

## **Fáilte rómhaimh go léir to dtí an ócáid speisialta seo – céad bliain do Mhisinéirí an Chroí Naofa in Éirinn.**

On behalf of the Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart I am truly privileged to welcome you all to our celebration as we mark this milestone in the history of our Society – our Centenary.

Since 1909 the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of the Irish Province have laboured faithfully at home and abroad. We could not have achieved anything without the prayers and support of family, friends, benefactors, other men and women religious, diocesan bishops and priests and of course the lay faithful – the People of God. I welcome you all here today and thank you for coming. I wish to give a very special welcome to our sister congregation, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, who have laboured with us in various places down through the years.



We are gathered in this Cathedral of St Mary and St Anne thanks to Dr John Buckley, Bishop of Cork and Ross, who has kindly agreed to preside at our celebration this afternoon.

I wish to say a word of welcome to all visiting Missionaries of the Sacred Heart from various countries of Europe and beyond. I am particularly glad that our Superior General, Fr Mark McDonald MSC, is represented by the Assistant General, Fr Narciso Abellana MSC.

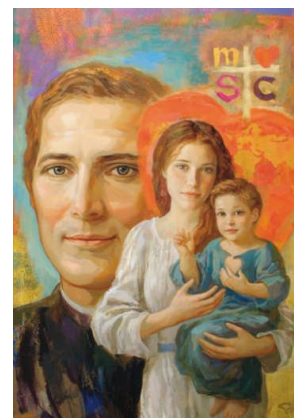
Most Rev. Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza, Papal Nuncio to Ireland, has graced us with his presence today. I sincerely welcome him and the message of prayerful good wishes he brings with him from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. I welcome all other church leaders who are with us this afternoon. I am also grateful to our civic and political leaders who have taken the time to be with us today.

This is a special day of thanksgiving for all that the Lord has done through the ministry of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. As you will hear in the words of Scripture, ours is a loving and faithful God who promises to be “with us always to the end of time”.

Beannacht Dé oraibh go léir.  
Patrick Courtney MSC  
Provincial Superior

## **Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Ireland: 1909 – 2009 An Historical Glance at the origins of the Irish Province**

The Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart was founded in France in 1854. Fr Jules Chevalier, the founder, was a young priest in the town of Issoudun in central France where he lived for most of his life as parish priest until his death in 1907. Our Society is one branch of a family that eventually included two societies of religious sisters, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, together with a third order made up of lay people, as well as a worldwide body of supporters who share in the spirit and work of the missionary family. The religious and lay members of the Chevalier Family now share in a spirituality and mission that reaches out into more than fifty countries.



Our spirituality is based on a particular way of contemplating Jesus and following him. We call it the Way of the Heart. We are inspired to emphasise the humanity of Jesus, his gentleness, courage, humility, compassion and powerful love that is inclusive of everybody, but especially of all who suffer in spirit or in body. He is the Good Shepherd, who gathers us into the family of a merciful, compassionate and loving God. Out of his heart flow rivers of living water, the life-giving Spirit who fills our hearts with love, joy and peace. In Jesus, we find healing and strength to live a meaningful and purposeful life.

In 1876, a highly-regarded pious young priest from the Diocese of Cloyne, John Mary Neenan, wrote to the Fathers at Issoudun, expressing his desire to join their society and to help in establishing a house of the society in Ireland. He completed his novitiate in France and was professed in 1877. He was then appointed to a newly founded community in Watertown, in the State of New York, USA, where he died not long afterwards. The cross over his grave bears an impressive testimony to his zeal and enthusiasm: “Sacred to the memory of John Mary Neenan, Missionary of the Sacred Heart. Remarkable for his unostentatious learning, his angelic piety and his burning zeal for God’s greater glory, he died on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1879, in the twenty sixth year of his life and the second of his religious profession.” His dream of a foundation in Ireland was to be taken up by those who came after him.

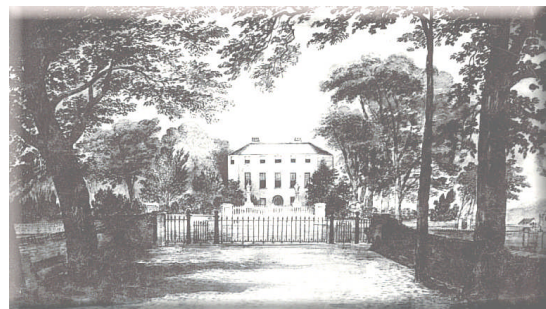
Before Fr Neenan's departure for Watertown, he went home to visit his family in the parish of Castlemagner in north Cork. His brother, William, was already in France, studying in the minor seminary of the Society. John Mary now availed of the opportunity to do some further recruiting. Five youngsters, including his brother Daniel and a sturdy young man called Michael Tierney, returned with him to France.



