

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.

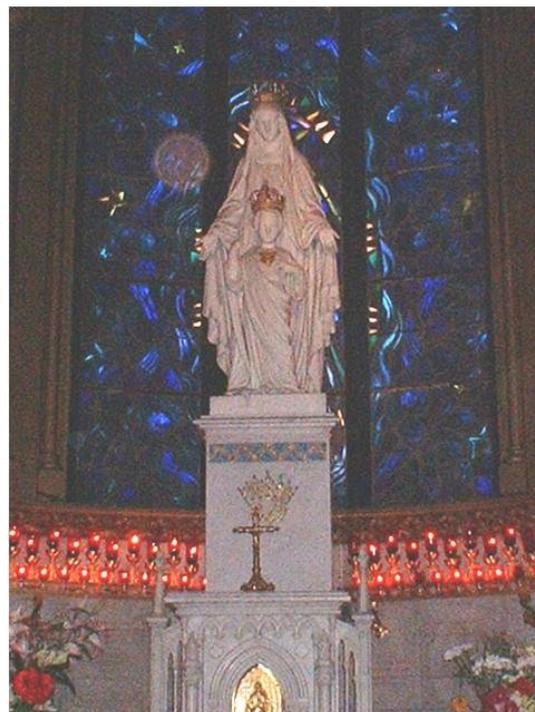
To inform people about the Mission and Ministries of the MSC and OLSH and other Congregations.

This is our seventh **Newsletter** from the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick, for 2016.

In this issue we will look at how Fr Chevalier developed the devotion to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

As we have seen, Fr Chevalier saw the title Our Lady of the Sacred Heart as **the best way to express the profound relationship between Mary and the Mystery of God's love given to us in Jesus.**

The first images showed Mary "with her hands open in a gesture of welcome and giving. **Jesus, at about the age of twelve, was standing before her and pointed to his own heart while also pointing to his mother.**" (Tostain *Jules Chevalier, Who was He?* p.61)



Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Issoudun.

Jesus is meant to be a 12-13 year old boy, the age of the Jewish *bar mitzvah*, being presented to the world by Mary. (See text)

Calendar for September: 1855 Sept 12 Frs Chevalier and Maugenest installed as first members and given the name Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. 1869 Sept 8, consecration OLSH Statue Issoudun in the name of Pope Pius IX; 1881 Sept 1, first MSC leave Barcelona for Melanesia; 1882 First MSC House UK, an Apostolic School; 1884 Five OLSH Sisters including Marie-Louise Hartzler make their first vows; 1899, first 8 postulants enter MSC Sisters in Hilstrup, Germany; 1891 First OLSH to New Britain, Rabaul; 1902 First seven MSC Sisters to Rabaul; 1908 First OLSH foundation, Switzerland; 1920 MSC to Manado, Celebes, Indonesia; 1923 MSC Sisters commence New Ireland PNG; 1924 First five OLSH and five MSC from Belgium go to Zaire, (Congo); 1930 First two Philipinos make first vows; 1936 7 Spanish MSC murdered in Civil War; 1958 Irish OLSH Sisters take charge of a mining hospital for local workers, Zimbabwe; 1985 MSC to Curacao Central America;

Fr Chevalier wanted a representation of a 12-13 year old Jesus, which would be the age at which a Jewish boy made his *bar mitzvah* and became accountable for his own life in living the commandments. Mary would be seen as presenting him to the world. However, the statue showed a large Madonna, the popular image of Mary Immaculate, looming over perhaps a six or seven year old child Jesus!

The images were out of proportion and would eventually attract trouble.

As Fr Cuskelly points out “to a large extent...the growth of the MSC Society was connected with the spread of this new devotion. Obviously, then, anything that affected the devotion, favourably or unfavourably, would have similar repercussions on the new Society.” (Cuskelly, *Man With A Mission*, p.67)

In short, if the devotion to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was suspect, then so was the MSC Society. Further, if the devotion, “its propagation and its Associations, passed into the hands of other congregations—then the young MSC community would lose one of its important works and one of its reasons for existence.” (Cuskelly, p.68)

And so trouble came, and it came exactly on the great day for Fr Chevalier and his small band of confreres when the first statue was solemnly crowned at Issoudun, in the name of Pope Pius IX by the Archbishop of Bourges. Thousands of pilgrims were present as were fifteen bishops and hundreds of priests. The date was September 8, 1869.



Fr Jules Chevalier



The Shrine at Issoudun—a place of serenity, consolation and peace.

The very morning of the crowning of the statue Fr Chevalier was in turmoil. He had received, via the Archbishop, a “please explain” from the Holy Office in Rome. The Archbishop had informed Fr Chevalier that Rome wanted all writings about the new devotion, prayer formulas and the like, to be submitted for examination.

