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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 third *Newsletter* for 2017.

In the last issue we wrote about the foundation of the magazine known internationally as *Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* and the extraordinary development of *Pilgrimages to Issoudun, to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*.

Now we look at the consolidation of the MSC and two affiliated groups: the "Association of Priests of the Sacred Heart" and a "Third Order".

In February 1869 Fr Chevalier received approval for the MSC to exist under the Holy See, and no longer as subjects of the Archbishop of Bourges. He had also wanted to have approval for what he



Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Peru. MSC from the North German Province arrived in Peru in 1938 together with five MSC Sisters also from Germany.

Calendar May : 1883 OLSH Shrine in Sittard (becomes a Basilica – the first in Netherlands). 1886 First MSC House in Belgium. 1887 First MSC to Quito, Ecuador. 1888 First MSC arrive Nonouti, Kiribati. 1888 May 6 OLSH Randwick dedicated by Cardinal Moran. 1911 First MSC in Brazil. 1919 German MSC expelled from Martial Islands which then come under the Jesuit Vicariate of Caroline and Marianas. 1919 First postulants of Handmaids of the Lord, PNG. 1920 First 6 OLSH Sisters to Kai Islands from the Netherlands. 1926 May 14 Death of Fr Peter Treand, first Provincial in Australia. 1927 First MSC Sisters in Namibia. 1928 First MSC Sisters arrive in Melbourne from Germany. 1950 Frs Reid and Bryson, Australians, arrive in Japan to begin the MSC mission. 1965 First MSC in Dominican Republic. 1997 May 17 Death of Fr Tim McGrath co-founder of O L Nurses for the Poor, Coogee.

called the **Association of Secular Priests of the Sacred Heart** and a **Third Order of lay people**. The **Secular Priests arrangement was to support scattered diocesan priests and did not last long**—mainly because of insufficient MSC available at Issoudun to support the work. It was also unclear as to how these secular priests were affiliated with the newly emerging MSCs.

Originally Fr Chevalier also envisaged a **Third Order (tertiaries): “a third family, whose members share the life, merits and favours of the first two Orders.”**

Initially the first two branches were the MSC religious and the Association of Diocesan Priests. **Later with the fading of the Association of Diocesan Priests and the foundation of the OLSH Sisters in 1874, it was the Sisters who became the Second Order.**

The story of the Third Order began in **1864 in Montlucon** where a group for lay women, only, had begun, centred on devotion to the Sacred Heart. In 1865 this group became the Third Order of the MSC under a lay superior. They did not have vows and some lived in a community others individually. (Cuskelly. *Jules Chevalier, Man With A Mission* p.156)

This group spread to many dioceses, even outside France. **“But the foundation...had its own life which developed independently of the MSC. In all honesty, it must be confessed that the MSC were of little help to her or her group. The general idea was fine, the enthusiasm very nice. But the practical implementation was almost nil. She (the foundress) was feeling her way; and they were feeling theirs, and perhaps**



Fr Jules Chevalier MSC



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

were hoping to receive as much as to give. The Jesuits were the ones who really helped her group effectively. Accordingly, in 1874, the union with the MSC came to an end.

The French group of Louise-Thérèse de Montaignac developed into the Pious Union of the Oblates of the Sacred Heart. The Italian group under Caterina Volpicelli became the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart. The causes of Beatification have been introduced for both women, in 1911 (Volpicelli) and 1914 (de Montaignac).

Undeterred, Fr Chevalier began again with a new group for laity after 1874. The idea still remains in the *Constitution* of the MSC.

For Fr Chevalier the new Third Order was for both men and women living in the world. They were to do a novitiate and make a “profession”- or act of consecration to the Sacred Heart. Fr Chevalier admitted that “the young Society of the MSC almost crushed beneath the weight of the important and numerous works to which it had to give its attention, could not devote itself as it should have done to the propagation of its Third Order. **Today (he was writing sometime later in 1887) careful attention is being given to this third and precious branch of the tree planted at Issoudun on December 8th, 1854.**”

Fr Lanctin MSC told the pope in 1904 that there were “nearly two thousand members spread throughout most of the catholic countries of Europe.” (Cuskelly p. 157)

In 1901 Rome published some norms for Religious Congregations which put an end to the name Third Order, and even Second Orders. However this simply means that the OLSH Sisters (second order) are a congregation in their own right.

And on October 4, 1904 the Third Order had a change of name to “Sodality of the Devotees of the Sacred Heart.”

What is of great interest is Fr Chevalier’s sense of the spirit of his Third Order: It must have, he said: *“a spirit of kindness and humility, of zeal and charity, of detachment and obedience, of prayer and mortification, which each will try to acquire, taking the Heart of Jesus as a model and studying it with care.”*

And *“it is a form of life which takes complete possession of the soul in order to unify it to the Heart of the Divine Master, while it aspires to Christian perfection in the state of life in which Providence has placed it.”* (Cuskelly, p.158)

From the *writings of Fr Chevalier* we can see into his heart, his soul and mind—his motivation, dreams and vision for the Society of missionaries he founded. We note that the Missionaries were not founded for any particular work, such as the teaching or nursing orders were...

Concerning the aim of the Society, he wrote in 1857, three years after he founded the community:

The Sacred Heart of Jesus,
the only source of light, truth and life,
is not sufficiently known,
is not sufficiently loved.
Yet his love has saved the world,
his blood has purified it,
his grace has transformed it,
and his loving kindness keeps it in being.

To proclaim his greatness,
to make known the treasures of mercy
his heart contains,

to spread everywhere the sacred fire of his love,
to save souls which are so precious to him,
to combat *Egoism* and *Indifference* that are an outrage against him,
such is the aim of our little Society.

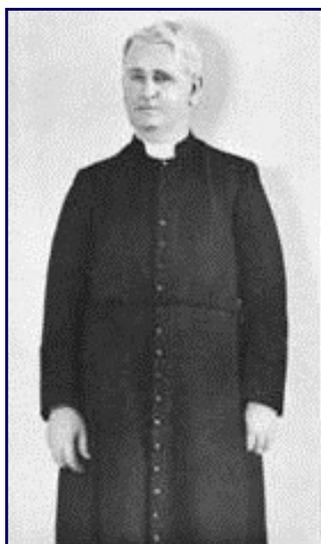
To respond to the sublimity of this mission, its members must be apostles, saints. (*Règles 1857*)

profession of vows in 1901. He had a special gift for preaching and retreat giving. Famously, he was the priest who gave St Mary McKillop her last communion in August 1909.

In 1920 he was appointed Assistant to Fr General in Rome and gave many retreats in Rome, and the UK.

In 1939 he was appointed Superior of Douglas Park, resigning six months later. He died in 1941.

Introducing Fr Matthew Smith MSC



Fr Smith was parish priest of Randwick from 1926-1939 and is credited with building the beautiful Shrine to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick.

Our archives state: "He did not spare himself in this ministry, and endeared himself to many people, by his unselfishness, his kindly manner and his devotedness to the confessional, the pulpit and the sick....His eloquence as a preacher packed the Church at Randwick through the 20s and 30s."

He was born at Kensington in suburban Adelaide in 1883 and made his first

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.