

the Christian religion, we can say,

could not be identified so completely

with any other devotion

as with devotion to the Sacred Heart" (*Cardinal Pie*),

(*SC, p. 148f*)

1888 Father Chevalier stays in Strasbourg with Miss A. Mestmann, sister of Mother Marie-Louise Hartzel. Father Piperon joins him there to accompany him to Salzburg.

*The Sacred Heart, the real symbol of Jesus' love*

The Sacred Heart is the real symbol of the love of Our Lord for us. A symbol is an object that gives us knowledge of another object, through the analogy it has with it. Saint Bernard understood it this way when he exclaimed:

"O Lord Jesus! Your Heart has been wounded on the cross so that in this wound, visible to our eyes, we can see the invisible wound of your love."

In the same way, our adorable Saviour expressed himself to Blessed Margaret Mary:

"My heart loves the world so passionately that, unable to hold within itself the flames of this burning love, it needs to spread them by means of you."

The choice of this symbol should not surprise us; it had to be this way, for it is based on truth. All peoples and our Sacred Books testify that,

of all the parts of the body, the heart contains in itself the reason why it is the overall symbol of love, and the basis for this relationship,

while the feet, hands, eyes are only one particular expression of it.

(SC, p. 152)

1872  
1888  
1980

## July 12

1881 On July 12 and 13 the abbé Lannuzel administers baptism to 76 children who are less than four years old, at Beridni, New Britain (PNG).

### *The depths of the Heart of Jesus*

O Jesus, I believe you  
when you show your adorable Heart  
and say:  
Behold this Heart that has so loved you all!  
Yes, I believe you, when you affirm  
with the Church and the saints  
that what you feel  
comes from your Heart,  
the centre of your love,  
the inspirer of your self-giving,  
the throne of your mercy,  
the treasure of heaven and of earth,  
the abyss of all virtues,  
an ocean of goodness,  
a fountain of life,  
the source of all graces,  
the refuge of sinners,  
the strength of the weak,  
the perseverance of the just,  
the hope of the dying,  
the terror of demons,  
the sanctification of hearts,  
the house of God and the gate of heaven  
and a furnace of love.

(SC, p. 194)

(SC, p. 194)

(SC, p. 241)

Do you hear the cry that comes to us  
 across eighteen centuries?  
 It is his testament of love;  
 I want all to be one in love;  
 just as we ourselves are one (John 17: 11, 21).  
 From where comes this cry?  
 From the Heart of Jesus.  
 He calls for unity.  
 To break unity is to wound him cruelly.  
 But this unity can only exist in truth.  
 Unity becomes impossible  
 if based on concessions to error or compromise;  
 our Master made none.  
 Though full of fact in dealing with sinners  
 who had gone astray through weakness,  
 he severely rebuked the proud pharisees  
 who resisted the truth  
 and concealed their disorderly lives  
 behind a deceitful piety (Mt 12: 24-34).

*The cry of Jesus for unity*

- 1873 The first overseas mission of the MSC: Father J.B. Chappel and Brother H. Dechâtre leave from Le Havre for "the mission of Canada." In 1875 they prepare in N.Y. fact the first MSC residence in the USA, at Watertown.
- 1873 The MSC General Council decides to introduce the prayers of Perpetual Worship in the houses of the congregation as it is done in the novitiate.
- 1878 Rome: Father Chevalier signs the purchase deed of the church of St. James of the Spaniards, Piazza Navona. Then: photo-taking by Fellet.
- 1908 Departure of first MSC Sisters from Germany for the USA.
- 1972 Erection of Papua New Guinea, South West African and Peruvian Provinces of MSC Sisters.

July 31

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## August 1

- 1879** *The Italian Annals of OLSH are from now on published in Rome, instead of Osimo (IT).*
- 1887** *The first four FDNSC Sisters arrive in Yule Island.*
- 1927** *The MSC houses in England and Ireland are united into "the Region of the British Isles."*
- 1967** *Archbishop Roa entrusts the Irish MSC with their first project in Venezuela, the parish of Our Lady of Coromoto, in Maracaibo.*

### *The Sacred Heart, God's gift of himself (1)*

The Heart of Jesus is the Heart of God,  
the centre of divine love,  
the means by which the incarnate Word  
loves us.  
The Heart stands for the whole Jesus,  
the living summary of his adorable person.  
All the treasures of the Godhead are enclosed in it.  
His Heart is the moral centre of all worlds,  
the mysterious altar  
on which all sacrifices are offered,  
and where burns the incense of all creatures.  
His Heart is the sacred bond  
uniting heaven and earth  
and binding all things to the One  
from whom everything flows.  
In this Heart God gives himself completely.  
Yes, God gives himself completely.  
God is wholly love;  
he experiences a supreme need,  
a hunger and thirst to give himself.  
Infinite fullness,  
unfathomable, unbounded ocean,  
he wants to overflow and spread himself.  
And he has overflowed on to the world  
through his Word made flesh.

(SC, p. 277)

## August 2

1898 *Father Chevalier, accompanied by Father E. Meyer, arrives in Borgerhout-Antwerp (B).*

### *The Sacred Heart, God's gift of himself (2)*

The Word proceeds from the unfathomable depths of the Heart of God

who generates him equal to himself.

God is love itself.

This infinite love

that constitutes the very depths of God,

and forms his nature,

has enclosed itself in a human heart,

the Heart of Jesus.