As Fr Cuskelly points out, “Although the historical chain of events is somewhat complicated, the main facts involved are fairly simple. Those were the days when, in prayers, preaching and hymns, and in spiritual writings, pious exaggerations abounded. They were also the days when the Holy Office kept a careful eye out for doctrinal aberrations. And when the careful orthodox eye meets with the pious exaggerations, misunderstandings and conflicts are a fairly predictable outcome.” (Cuskelly p. 68)

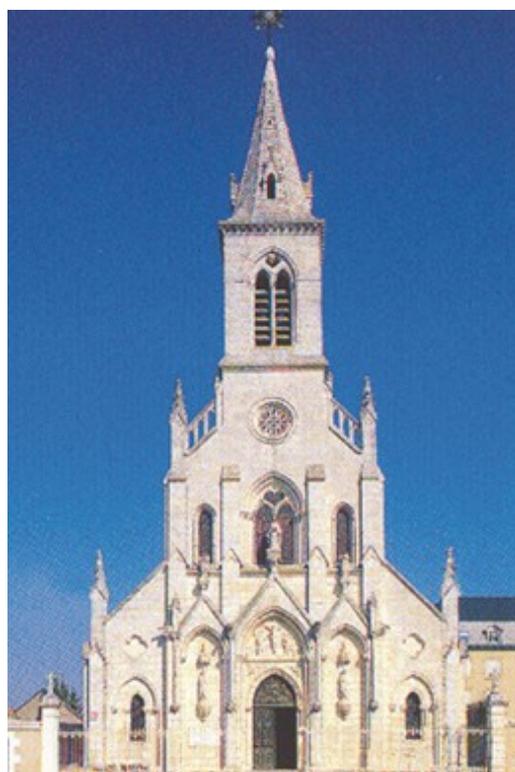
Part of the problem was the very popularity of the devotion to OLSH which had spread rapidly from its inception. Fr Charles Piperon, one of Fr Chevalier’s first companions, played a large part in its early spread. “In 1862 and 1863 he travelled a lot to preach appeals for the new church at Issoudun. To priests whom he met on his trips he spoke of the new devotion, explaining it with the help of images which he gave out. One of the priests he met was a famous Jesuit, Fr. Ramière, editor of the review “The Messenger of the Sacred Heart”.

A short article on the devotion—given him by Fr Piperon—was published as a study in his review. In this way it became known throughout France and beyond.” (Cuskelly p.35)

Fr Cuskelly noted, “The spread of the devotion was really extraordinary. In almost every place that the MSC were to go

in subsequent years they found that the devotion had preceded them. To some extent this was due to Fr Ramière’s publications and to the fact that the Jesuits made the devotions known in many places where they had missions.” (p.35)

However, with the uncontrolled spread of the devotion came exaggerations in preaching and prayer forms. Titles such as “Queen of the Sacred Heart”, “Sovereign of the Sacred Heart”, “Sovereign Mistress of the Sacred Heart”, aroused suspicions among the watchers of the faith in Rome.



Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Issoudun

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.

Further, suspicions were aroused about the very design of the statue itself—particularly with Mary looming over the child Jesus.

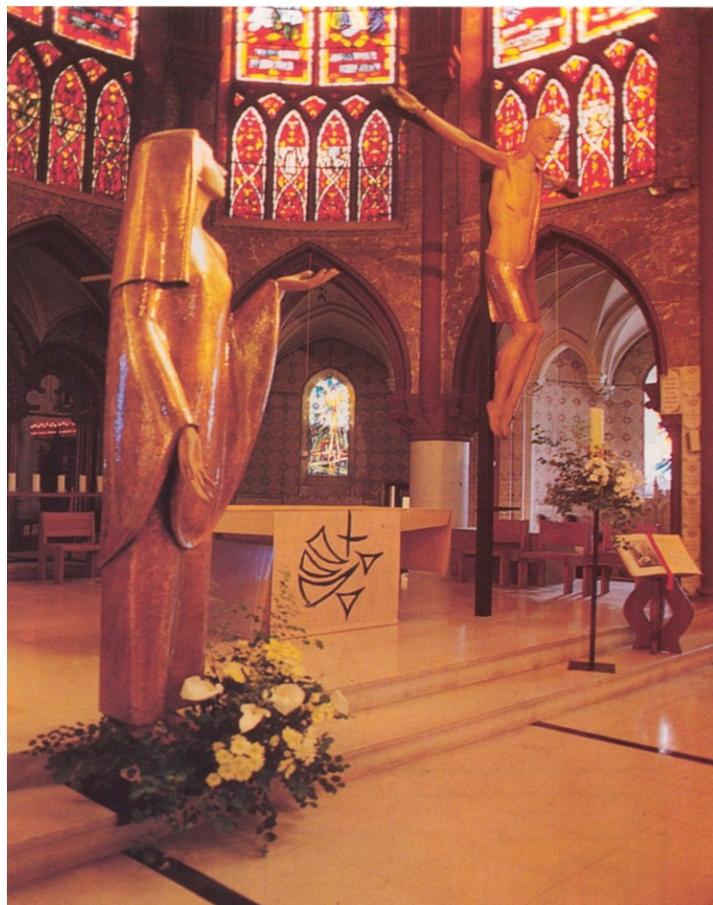
Clearly, these were worrying developments for Fr Chevalier. However, the devotion was never condemned. Nonetheless, Fr Chevalier and other priests “had to spend a lot of time over the years allaying Roman suspicions—or suspicions relayed to Rome by others.”

“They also had to observe detailed instructions as to which formulae could not be used when speaking or writing of the devotion. They had to follow norms about the images of Our Lady.” (Cuskelly, p.69)

In time, Rome asked that Mary be represented holding her infant son with him showing us both his heart and pointing to her and she to his heart. This image is the one most often found around the world.

“Today we use the image of Jesus on the cross with his side opened as our representation of the Sacred Heart. Mary is at the foot of the cross showing with her outstretched hand, the way that leads to his heart, open for all people. The other hand is open towards the earth to shower on us the graces that that heart holds: *‘hope and salvation, justice and peace.’*” (Tostain, p.61) This is the image represented in the sanctuary of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Issoudun. It is thoroughly biblical in inspiration.

Around the world where MSC and OLSH have established houses, many images of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart expressing the local culture have emerged—showing the versatility of this devotion.



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.