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Newsletter of the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Randwick NSW Australia



Introducing the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Randwick, Sydney, Australia.

Our Mission:

To publicise the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart [OLSH] at Randwick.

To introduce the *Novena* to OLSH to others outside the Parish.

To heighten awareness of the Spirituality of the Heart, and the place of the devotion to Mary under the title of OLSH as a natural aspect of the Spirituality of the Heart.

To inform people about the Mission and Ministries of the MSC and OLSH and other Congregations.

*Located at: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish,
193 Avoca St, PO Box 309, Randwick NSW, 2031.*

www.sacredheart.org.au

This is our second **Newsletter** from the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick, for 2017.

In the last issue of the **Newsletter** we wrote about the inauguration and development of the Confraternity of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and its phenomenal growth.

In this issue we look at the foundation of the magazine known internationally as ***Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. and the impact it had on the MSCs.***

In order to keep the expanding Confraternity in touch with the base and with each other, a publication was needed. Hence, the beginning of the *Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*. Further, the pilgrimages were also rapidly



In April 1895 a decree from Rome ordered that in future statues Mary was to have the child Jesus in her arms. An exception was made for the Issoudun Basilica.

Calendar for April : 1867 The first student for the Apostolic School, Lucien Cattin, arrives at Issoudun. He brings 588 pennies from 588 people to pay his way. He later became a Jesuit and founded the mission of the Levant in Lebanon! 1869 Chapel of OLSH opened at Issoudun. 1874 Garcia Morana, President of Ecuador, writes to Issoudun to inscribe his wife, Mariana and his son Gabriel as members of the Association of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. 1876 3 MSC arrive in Watertown USA—first overseas mission of the MSC. 1880 Fr Chevalier accepts Missions of Melanesia and Micronesia. 1885 First OLSH House opened at Botany. 1925 arrival of first MSC Sisters at Vunapope (PNG) after WWI; 1927 First MSC Sisters go to Namibia. 1980 First Filipina OLSH Sr professed in Philippines.

gaining in popularity and they needed to be advertised, together with the spirituality of the MSC order, its mission and devotional life.

As Fr Tostain points out (*Fr Chevalier, Who Was He?*) “Fr Chevalier dreamed of this (the expansion of the devotion) and let the project mature since a magazine required time and competent people.” However, it was “the arrival of Fr Jouët, who was as lively as he was enlivening, who was Our Lady’s response to this need.” (p.67) He published the first number of the *Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* in January, 1866. “The success was immediate and miraculous.”

The early editions were made up mainly of testimonies of people who had favours granted through prayer and the Novena. The *Annals* continues to come out each month in about ten international editions in many languages.

One outcome of the *Annals* being published was that the crowds coming to the Basilica to pray became even greater. Fr Piperon, early companion to Fr Chevalier, remarked: “The Blessed Virgin’s altar, located in a side nave, was so small and the chapel so filled with people that the pilgrims could barely convince themselves that this was the privileged shrine where they had come to pray.”

As well as numerous small offerings Fr Chevalier received, he was also given jewelry from various sources, often of silver or gold from poor people.

Typically, rather than selling the jewels and gaining the money, Fr Chevalier



Fr Jules Chevalier MSC



The Parish Church of St Cyr, Issoudun, where Fr Chevalier became Pastor following the evictions of 1880.

decided to make them into two crowns for the statue of Jesus and Mary.

“It was not an exactly original idea: many places of pilgrimage had their statue crowned. While it may sound too simple to be true, to wear these splendid crowns, a large, beautiful statue would be needed. The small chapel was not big enough for that. So, they had to build a shrine. And that is exactly what Fr Chevalier did—just to be able to crown Our Lady.” (Tostain p.68)

And so, despite the hesitation of the architect, he had the back wall of the sanctuary removed, and a large chapel added directly behind it, as an extension in the same direct line as the basilica.

A large statue was crafted and the crowns prepared by goldsmiths.

As Fr Chevalier had to make a trip to Rome in January 1869, in order to have the MSC Society officially recognized, he offered Pope Pius IX “a bronze miniature of the statue and asked him to bless the two crowns.” The pope did just that and had a document signed delegating the Archbishop of Bourges to crown the statue in Issoudun in his name.

The statue was solemnly crowned on September 8, 1869. “It was a triumphant occasion that necessitated months of preparation. On that day the city of Issoudun (the entire city, even the remote hamlets) was drowned under garlands of greenery, flowers and triumphal arches. The town, its administration, the army, all the official bodies, and all sorts of organisations rushed to accompany (follow?) the townspeople who were caught up in an enthusiasm that was both extraordinary and restrained. A huge crowd of pilgrims had come, some several days in advance after

several days of travel, by train or by horse-drawn carriage.”(p.69) They came from all over France and from internationally where the Confraternity had been sown.