Fr Michael Tierney, born on September, 29<sup>th</sup> 1860 at Churchtown, Mallow, Co. Cork, was the man who pioneered the first foundation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Ireland at the Western Road, Cork, in 1909. He entered the novitiate of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at St Gerard-le-Puy near Issoudun and was professed on November, 21<sup>st</sup> 1879. He pursued his philosophical and theological studies at Chezal-Benoit near Bourges in central France and was ordained a priest at Bourges on March, 29<sup>th</sup> 1884. The following year he went to Australia where in a short time he became superior of the Randwick community which was the headquarters of the society in Australia. Indeed it was he who built the church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick.

In 1898 Fr Tierney moved to England where Fr Chevalier had established the first MSC foundation at Madeley in Shropshire in 1882. Four years later they transferred to Glastonbury in Somerset where they opened a minor seminary. It was from Glastonbury in 1899 that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart took charge of the parish of St Alban and St Stephen in St Albans, Hertfordshire, where Fr Tierney was named the first rector. The MSCs continue to minister in St Albans to this day, our oldest existing foundation in this Province.

Ten years later, early in 1909, Fr Tierney returned to his native county of Cork with the intention of acquiring a house for the Society in Ireland. Having heard that the "Dyke House" in Cork city was for sale, he sought permission from the bishop of Cork, Dr Thomas O'Callaghan, to establish a foundation in the diocese. Having received the approval of the bishop he purchased the property that was to become known as Sacred Heart College, Western Road. Fr Tierney and three others, namely, Frs James



Fitzgibbon, John Power and Ludovicus Kopp, formed the first MSC community in September 1909. In the same month the apostolic school was opened at Sacred Heart College, with twelve students.

With his outgoing personality and considerable missionary experience, Fr Tierney very quickly established a missionary community and set about making preparations for the building of a public church in which our spirituality and devotion to the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart could be promoted.

Despite the hardships caused by World War One and the War of Independence in Ireland, this new foundation enabled the community to grow and extend its presence to other parts of the country. Training houses for our students were established in Carraig na bhFear near Cork City, Myross Wood in West Cork and Moyne Park in Galway. These houses provided the opportunities and resources for the training of great missionaries, some of them truly heroic. Beginning in 1926, they played their part with other European MSCs in the evangelization of Papua New Guinea. Among those great men of the early days we note in particular Frs Bill Culhane, Bill Barrow and Michael Murphy, all of whom lost their lives in the service of the people of Papua New Guinea during the Second World War. Our Irish missionaries continued to work there until 2004.

The significant increase in vocations in Ireland in the late 1940s and early 1950s made it possible for the Irish MSCs to establish their own mission territory in South Africa. In 1950 our first missionaries set sail for that troubled country. Some of the missionaries who survived the ordeal of prison camps in Papua New Guinea were later to serve this new mission. One of them, Fr John Durkin, became bishop of Louis Trichardt/Tzaneen Diocese in the Northern Transvaal.

The growth in vocations in the 1940s and 1950s, with its subsequent missionary expansion and an increasing financial autonomy, led the MSC Congregation to establish the Irish Province as a separate entity in June, 1952.

Other missionaries returning from New Guinea joined a small group of Irish MSCs who had settled in the Southern States of the USA in the mid 1960s. They consolidated our presence there, taking responsibility for parishes and engaging in much needed fundraising activity to support the fledgling missions of the young Irish Province.

During these decades of growth we also witnessed a significant expansion of our missionary activity in England in both parish and education ministries. These were also flourishing years for MSC ministries in Ireland, where we were involved in parish missions, retreats and education, both at secondary and third level. From 1961 until 1966, following the Indonesian War of Independence, some of our members served in that part of the world, where they assisted missionaries from the Dutch Province in their work there.

It was in 1967 that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart responded to the call of Pope John XXIII at the Second Vatican Council by sending the first Irish MSCs to work in Maracaibo, Venezuela, where we continue to minister to the present day. In keeping with the missionary tradition of the early days, in August 1995, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart decided to undertake a new mission in the Caucasus area of Russia. Two members remain in that particularly difficult mission where they are joined by MSCs from the South German/Austrian Province who work with them.

