

CHEVALIER YEAR MAR 2024

15 March – 200th birthday of Fr. Chevalier
remedy for all our ills



CHEVALIER, IN HIS TIME...

His life:

As a child, Jules Chevalier had to live through a very difficult historical moment for European society in general and French society in particular, marked by the great Revolution and rationalism. When he was 10 years old, the Archbishop of Bourges spoke to his diocese about "the moral plague" as the great evil of France. He proposed that "to cure such great evils, we need a powerful remedy... against the poisons that pervade the social body" and to this end he proposed that they "establish their abode in the Heart of Jesus".

It was with identical convictions that Jules Chevalier arrived in Issoudun in 1854. He spoke of two great plagues, "indifference and selfishness". Far from conforming to this context, for him it was a question of "making Christ the Head of all things" (Eph 1,10) and he raised the question of "reparation". To repair is, above all, to work with Jesus in the 'restoration' of creation.

His words:

"Our Lord makes his divine Heart "the precious supplement of our weakness", which we can use to raise our prayers and our merits to infinite proportions..." (SCJ 185).

"Two plagues corrode our wretched century, indifference and selfishness (MS 49): the selfishness that comes from our human mulch, like the flower from the stem and the tree from its root (MS 314), and the indifference that withers every condition, that dries up every age" (MS 79-78).

"To 'repair' is to unite ourselves without loss of time to the 'work' of God, whose creative activity never ceases..." (SCJ 239).

"Who better than She (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) knows the excellence and holiness of the Heart of her Son? [...] This Holy Virgin is, therefore, the 'Reparatrix' par excellence of the outrages committed against the Heart of Jesus. Whatever the efficacy of this reparation, we must necessarily unite our own to it" (SCJ 186).



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CHEVALIER, FOR TODAY...

This day, 15th March 2024, we celebrate the 200th birthday of Fr Chevalier. Like him, as Chevalier Family we are no strangers to the 'evils of our time': indifference and anti-clericalism in the West, the persecution of the Church in Central America, the extreme violence near our missions in Africa, as well as the consequences of Climate Change in the Pacific... among others.

We do not live in a more difficult situation than that which Jules Chevalier experienced at the end of the 19th century. If he, alone in the face of difficulties, with a congregation to create, knew how to move forward..., 169 years later, with the legacy that so many sisters and brothers of the Chevalier Family have left us, we must be able to continue the 'reparation'.

Selfishness and indifference remain as two plagues today, so, encouraged by Jules Chevalier, we join "without loss of time to the 'work' of God" and to the "'Reparatrix' par excellence", Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.



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PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

God, our Father,
you who loved us to the point of giving your Son
for the salvation of the world,
we thank you for having given your Church
Father Jules Chevalier to remedy the evils of his time.
Contemplating with Our Lady
"Him who was pierced",
he was a passionate apostle of the Sacred Heart
and of His merciful love
which he wanted to be loved everywhere.
To remedy the evils of our time, our violence,
our injustices, our rejection of others,
Lord, allow him to be proposed
to the Church of today as an example of love
for Christ and of passion for the salvation of all.
Give us, Lord, Father Chevalier
as an intercessor before You and as a companion
on the roads of the world so that the Kingdom
of Your justice, Your love and Your peace
may come everywhere
and that the Heart of Your Son
may be the Heart of a new world.
Amen

(Prayer for the Beatification of Fr Chevalier).



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