On the day, the square in front of the basilica was jammed with 30,000 people (an estimate by the most conservative papers.)

In somewhat exalted tones the preacher exclaimed: *“Honour to you, noble inhabitants of Issoudun, you who have cooperated so faithfully with the unique grace given you by the Queen of Heaven who chose your city as the center and birth place of a devotion to which, perhaps, the very salvation of the world is attached: the devotion to **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart** which today reaches to the five continents of the world!”* (p.69)

This was truly an amazing transformation of the city of Issoudun—known as one of the most de-Christianised places in post-Revolutionary Europe. When Fr Chevalier first came there in 1854, no men and only some elderly women attended the Mass. Indifference and disinterest characterized this city.

Another interesting fact is that most popular places of pilgrimages are connected with a reported appearance of the Blessed Virgin or Our Lord: Lourdes, Paray-le-Monial, Rue du Bac and so on. **But in Issoudun, it was simply the attractiveness of the title, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and the devotion around it which drew the crowds**—admittedly, never in the same order of magnitude of Lourdes or the early 20th Century Shrine of Fatima.

An historical perspective by Fr Pipheron, early companion to Fr Chevalier:

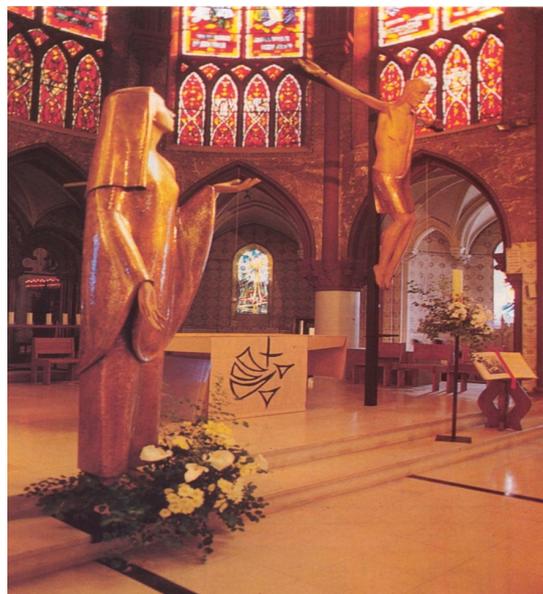
Fr Chevalier had "the assurance that God wanted the Congregation; his confidence was not shaken by trials. Didn't he have as Protector the incomparable Treasurer of the Heart of Jesus? Could this Mother who was unreservedly kind, who up till then had done all in the Congregation, now abandon it? He did not think so. He feared he would be guilty of a gross lack of gratitude towards his heavenly benefactor if he allowed the least doubt about this to enter his soul.

What in fact was the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart when devotion to our Lady of the Sacred Heart was entrusted to it? At most, a frail, puny plant whose roots could not yet assimilate the nourishment for its growth.

What was the Archconfraternity of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in relation to it? The Archconfraternity produced in the Congregation the effects that a vigorous and fertile graft has on a tree in which it has been inserted; it infused a more intensive life into it; soon enabled it to produce more abundant and more tasty fruit. Thus in the plans of God's Providence, so worthy of praise, everything harmonizes in an ineffable manner: power and weakness, sovereign majesty and nothingness, the works of God and the cooperation of the human will."

Fr Pipheron entered the MSC in 1856; he led the MSC into exile in Holland after the 1880 evictions. He was a novice master and assistant general during his 60 years as an MSC.

The Novena: www.sacredheart.org.au
Post petitions to Novena, PO Box 309, Randwick, 2031 Or email: prayersplease@olshaustralia.org.au
The Novena is held each Thursday 11.30-midday in the Shrine, Randwick.



Mary at the foot of the Cross, Issoudun

The Novena Prayer

Remember, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the great things the Lord has done for you. He chose you for his mother; He wanted you close to his cross. He gives you a share in his glory. He listens to your prayer. Offer him our prayers of praise and thanksgiving. Present our petitions to Him.

(Recall your petitions...)

Let us live like you in the love of your Son so that his Kingdom may come. Lead all people to the source of living water that flows from his heart, spreading over the world hope and salvation, justice and peace.

See our trust in you; answer our prayer. Show yourself always our Mother. Amen.