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



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

www.sacredheart.org.au

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.

This is our sixth **Newsletter** from the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick, for 2016. We are still running a long way behind time—the aftermath of our pilgrimage to Krakow for World Youth Day.

In this issue we will look in some detail about **the context in which the young Fr Chevalier decided upon the title, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.**

Drawing on his research, Fr Jean Tostain MSC states: **“It is difficult to determine the precise moment when Fr Chevalier was inspired to give this new name to Mary.”** Fr Piperon, his companion, thought it was **September 9, 1855, the day when the bishop came to bless the modest chapel dedicated to the Sacred Heart.**”(p.58)



Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
built as an extension of
the Sanctuary
of the Basilica of the
Sacred Heart,
Issoudun.

Calendar for August: 1874 August 30 Foundation of OLSH Sisters, Issoudun, France by Fr Chevalier; 1882 Aug 21: Fr Navarre and two companions arrive in Sydney on way to Melanesia; 1887 First 4 OLSH Sisters arrive in PNG—Yule Island; 1889 MSC Sisters founded in Hilstrup Germany; 1895 First 5 OLSH Sisters arrive in Kiribati; 1902 First MSC House Switzerland; 1904 Martyrdom of 5 MSC Sisters, a Trappist Brother, 4 MSC priests, seven lay people Baining Mountains, East New Britain; 1905 Foundation of MSC Mission Merauke, Indonesia; 1908 First MSC Sisters to USA; 1926 14 Trappists join MSC in Belgian Congo (Zaire); 1945 Aug 15 Release of MSC, OLSH from Concentration Camp, New Britain; 1948 First MSC to Argentina; 1982, MSC Sisters open novitiate in Bangalore, India; 1985 Aug 25 First MSC house in Seoul Korea; 1985 First MSC Sisters to Dominican Republic; 1988 First Kiribatese OLSH to Marshall Islands.

According to Fr Piperon, it was only when Fr Chevalier had begun the construction of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in 1857 and they were discussing the shrine that would be dedicated to Mary, that he spoke to his confreres about the title “Our Lady of the Sacred Heart”. (p.59)

However, he waited two more years before he spoke again of this to his confreres and another two more years before he made it public in 1859. Fr Piperon explained that Fr Chevalier wanted to make a thorough study of the title in scripture and the tradition of the Church to see if it was in harmony with the doctrine of the Church.

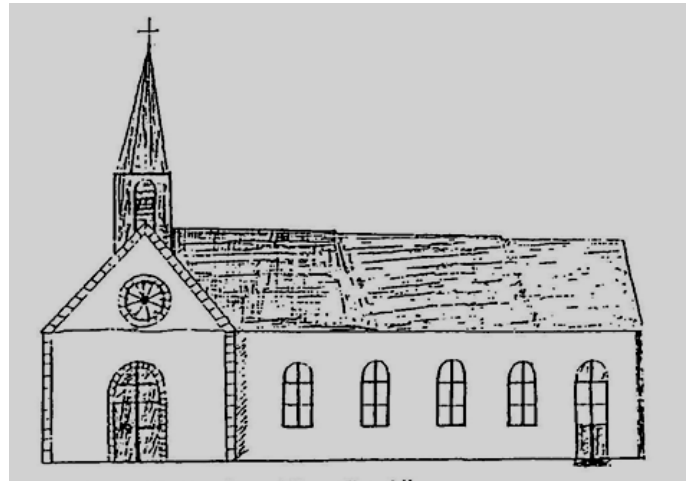
As result he wrote a lengthy work: *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, according to Holy Scripture, the Fathers of the Church, and Theology*. About the work Fr Piperon wrote: “It was a monument of Catholic science and learning”. Five editions all sold out quickly!

Fr Chevalier presented Mary as “the treasurer of the Heart of Jesus”, the one who obtains everything from her Son, and was also named as the “Hope of the Hopeless”. He realised that this was too restrictive in representing the relationship of Mary to Jesus. Later he wrote: “The purpose...is to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary under the special title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in the relationship of overwhelming love that exists between her and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

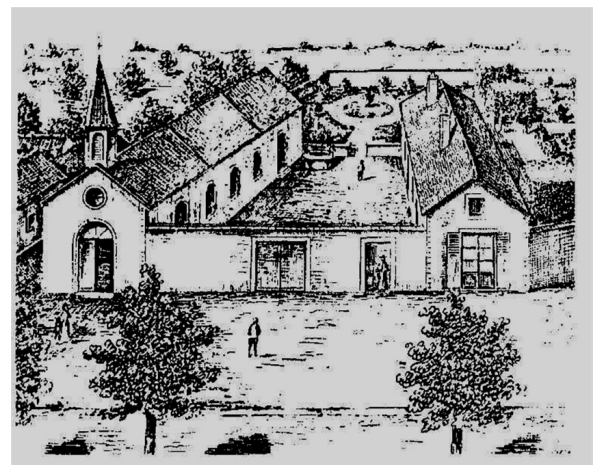
As Fr Tostain points out this is the pattern of the Hail Mary: we begin by praising Mary, full of grace, loved by the Lord.



Fr Jules Chevalier



The First Sacred Heart Church.



