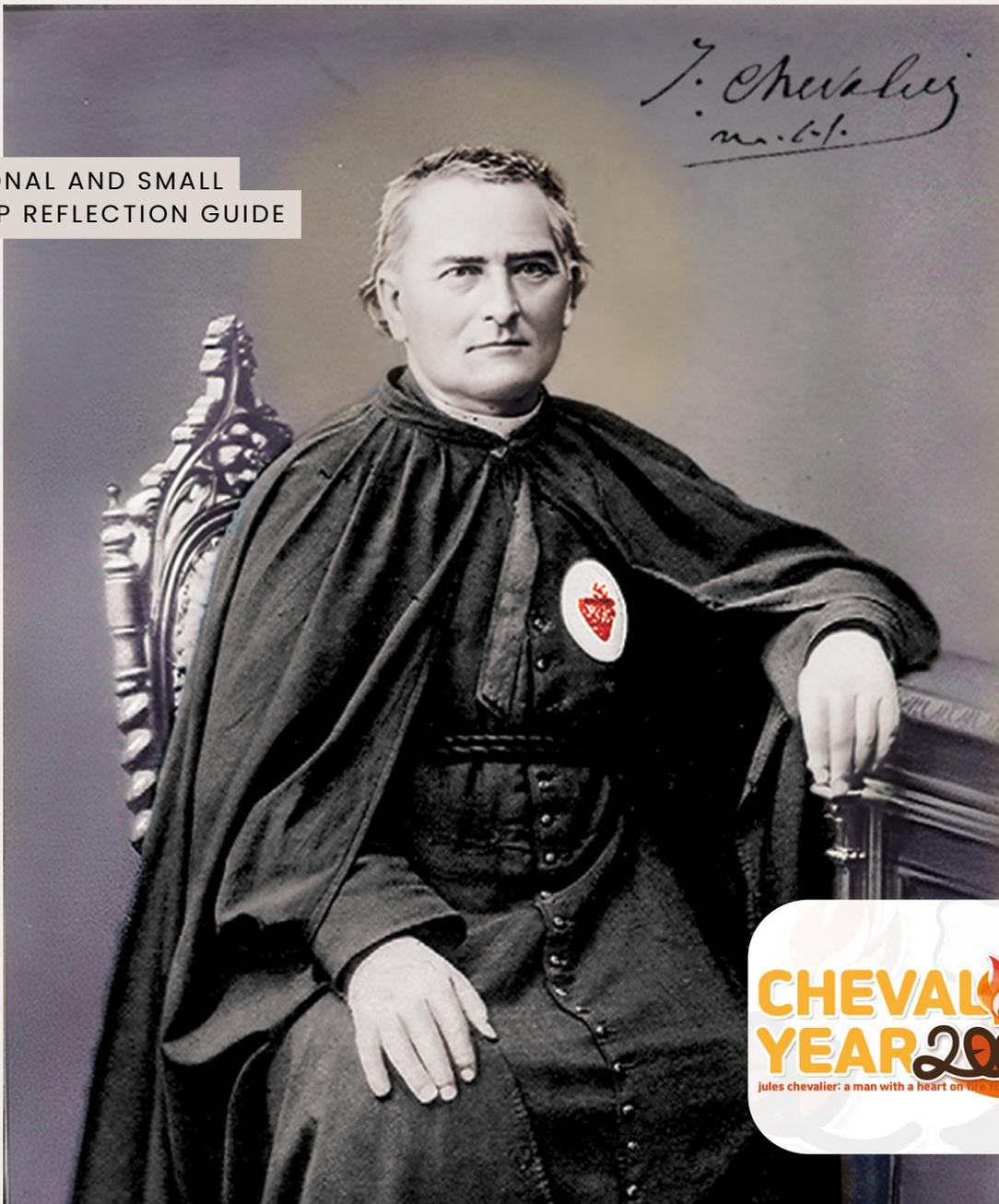


PERSONAL AND SMALL  
GROUP REFLECTION GUIDE



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# Chevalier Year

The 200th Anniversary of Jules Chevalier's Birth

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15 MARCH 2024



LAITY OF THE  
CHEVALIER FAMILY  
AUSTRALIA

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# Introduction

The Chevalier Family celebrates the 200th anniversary of Jules Chevalier's birth on 15 March 2024.

It is a key milestone in the Chevalier Year celebrations which have run from 15 March 2023 to the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (25 May 2024).

For more information, visit [jchevalier.ametur-msc.org](http://jchevalier.ametur-msc.org)

This reflection guide has been prepared to assist individuals and small groups in celebrating this event and as a resource for future gatherings.



*Ametur*





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# Acknowledgement of Country

With deep respect and love, we acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the traditional custodians of this land.

