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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 fourth *Newsletter* for 2017.

In the last issue we wrote about the foundation of the “Third Order” for lay people envisioned by Fr Chevalier together with the Association of Priests of the Sacred Heart for Diocesan priests often living alone and in difficult circumstances in France at the time.

In this issue we will look at the growth of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in the early years leading up to the foundation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in 1874.

For the five years following the foundation in 1854, there were only **two priests** with Fr Chevalier. Then a shattering



Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Columbia. MSC from the USA Province founded the MSC in Columbia following a time of great turmoil in the country in the late 1960s

Calendar June: 1851 June 14 Jules Chevalier ordained in Bourges; 1874 Fr Chevalier presents Pius IX with a petition to consecrate entire Church to the Sacred Heart; 1900 Archibald Shaw first Australian-born MSC ordained; 1920 First OLSH arrive in Moluccas; 1934 OLSH Sisters arrive Eastern Papua; 1937 Louis Vangeke ordained as first PNG national; 1939 Fr Gsell MSC appointed first Bishop of Darwin, ordained at Randwick; June 5 1944 OLSH-MSC moved from Vunapope to Concentration Camp in Ramale Valley near Rabaul; 1948 First Belgian MSC arrive in Brazil; 1950 Australian MSC begin in Nagoya, Japan; 1977 Irish MSC to Swaziland Sth Africa; 1986 First MSC House Sth Korea, Seoul; 1992 June 16 MSC visit former Chinese Mission at Shiqian, China after an absence of 40 years.

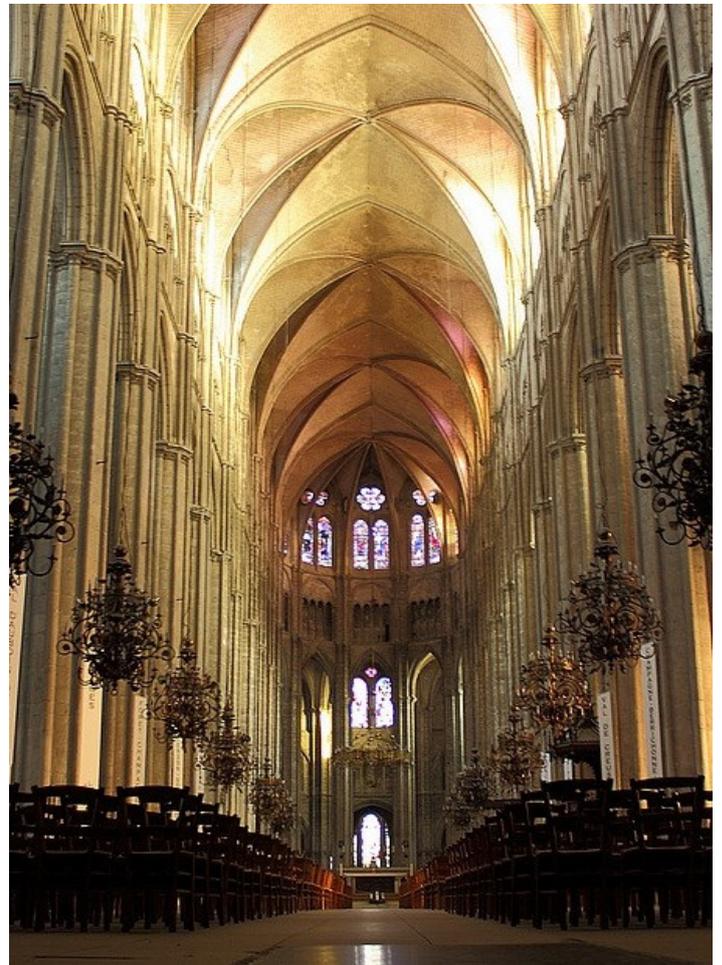
blow came for Fr Chevalier when the **Archbishop of Bourges insisted that Fr Maugenest, the co-founder, was recalled to the Cathedral.** He was a brilliant preacher. And so Fr Chevalier and Fr Piperon found themselves in great demand giving missions for the renewal of parishes. At the same time, “the crowds at “Sacred Heart” Basilica in Issoudun were getting bigger every day.” (Fr Tostain, *Fr Jules Chevalier. Who Was He?* p71)

Vocations were slow to come because people were not clear as to the nature and purpose of the new Society of missionaries. “Was it a local congregation founded to give new life to already existing parishes and to preach missions in abandoned and dechristianised areas (in France alone)? Or was it a congregation with a universal goal destined to spread throughout the world?” (Tostain p71) While Fr Chevalier was very clear about the scope and identity of his new foundation, the Archbishop was not nor were the local clergy. “They had the intention of using ‘this new force primarily for the good of the diocese.’” (Tostain p71)

The Diocese of Bourges was huge, and is still the largest in France. Following the Revolution of 1789 and further troubles, it was seriously short of vocations with many parishes not filled. **The effects of the Revolution had dechristianised whole swathes of France, especially, it seems, Bourges Diocese.** Local priests who may have liked to join the new Society of missionaries were reluctant to do so because they knew there was no hope of replacements for them if they left their parishes.



