

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.

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

www.sacredheart.org.au

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.

Our fifth issue of the Newsletter of the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick is dated October 1st—a special day for the Church: the feast day of **St Thérèse of Lisieux**. St Thérèse, as I am sure you know, is one of the principle patrons of the missionary endeavor of the Church. We are all called to be evangelisers, bearers of the Good News of Christ and St Thérèse is a good friend and helper in that.

Last issue we left **Fr Chevalier** with the **life changing discovery** of the devotion to the Sacred Heart during his seminary days. As Fr Cuskelly points out this was “much more than an emotional reaction to a ‘private devotion’”. For Chevalier it was a deeply spiritual experience.” (*Man With A Mission* p 116.) Jules’ study of the dogmas of the church in his theology course spoke of the truths to be believed. BUT...



The Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Quebec, Canada.

- Calendar for October: 1884 Oct 17 – First OLSH leave France for Melanesia
- 1884: Frs Navarre and Hartzler and Br de Santis arrive at Thursday Island
- 1901: Expelled from France the MSC General House is installed in Belgium
- Government closes the Basilica at Issoudun
- Fr Chevalier resigns as Superior General to remain as (diocesan) Parish Priest of Issoudun
- 1905: Diocese of Darwin entrusted to the MSC
- 1907: OCTOBER 21 Death of Fr Chevalier at Issoudun
- 1908: First Dutch MSC leave for Philippines
- 1912: Bp Couppé founds the first Congregation of Sisters in PNG –Daughters of Mary Immaculate
- 1926: First MSC travel to China from Germany to begin their mission in Guizhou
- 1937: Oct 17 National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart blessed at Randwick

“...ONLY devotion to the Sacred Heart gave a vision of the whole of religion as being God’s love revealed that humankind might respond in love.” It was through this encounter that Jules learned in an experiential way that “the kindness and love of God our savior for humankind were revealed.” (Cuskelly p.116)

He had “learned to know Christ the Adorer of the Father; now he met the Christ who ‘had compassion on the crowds’; the Christ who is ‘capable of feeling our weaknesses with us.’”

Tellingly, Fr Cuskelly points out that this “revelation to him of Christ in his love as being the ‘last word in all things’ came at a time when he was weighed down by his concern for people in their indifference, their coldness, their fear of God. And now he discovered a Christ who, far more than he, had been concerned for humanity:”

He wrote, “during his mortal life, he [Christ] was happy to pour out all the tenderness of his heart on the little ones, the humble, the poor, on those who suffer, on sinners—and on all the miseries of humanity. The sight of a misfortune, an unhappiness or any pain, touched his heart with compassion.” (Cf Cuskelly p.117)

Jules was particularly taken by the image of Christ as the Good Shepherd. He devotes a number of Meditations to different aspects of this theme, and proposes to his missionaries the mind and example of the Good Shepherd.

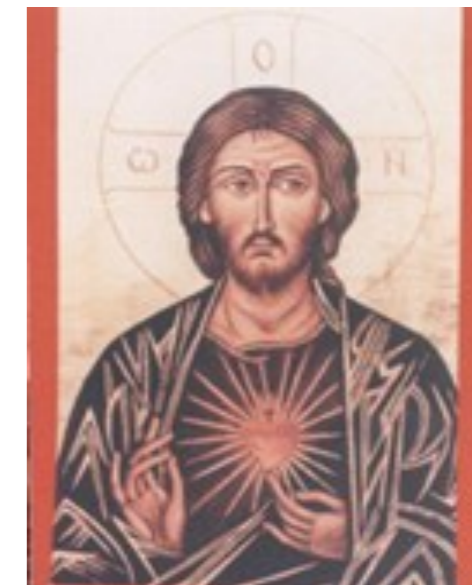
Fr Cuskelly states that Fr Chevalier would “have found meaningless the distinction made later between—going directly to the Person of Christ, or going to Christ through his heart.... He lived at a time when the Sacred Heart, and it alone, pointed up this loving compassionate Christ of the gospels. He lived, too, at a time when people were probably more sensitive to symbolism—the symbol leading immediately to the symbolized, but not in itself constituting an object which arrested the attention. (Cuskelly p.117)

However, for Fr Chevalier, “a gentle Christ is not a weak Christ; the Heart of Jesus possesses in perfect degree the virtues of ‘courage, strength, constancy and generosity.’” (Cuskelly p.118)



Jules Chevalier MSC

Fr Cuskelly states that in the Heart of Jesus, “Jules Chevalier had discovered his charism: ‘A particular angle of looking at Jesus in the Gospels, a special stress or emphasis upon a certain way of following him and a certain way of serving him in other people.’” (Cuskelly p. 118) (To be continued)



October 19th 1901: Expulsions of MSC from French Houses

“Words cannot describe the anxiety of heart that I suffered in seeing all my brothers dispersed, in seeing the Basilica closed.