That is why God takes delight in this divine Heart,

the Heart with which he loves us,

his living sacrament.

It is through the Heart of Christ,

that the love of God, God himself,

pours himself out on the world

and on the human race. How?

God communicates and gives himself by grace.

This communication, this gift,

is not just a figure of speech;

it is a fact.

We really share in his nature;

we possess him personally and really.

(SC, p. 277)

## August 3

1899 *First community of MSC Sisters established in Hiltrup (D); two Sisters of Divine Providence and one MSC candidate.*

1899 *Sr. Servatia, Sister of Divine Providence, appointed first Superior General of MSC Sisters, Hiltrup.*

1950 *Father L. Koppert, MSC, dies in Rome. He had been in charge of the International MSC Scholasticate since 1924.*

### *Devotion to the Sacred Heart is essentially social*

Theology is not fashionable nowadays. People think they can do without it and so society is dying. Yes, it is dying because for three centuries people have tried to make it materialistic. For a long time now it has borne on its forehead the sign of the beast. It is dying for lack of theology. This is a fact.

Our Lord came to restore all things. Therefore in his love he has wanted to prepare for us an excellent remedy against the terrible evil that is killing souls. This remedy, in which gentleness mingles with effectiveness, has a new aspect and an attractive form. It contains the quintessence of all that can quickly bring back to a social life nations that no longer possess it. This remedy is Devotion to the Sacred Heart. In itself alone it is a whole world of theology.

This devotion has so much fascination; it is so well put together for our attraction that as a consequence to know it is to love it. It's range is enormous. It embraces everything: dogma and moral; the past, the present and the future. When one practises it, its religious influence penetrates irresistibly. That is why this devotion is essentially social, restoring all things.

(SC, p. 280)



April 27

**1960** *Father Virgil Copas, MSC (AUS), appointed first Vicar Apostolic of Port Moresby (PNG), is ordained Bishop at Toowoomba (AUS).*

*Origin of the title of  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*

But here lay the difficulty. How could Mary be honoured in a special way? What new title could she be given? What new distinction could be accorded her that she had not already received?

A year passed before a solution to this problem was found.

In 1855, on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> September, Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, the Missionaries were installed by Cardinal Dupont, Archbishop of Bourges, and officially received the name of *Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*. It was then that they took as their own this striking motto: *May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved*, to which Pius IX attached 100 days indulgence.

That very day, as an expression of their love and gratitude, they conceived the name of *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*. This title seemed to come from heaven, being at once the expression of the deep gratitude that the new society owed to Mary, and the symbol of the power given her by God over the Heart of his Son.

(OLSH, p. 6)

(OLSH, p. 6f)

The title of *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* answered perfectly the aspirations of the missionaries—it testified to their gratitude to Mary and demonstrated Mary's position in relation to the heart of her Son; it pointed not only to her power of intercession but also to her privilege as *treasurer* and *dispenser* of its gifts of grace; it foretold also her wonderful *co-operation* in the establishment and spreading of devotion to the Sacred Heart, which is to contribute so forcibly to the salvation of mankind. It was, then, like a flash of light — it was the response of Mary to the wish of her children.

The original chapel of the Fathers was in great disrepair. One section had in fact just collapsed, when in 1857, assisted by some parishioners, they laid the foundations of a new sanctuary to the glory of the Heart of Jesus.

It was at this time that they devised the plan to dedicate the altar of the Virgin to *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*, and to have Mary represented and invoked under this new title in a stained glass window, which is still to be seen at the back of the church. This altar and window were set in place only in 1860, on the opening day of the first section of the sanctuary.

#### First representation of *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*

- 1975 The name of the *Sideta/Samarai* diocese (PNG) is changed to "the diocese of Alotau."  
 1988 The Central Pacific Region of the PNG Pro-Province becomes the MSC Pacific Union.  
 1988 Canonical erection of a religious house for MSC in India, in the Vivekanagar suburb of Bangalore. It will come directly under the General Superior.

April 28

## May 21

- 1878 *The Archbishop of Bourges asks Pope Leo XIII to unite the two Archconfraternities of OLSH, the one of Rome and the one of Issoudun, and to entrust them both to the direction of the MSC.*
- 1879 *Father Chevalier arrives in Rome for the 11<sup>th</sup> time.*
- 1899 *First vows of Brother Robert South, first Lay-Brother of the Australian Province.*
- 1910 *The four houses in the United States (Watertown, Natick, Casanovia and Onowa) are united into a Quasi-Province, with Father P. L'Espérance as first Quasi-Provincial.*
- 1928 *Arrival of the First five MSC Sisters from Germany in Melbourne (AUS).*

### *Woman, behold your son (1)*

Let us go together to Calvary.  
It is at the foot of the cross,  
in sorrow and anguish,  
that the title *Mother of the Human Race*  
will be solemnly conferred.  
It is there that Mary,  
in unspeakable torment,  
gives birth to us in the life of grace  
and truly becomes our Mother.  
The Man-God nailed on the tree of salvation,  
looks down tenderly on his mother and says:  
Woman behold your Son.  
And looking then at Saint John:  
Behold your Mother.  
He means:  
O Woman blessed among all women,  
the true mother of all the living,  
you who are the new Eve  
as I am the new Adam  
I invest you with a new motherhood; (OLSH, p. 168)  
I associate you with the work of redemption.  
(OLSH, p. 165)