

## Prayer and Contemplation



### CHEVALIER, IN HIS TIME...

#### His life:

His life. It was in his theological studies, when he went deeper into the biblical and devotional aspect of the Sacred Heart, that Jules Chevalier profoundly discovered that he was loved in a particular way, with a gratuitous choice from before the creation of the world, with a concrete and boundless love, God's gift to him summed up in: "He loved me and gave himself for me". This discovery completely changed his vision of God, his way of living and feeling him. He understood the old saying 'love is repaid with love' and with his strong, passionate, constant and hard-working character he tried during his life to respond to this love. Love leads to union between those who love each other and there can be no union without communication between the two, without mutual listening, without personal dialogue, without availability to the other. He remembered the biblical phrase: "And my beloved is for me and I am for my beloved" (Song of Solomon 6:3). Practising this is what we call prayer. Jules thus became a man of prayer, a 'contemplative' man.

#### His words:

"One day, through his imprudence, a man came to close the fountain of God's Love... (MS 212), but the soldier, by piercing the Heart of Jesus, reopened the fountain of life and love. At once blood and water gushed forth (Jn 19,34); adorable blood full of divine life, pure and abundant water. This water flows into eternal life (S 83). Drinking both unites us to Him".

"It is true that my life is far from being that of a contemplative; but tell me, who can know how I spend my nights after 10 p.m., or what I do when, for 20 years now, I have been getting up at 4.30 a.m.? Even more, who can know what are the inner feelings that animate me during the long hours I spend morning and evening in the temple?" (J. Ch. 28/01/1891).

"The missionary must be transparent in his spirit of prayer and good example. By this he will produce more fruit than by all the learning and eloquence he can employ. Prayer will draw upon him an abundance of graces and give unction to his word; his good example will dispose the spirits to receive with fruit what he will communicate to them after he himself has received it from God"(J. Ch. 1855).

"We need men imbued with the spirit of prayer and apostolic zeal, ready to give everything and to give themselves for their brothers and sisters, and then we will be true apostles of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus" (J. Ch. 1900).



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### CHEVALIER, FOR TODAY...

We live today in the digital age, in the times of the internet, in the face of the gradual onset of artificial intelligence. We have never been so close and, at the same time, so far away, as all this leads us to be informed, but not educated; to be connected, but not united, not close, not in dialogue, not more human. We do not discover the depth of conversation by looking into each other's eyes in closeness, in the tenderness of dialogue, in compassion and in face-to-face sharing. We become disposable beings, 'island people' dependent on technology. In friends of the mobile phone and enemies of existential face-to-face communication; in being together technically and very distant humanly, because the 'smart phone' is more important than the person next to us. **And we experience this also in our relationship with God, He does not speak to us on the phone, He speaks to us in the depths of our being, to our heart, but He always finds us connected to technology, far from what is most proper to our being, to our self. The words of Scripture sound impossible to us: "I will bring him into solitude and there I will speak to his heart" (Hosea 2:14). That is why it is so difficult for us to pray, to live united to Him, to be for others a gift that testifies to our experience of God who is love. There is no love without existential communication.**



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## **PRAYER FOR THE MONTH**

(Ave Admirabile)

We greet You, Jesus  
with an admirable heart.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we glorify you.  
We give You thanks.  
We offer You our heart,  
we give it and consecrate it to You.  
Receive it and possess it completely.  
Purify it, enlighten it and sanctify it  
so that you may live in it  
and reign in it for ever.

Amen.