All the achievements described above could not have been possible without the support and prayers of our many faithful and loyal benefactors. We pray in gratitude for the thousands of wonderful people who, year after year, contribute to our missionary endeavours. Through their generosity and personal sacrifice our benefactors and friends ensure that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are always well resourced as they continue to preach the Gospel and make a difference in those places in the world where the Lord invites them to be present.

As a religious and missionary society, we have been privileged to work with many other religious, both men and women, with diocesan bishops and priests, and with lay people, in the mission entrusted to us in the service of the peoples of the world. The Irish Province of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has been especially supportive to the MSCs particularly in the early days of our missionary work. The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are very grateful to the sisters for their loyalty and dedicated service. In this centenary year we give thanks for all the blessings received on our journey and we pray with confidence that our loving God who “began this good work in each one of us will bring it to fulfilment”.

Our mission of making the Heart of Jesus known and loved everywhere remains as relevant today as it was one hundred years ago. Our particular vision of Jesus enables us to continue to be bearers of the Good News for the world. It is a vision born of faith in the goodness and kindness of God communicated to the world in the humanity of Jesus. Father Chevalier saw in the Heart of Jesus a “remedy” for all that afflicts our world today, a remedy for sin in all its manifestations. The Heart of Jesus is the “real symbol” of God’s compassion, kindness and forgiveness revealed to the world.

*“Father Chevalier saw the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the meeting place between God and humankind. Indeed, it is from Jesus’ Heart that God’s love is lavished upon men and women; it is in Jesus’ Heart that humanity is reconciled to God. Jesus invites us to a “spirituality of the heart” in imitation of his own surrender, obedience, courage, fidelity and love. It is my fervent hope that you, dear Brothers, will continue to draw inspiration and strength from this spirituality and from your Founder’s Charism as you fulfil your vocation in the Church and the world. You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things.”*

Pope John Paul II, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the MSC Congregation.



In 1942 the Japanese made a surprise landing at Tabor, New Guinea, and escorted Fr Michael Murphy off the Island. Fr Murphy was never seen again and it is believed that he may very well have suffered a martyr’s death at the hands of the Japanese. Four years later, when the German Bishop Sharmach MSC came to the island, the local people brought him to Fr Murphy’s church where on opening the tabernacle the Blessed Eucharist was found to be intact and uncorrupted. The Lord had not deserted his people.

## Principal Celebrant

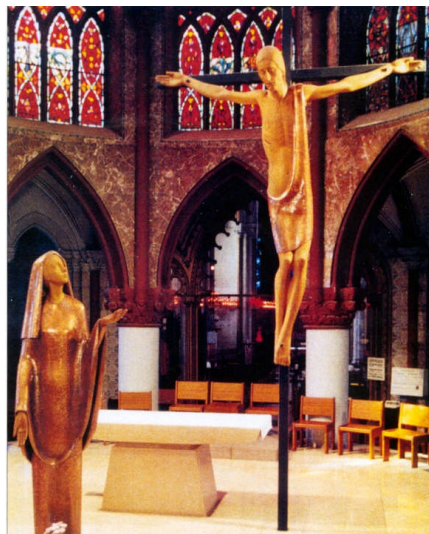
Fr Patrick Courtney MSC

## Provincial

### Welcome and Opening Commentary

Before Mass begins friends of the Sacred Heart Parish Western Road will bring to the altar a picture of Fr Jules Chevalier, founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart together with the Constitutions of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the guidelines which govern the life and mission of every MSC. The Golden Book and the Blue Book containing the names and prayer intentions of our benefactors will also be presented. The image of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart standing at the foot of the Cross will also be carried in this procession. Interspersed throughout the procession is a collection of flags representing the different countries where members of the Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have ministered through the years.