We honour their continued deep connection to Country and are nourished and inspired by their wisdom, experiences, and spirituality.

We pay our respects to their Elders – past, present, and emerging.

With spirit-filled hearts, we commit to building together a future inspired by reconciliation, inclusion, care for Country, hope, and love.





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# Opening Prayer

God, the Sacred Heart, we invite and welcome you into our hearts.

We pray for your blessing on this Country, those gathered today, and the whole Chevalier Family.

Be with us as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Jules Chevalier, your faithful servant.

As we reflect on the vision, mission, and charism of the Chevalier Family, may we be drawn deeper into connection with your heart, God and may we be inspired to live Spirituality of the Heart with a renewed spirit.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, love us!

Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!





# Reflection Song

## Two Hearts of Love

James Maher MSC

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### **Musica Divina**

- Listen to music with the ear of the heart.
- Listen for God's voice.
- Rest in God's presence.





## Two Hearts of Love (cont.)

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Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus all heart.  
Come to me. Learn from me. I will give rest.  
My heart is gentle. My love is strong.  
Come to me. Stay with me. Learn how to love.

Jules with a vision. Jules of Issoudun.  
Jules on fire, with hope and with love.  
Heart man and hope man,  
Treading the slow way  
To the heart of the Lord.

Jesus of Nazareth,  
We are your sisters. We are your brothers.  
Jules of Issoudun,  
We are your daughters. We are your sons.

His heart and your heart beating in unison,  
Two hearts but one heart; one heart in love.  
Giving to our world a reason to live,  
Giving to our world the love of its God.

Jesus of Nazareth,  
We are your sisters. We are your brothers.  
Jules of Issoudun,  
We are your daughters. We are your sons.

Jesus of Nazareth, Jules of Issoudun,  
Two men with one heart; a heart for our world,  
Pour into our hearts; pour out your message,  
The message of true love; the message of hope.  
Be now in our hearts; fill us with love.

Jesus of Nazareth,  
Make us your sisters. Make us your brothers.  
Jules of Issoudun,  
Make us your daughters. Make us your sons.  
All hearts as one.





# Reflection on Jules Chevalier

## A Man... With A Heart On Fire... For Mission

Adapted from [jchevalier.ametur-msc.org](http://jchevalier.ametur-msc.org)

Jules was born in Richelieu, France, on 15 March 1824. Upon receiving First Communion at age 12, he stated his desire to become a priest. Since his family couldn't pay for his studies, he became an apprentice shoemaker, using his free time to assist the local parish and people needing assistance. Eventually, Jules realised his dream, becoming a priest on 14 June 1851. By providence, he was assigned to a parish in Issoudun with his friend and ally, Fr Maugenest. Together, they worked on their seminary dream to form a missionary order devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the symbol of God's love. Novenas to Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, provided the finances required through generous donations. The fledgling order began its work, first in France and then spreading around the globe. A congregation of religious sisters devoted to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was also founded, and the beginnings of the lay Chevalier Family emerged. Inspired by Jules' charisma, Fr Hubert Linkens founded an order of missionary religious sisters devoted to the Sacred Heart. Jules Chevalier died on 21 October 1907 in Issoudun, France.

Charity, friendliness, and joy were distinct features of Jules' vocation to serve. His charismatic personality stemmed from leadership based on self-giving and the conviction that charity (love) was the key virtue of the Sacred Heart.



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# Reflection on Jules Chevalier (cont.)

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*"If the charism is a particular vision of God revealed in Christ, and the spirituality is the way of living it, the mission is the way of manifesting both things (charism and spirituality)".*

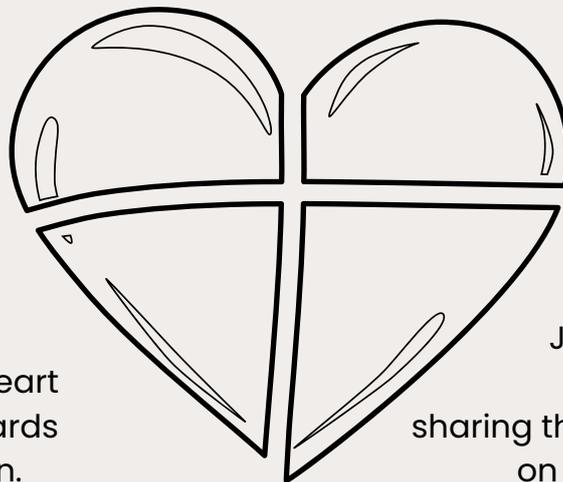
Jules Chevalier's charism, and ours, is knowing "Jesus as the love of God incarnate". Contemporary understanding of Jules' vision is known as "Spirituality of the Heart". Fr Eugene Cuskelly, MSC, summarised it with four movements of the heart:

## **Awareness**

An invitation to go to the depths of our own hearts to meet Jesus there.