Fr Jules Chevalier MSC



The Cathedral of Bourges where
Fr Chevalier was ordained
June 14 1851

“As things turned out, the first recruits came from other dioceses from all over France once the MSC were well enough known—thanks to the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.” (Tostain p.71)

And so by 1865, there were about a dozen in the community. But very few were locals from Bourges diocese. They came from Brittany, Normandy, Marseilles and even Switzerland. And, there was a practical problem which made it difficult to receive new members: they simply had no room. They could only receive one new comer (known as a postulant) at a time.

On his return from visiting the Curé of Ars in 1859 where he got a boost from the Curé who assured him his congregation would flourish because “Our Lady would do everything” in it, he had the attic of his modest monastery refurbished. This added twelve cells. However they were not a luxury and they were not only for postulants but also for priests who may have liked to come and make a retreat in the new community.

All were quickly occupied and so expansion was necessary. Fr chevalier then began the first wing of the present Monastery and the work was finished in a few months.

As Fr Tostain pointed out “Accepting priests as members of the congregation was both convenient and risky. Convenient because the Society did not have to worry about their education. Risky because it was a hit or miss proposition and did not offer a solid basis for the future.”

He wanted to build his own seminary as a formation house for younger men. However, he did not think it appropriate to use

money for that purpose when it had been donated for the construction of the new Church of the Sacred Heart.

At that time Fr Jean-Marie Vandel entered the MSC and brought a new idea with him. He was from the region of Savoy, but had been ministering in Switzerland. Recuperating from illness he returned to France and began a new ministry, “The Work of the Rural Areas”. “This ministry brought together generous lay people who committed themselves to financial support for priests who lived alone and whose poverty often bordered on misery. But these priests were not only poor, they were also too few in number.”(Tostain p72)

Fr Vandel had the idea of opening a free seminary for young men who had no means to pay for their own studies.

To do this he adapted a scheme from Pauline Jaricot, the innovative foundress of “The Association for the Propagation of the Faith” which focused on supporting the foreign missions. The members of the association committed themselves to donate a penny a week toward the missions.



**Minor Seminary Chezal-Benoit
not far from Issoudun**

Fr Vandel felt that the expanding number of people who visited the Church of the Sacred Heart in Issoudun and the rapidly growing members of the Confraternity of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, **could be approached to donate a penny, not each week, but once a year, for the growth of the MSC Society.**

This approach had already been rejected by the directors of "The Work of the Rural Areas" and, "with great timidity" he submitted his plan to Fr Chevalier. **The plan was accepted with alacrity, as Fr Chevalier was only too well aware of the time he spent waiting to build up finances for his own entry into the Seminary at Bourges.** Even then it was a generous benefactor who gave him the much needed finances to begin, and many young men may simply not be so fortunate. Further, as Fr Tostain points out, Fr Chevalier "knew how generous the poor are. He was sure that if they were offered something that was within their reach, they would do much."
(Tostain p73)

As Fr Tostain notes "In fact, 'The Association of a Penny a Year for the Promotion of Apostolic Vocations,' that Fr Vandel had founded, enjoyed great success from the beginning. In October 1867, a minor seminary, that was officially named 'The Little Work' ('la Petite-Oeuvre') because of its limited financial support, was founded at Chezal-Benoit near Issoudun. There was a diocesan school there in an old abbey that had been closed during the Revolution. The students of the Petite Oeuvre lived in a dormitory and went to the school for class. Some of the classes were taught

by Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

The opening of the Petite Oeuvre, publicized through the *Annals*, saw a large number of benefactors appear, and a huge number of candidates for the priesthood: "150 in the first year." However, acting with prudence, Fr Vandel accepted only 12. He was confident he could care for and educate 12 each year. Later, as finances became more available, he was able to accept all who applied. For one hundred years, the Petite Oeuvre, whose installations were multiplied around the world assured the MSC of vocations.

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.

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.