Seán Ó Sé will set the scene for us as he sings *Is Beannaithe Tig Dé ...*,  
*Blessed is the house of God ...*



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

MSC Basilica Issoudun, France

**Opening Hymn: Praise the Lord all you Nations (O'Carroll)**

**Response: *Alleluia***

Praise the Lord all you nations,  
Acclaim him all you peoples  
Strong is his love for us;  
He is faithful for ever. *Alleluia.*

Proclaim his help day by day,  
Tell among the nations his glory.  
And his wonders among all the peoples. *Alleluia.*

O sing a new song to the Lord.  
Sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. *Alleluia.*

Bring an offering and enter his courts.  
Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth tremble before him! *Alleluia.*

**Kyrie:** (Ó Riada)

**Gloria** (Coventry Mass)

**Response: Glory to God, glory in the highest.  
Peace to his people, peace on earth.**

**Opening Prayer**



## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6 – 10

*“If Yahweh has set his heart on you, and chose you ... Know then that Yahweh your God is God indeed, the faithful God who is true to his covenant and his graciousness for a thousand generations ...”*

### Responsorial Psalm

(Ó Canainn)

Canaigí amhrán nua don Tiarna - óir rinne sé éachtaí.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9

*“I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Chris ... God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.”*

### Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

(O’Carroll)

### Gospel: Matthew 28: 16 – 20

*“Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ... And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.”*

### Homily

Fr Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin MSC, Parish Priest, Kilmacabea, Leap, Co. Cork.

## Prayers of the Faithful

Reader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our 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.  
Let us live like you in the love of your Son  
so that his Kingdom may come.  
Lead us 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.



MSC GOLDEN BOOK

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

**Offertory Hymn: We come to your Feast**

(Michael Joncas)

We place upon your table a gleaming cloth of white:  
the weaving of our stories, the fabric of our lives;  
the dreams of those before us, the ancient hopeful cries,  
the promise of our future: our needing and our nurture  
lie here before our eyes.

**All: We come to your feast; we come to your feast:  
the young and the old, the frightened, the bold,  
the greatest and the least.  
We come to your feast; we come to your feast:  
with the fruit of our lands and the work of our hands,  
we come to your feast.**

We place upon your table a humble loaf of bread:  
the gift of field and hillside, the grain by which we're fed;  
we come to taste the presence of him on whom we feed,  
to strengthen and connect us, to challenge and correct us,  
to love in word and deed. **All: We come to your feast ...**

We place upon your table a simple cup of wine:  
the fruit of human labour, the gift of sun and vine;  
we come to taste the presence, of him we claim as Lord,  
his dying and his living, his leading and his giving,  
his love in cup outpoured. **All: We come to your feast ...**

We gather 'round your table, we pause within our quest,  
we stand beside our neighbours; we name the stranger "guest."  
The feast is spread before us; you bid us come and dine:  
in blessing we'll uncover, in sharing we'll discover  
your substance and your sign. **All: We come to your feast ...**

**Sanctus** (Ó Riada)

**Memorial Acclamation** (Mass of Creation)

**Great Amen** (Mass of Creation)

**Ár nAthair** (Ó Riada)

**Agnus Dei** (Ó Riada)

### **Hymns During Holy Communion**

Sweet heart of Jesus, fount of love and  
mercy,  
today we come, thy blessings to implore.  
O touch our hearts, so cold and so  
ungrateful,  
and make them, Lord, thine own for  
evermore.



*Sweet heart of Jesus, we implore,  
O make us love thee more and more.*

Sweet heart of Jesus, make us know and  
love thee,  
unfold to us the treasures of thy grace;  
that so our hearts, from things of earth  
uplifted,  
may long alone to gaze upon thy face.

Sweet heart of Jesus, make us pure and  
gentle,  
and teach us how to do thy blessed will;  
to follow close the print of thy dear  
footsteps,  
and when we fall – sweet heart, oh, love us still.

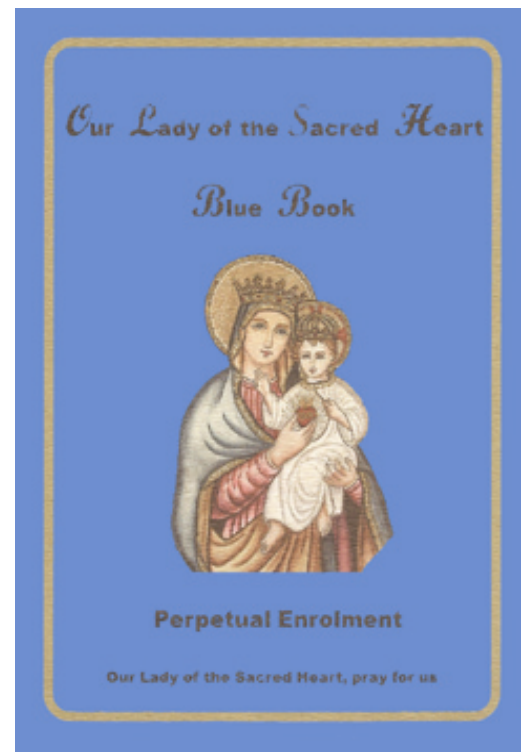
Sweet heart of Jesus, bless all hearts that  
love thee,  
and may thine own heart ever blessed be,  
bless us, dear Lord, and bless the friends  
we cherish,  
and keep us true to Mary and to thee.