## **Formation**

Our hearts are transformed by the Heart of Jesus to look outwards to others and Creation.



## **Encounter**

We go to the Heart of Jesus and are bound by love (heart-bonded).

## **Mission**

Joined with the Heart of Jesus, we live lovingly, sharing the divine mission to 'be on Earth the Heart of God'

For Jules Chevalier, the mission of our lives was to ensure the love of God (the Sacred Heart) was known everywhere. Jules Chevalier was convinced that any problems encountered in the world would be overcome by being present with people, accompanying them, and showing them the compassionate and unconditional love of God.

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## **Reflection**

God's love is life-giving, and by living that love with others and Creation, the Chevalier Family can find ways to 'remedy the ills of our times'.

What aspects of Jules Chevalier's story, charism, spirituality, or mission inspire you? How do you feel called to respond?



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# Quotes

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## Reflection

- Speak the words of Jules Chevalier aloud.
  - Repeat the words in your heart.
  - Spend a moment listening for God's voice.
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“ The love of the heart of Jesus is the centre where everything meets, the pivot on which Catholicism revolves. It is the way that I understand devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
- it embraces everything, it answers everything. ”  
- Jules Chevalier, Letter to Fr Ramiere SJ, 1862 -

“ There is no room for misunderstanding. The love of the heart of Jesus is the providential remedy which the goodness of God has reserved for our times. ”  
- Jules Chevalier, La Societe Des MSC, 1872, p. 12f -

“ Proclaim everywhere the love of the heart of Jesus. It can not but bring about the salvation of the world. ”  
- Jules Chevalier, Le Sacre-Coeur, p. 234 -

“ ‘Jesus needs special apostles’. That is the principal purpose of our little society. Each member must bring the love of the Sacred Heart everywhere. ”  
- Plan De La Societe MSC, 1864, p. 2 -





## ♥ Quotes (cont.)

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“ God does not create from a distance. God is in us, in our most intimate depths, more present to us than we are to ourselves. ”  
- Jules Chevalier, *Le Sacre-Coeur*, p. 281f -

“ The Christian religion is a work of love in it's beginning, development, and end. It's history is found wholly and entirely in that sublime statement, 'God so loved the world'. ”  
- Jules Chevalier, *Le Sacre-Coeur*, p. 148 -

“ God surrounds each person created on Earth with a network of love. With each one, God acts in a different way. ”  
- Jules Chevalier, *Le Sacre-Coeur*, p. 299f -

“ May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere! ”  
- Jules Chevalier, *Le Sacre-Coeur*, p. 398 -





# Reflection Song

Woman of the Sacred Heart  
James Maher MSC

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## **Musica Divina**

- Listen to music with the ear of the heart.
- Listen for God's voice.
- Rest in God's presence.



## Woman of the Sacred Heart (cont.)

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In you, our flesh, He had to come.  
You grounded Him upon our Earth.  
Your feet that walked. Your womb that held.  
Your pain that brought this love to birth.

The Sacred Heart of Him you held  
Can grieve and grow within the space,  
Of patient love and listening;  
A mother's choice; a mystic's grace.

In your delight. In your despair.  
The smallest choices of each day.  
The cost to you - your hope-filled yes.  
Your courage lived shows us the way.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,  
Eternal sign of God's surprise.  
In you, we know the poor as blessed.  
This world transformed before our eyes.

O Woman of the Sacred Heart,  
You heard the words of Gabriel.  
Pray we may hear the call of God  
And come to meet Emmanuel.

His truth is witnessed in your face,  
That he became and was and is  
The Sacred Heart, the resting place.  
Our hearts forever held in His.





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# Commitment Prayer

We commit ourselves to the Laity of the Chevalier Family, who go the way of the heart together with the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Inspired by the love of Jesus' Sacred Heart and by the charism of Jules Chevalier, we feel called to be God's Heart in the world. We will do this through prayer and reflection, study and conversation, shared activities, and a heart for Creation and vulnerable people in our society. We will get involved where we live and work or where people need us.

We promise to support each other and ask Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, to assist us so we may walk the way of the heart with Her.

Amen.

*Adapted from the Commitment Prayer from the Fourth International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family*





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# Chevalier Family Blessing

May you always stand tall as a tree,  
be as strong as the rock Uluru,  
as gentle and still as the morning mist,  
and as comforting as the sight of the Southern Cross.

May you also hold the warmth of the campfire in your heart,  
and may the Creator Spirit always walk with you.

And may the blessings of Almighty God,  
who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
come upon the Chevalier family  
and all of us  
and bless us always.

Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer by Aunty Betty Pike and used with permission*