But in the midst of it all, God sustained me by his grace.”

J Chevalier, *Personal Notes*, p.34.

We leave the unfolding story of Fr Chevalier and move to the present time to South Africa and the story of Benedict Daswa, a martyr who lived in the northern MSC Diocese of Tzaneen.

The MSC General House, Rome, October 2015 *Bulletin* has this *Report*. "On Sunday 13 September 2015, in the village of Tshitani in the Diocese of Tzaneen in South Africa, His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and Representative of His Holiness Pope Francis, celebrated the rite of the **Beatification of Blessed Tshimangadzo Samuel Benedict Daswa (1946-1990), Layman, Family man and Martyr**. Present were 30,000 + people including 30 Bishops, M. Cyril Ramaphosa (The Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa), 200 Priests, 25 MSC and many Religious."

The oldest in a family of five children, Benedict Daswa was born on June 16, 1946, in the village of Mbahé in what is now the Province of Limpopo in the Republic of South Africa. He was baptized on April 21, 1963, by Fr. Augustine O'Brien, MSC, and was confirmed on July 21 of the same year.

After his primary, secondary and professional studies, he received, in 1973, his diploma as a primary school teacher and began teaching in the grade school at Ha-Dumasi. In 1974, he married Shadi Eveline Monyai, a member of the Lutheran Church, in a traditional ceremony. Four years later, on November 28, 1978, they were married in a civil ceremony.

On January 1, 1979, he was named Director of the primary school in the village of Nweli. On August 9, 1980, after his wife became a Catholic, the couple had a church wedding celebrated by Fr. Patrick O'Connor, MSC, who became the friend and spiritual guide of the couple. From Benedict's marriage to Eveline eight children were born.

It was above all, however, his church marriage to Eveline which marked the beginning of his understanding of a special call to holiness.

He was a highly appreciated educator of youth and an exemplary husband and father. All the members of his little family prayed together daily and were regular participants in Sunday Mass.

He also gave witness to his faith in his village and in the parish community through his different commitments as **catechist, liturgical animator, promoter of works of charity and a builder of justice and peace.**



Blessed Benedict Daswa



On January 25, 1990, lightning from a powerful thunderstorm caused a number of houses in his village to be destroyed by fire. For the people this was not something natural. They had to find the one responsible. The decision was taken to consult a sorcerer from a nearby village to find out more about the cause. To do this, each member of the village had to pay about 5 rands. Benedict was absent when this decision was made. When he arrived home, he stated that thunder and lightning are natural phenomena but his explanation was not accepted. The decision to consult a sorcerer stood. For the people it was very clear that **Benedict refused to pay the required contribution because he claimed that his Catholic faith did not permit him to take part in anything related to witchcraft.** Upset by this attitude, a group of men organized a plot against him and **on the evening of February 2, 1990, he was cruelly assassinated in the village of Mbahé, not far from his home.** While his executioners were killing him, Benedict was on his knees praying.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on February 10, 1990, in the parish church of Nweli with about 600 faithful present. It was his opposition to witchcraft that led to his death. His fame as a martyr soon spread throughout the region. Each year, on the anniversary of his death, about 800 people make a pilgrimage to his tomb. The prayer vigil organized in 2014 on his death anniversary brought together more than 3,000 people.

The present problem of witchcraft goes beyond the borders of South Africa: it is a problem found throughout Africa in general and in sub-Saharan Africa in particular....By his courage and his fidelity to the Catholic faith, Benedict Daswa is a model for all the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa."

The documentation for Benedict's Beatification was collected and presented by two Australian OLSH Sisters: Sr Noelle Albert OLSH and Sr Claudette Hiosin OLSH. We extend our gratitude and congratulations to both Sisters.

The Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has one session per week at OLSH Church Randwick on Thursday mornings 11:30-midday.

You can post petitions and thanksgiving letters to **Novena, PO Box 309 Randwick NSW 2031**

Novena text: www.sacredheart.org.au

A prayer seeking the intercession of Blessed Benedict Daswa

Loving God, you know all about my many problems and worries and my great fears when I look to the future.

I draw strength and courage from the life of your servant Benedict. I believe he is now with You in heaven. I ask him to approach you for this special favour.....

(here make your request)

With ecclesiastical approval 02/02/2010

Those who receive any graces and favours through the intercession of Benedict Daswa are invited to inform Fr André Bohas, MSC, P.O. Box 161, Louis Trichardt 0920 Rep. South Africa

andbohas@mweb.co.za www.benedictdaswa.com

"Jules Chevalier was surrounded by great conflicts between the Church and society in the France of his day, and indeed by the whole European crisis, but he never lost confidence in the future of the Church's work."

Fr Lescrauwaet MSC, *Triptych*, p.28

The Novena Prayer

Memorare to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

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.

(Pause – to 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.