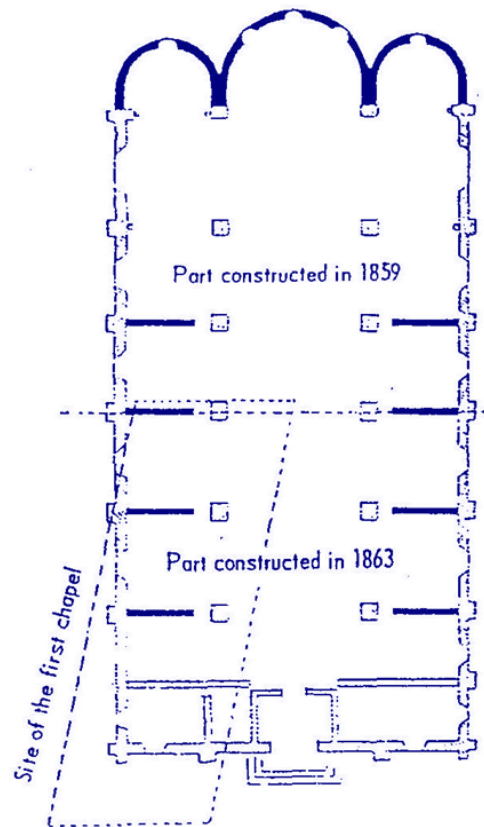
First Church and MSC Residence

Mary is blessed among all and Mother of the Saviour. It is only then and because of all this, that we can say 'Pray for us...now...' And even then the insistence is placed on the principal good we are asking for, our union with God: "Pray for us siners..."(p.60)

For these reasons the earlier *Memorare* Prayer composed by Fr Jouët was passed over in favour of the present prayer which, firstly, celebrates the wonderful things the Lord did for Mary as presented in the Gospels. Then we ask her help that we may live in that same love of her Son, and to lead all people to the Source of living water. **"To call Mary *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* is the best way to express all the bonds that unite Mary to the Love-God."**(p.61)

The unfolding of the title came at a time of extreme pressure for the young Fr Chevalier—pressure that exhausted him. His companion from the Seminary, and with whom he had thought of forming a group of Missionaries dedicated to the Sacred Heart, Fr Maugenest, had, it seemed, been providentially sent to Issoudun at the same time as Fr Chevalier. **Fr Maugenest was a remarkable and respected preacher, even at such a young age. He brought confidence to Fr Chevalier by his presence.**

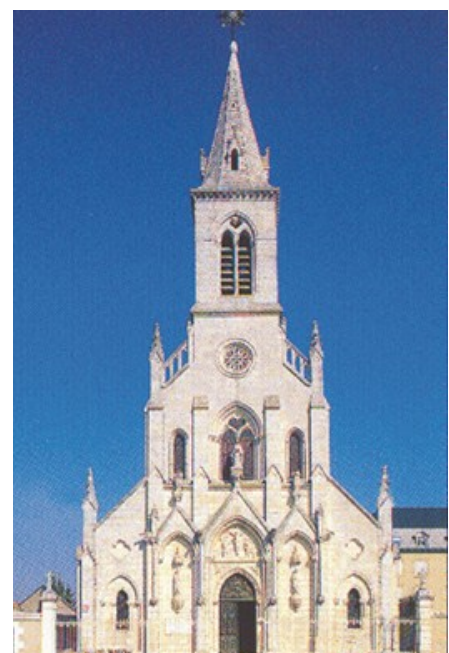
In 1857 he had preached the Advent sermons in the Bourges Cathedral and impressed the Archbishop. The Archbishop then withdrew Fr Maugenest from Issoudun and sent him to the Cathedral as archpriest. Fr Maugenest protested, but was met with a simple reply: "I am your bishop! You owe me obedience!" Fr Chevalier went immediately to the Archbishop to point out that without Fr Maugenest the Missionaries, which were just beginning, would probably collapse.



Construction stages of Basilica of Sacred Heart, Issoudun—Pictured below.

The dark lines indicate sections that were demolished in the construction of the present Shrine to OLSH at the sanctuary end of the Basilica.

Dotted line indicates the construction from 1863.



To this, the Archbishop replied: "If your work is from God, the loss of one of its members will not prevent it from succeeding. If it is merely the work of men, the presence of this member will not keep it from ruin." (p.54).

All very well for the Archbishop, but that one member was one third of Fr Chevalier's founding community-and approved by the very same Archbishop!

For Frs Chevalier and Piperon this was devastating. They withdrew to a monastery for a few days of reflection and prayer. The temptation to doubt was heavy, and yet in his writings, Fr Chevalier never complained nor criticized the Archbishop.

However, with the stress of it all, Fr Chevalier, a young man, fell sick and a friend took him on a pilgrimage to the La-Salette Marian sanctuary to give him some rest. It was on this occasion that he made the detour through Ars and met the famous Curé, Fr Jean Marie Vianney. The Curé, elderly and sick, told him that in his new Society "Mary would do everything".

On his return from Ars, Fr Piperon said "Fr Chevalier was a new man". He came to see that the removal of Fr Maugenest was nothing but a trial, and he looked with confidence to the future. (p.57)

Indeed, the years 1859-1869 were a period of many graces, of steady growth and consolidation. "The basilica would rise rapidly. New members would come to join the little community and among them some great figures who would give the Society a powerful life into the future." (p.57)

Further, great crowds would come to Is-soudun to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

"The high point of all this was on September 8, 1869. In the presence of fifteen bishops and a huge crowd of people, the statue of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was crowned in the name of Pope Pius IX." (p.57)

The new format of the Novena, can be found on the web:

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

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.