**We invite you to join the choir in the following refrains.**

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst.

Take and eat, take and eat,  
this is my body given up for you.  
Take and drink, take and drink,  
this is my blood given up for you.

**Prayer after Communion**



## **Apostolic Blessing**

His Excellency, Most Rev. Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza, Papal Nuncio to Ireland.

## **Message from the Superior General**

Fr Narciso Abellana MSC, representing Fr Mark McDonald MSC Superior General of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

## **Appreciation from Dr John Buckley, Bishop of Cork and Ross**

Let us now quietly contemplate the blessing prayer sung for us by Seán Ó Sé.

*A Rí an Domhnaigh*

(Ó Riada)

*(O King of kings and Lord of lords, come to help us.  
Heart of God be our constant support and save us, no matter how far we have  
strayed from your gentle way.)*

## **Blessing**

The Lord of earth and heaven  
has assembled us before him this day  
to recall with gratitude his faithfulness.  
May he fill you with the blessings of heaven. **Amen.**

God the Father wills that all his people  
scattered throughout the world  
become one family in his Son.  
May he make you his temple, the dwelling place of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

In this joyous season of Easter may the risen Lord  
dwell within you and give you deep joy.  
May you one day experience eternal life in the company of the saints in heaven.  
**Amen.**

And may almighty God bless you, ...



## Recessional Hymn

### Christ is Alive

(Pamela Stotter)

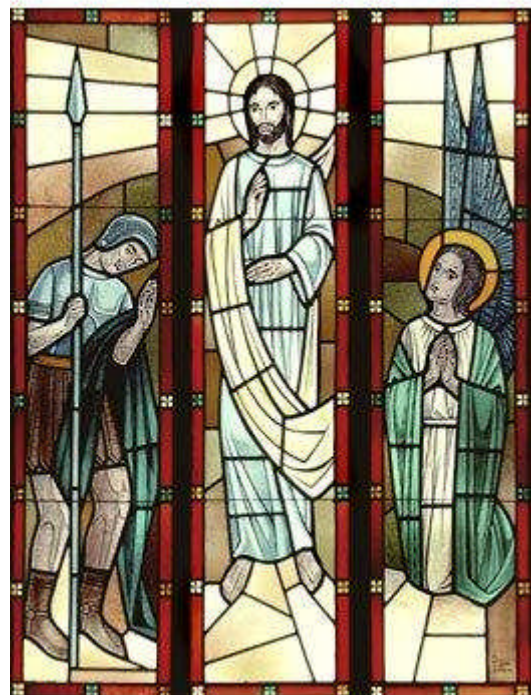
Christ is alive with joy we sing;  
we celebrate our risen Lord,  
praising the glory of his name.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the grain of wheat that died;  
sown in distress and reaped in joy,  
yielding a harvest of new life.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the sun which brings the dawn:  
he is the light of all the world,  
setting us free from death and sin.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the vine set in the earth,  
sharing our life, becoming man,  
that we might share in God's own life.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is alive, with joy we sing;  
we celebrate our risen Lord,  
praising the glory of his name.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



**The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart would like to express sincere thanks to all our friends and benefactors who have made such a special effort to join us for this celebration.**

**Sincere thanks to all who have made our celebration possible:**

Dr John Buckley, Bishop of Cork and Ross

Fr Declan Mansfield, staff and voluntary helpers of this beautiful cathedral

The Cathedral Choir

Ann Roche, Choir Director

Joe Higgins, Cathedral Organist

Áine Ní Shé, Violinist

Carbry O'Sullivan, Trumpeter

Seán Ó Sé, Guest Cantor

The ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist

The staff of the MSC Mission Support Centre, Western Road

Fr Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin MSC, homilist

The students from Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear

Supporters and friends from Sacred Heart Parish, Western Road

Sr Maureen Condon, Sr Norrie Finan and Sr Margaret Coleman

St Vincent's Secondary School, St Mary's Road, where we are all invited to assemble for refreshments after Mass.

**Sincere thanks to others too numerous to mention who contributed not only to this special occasion but who constantly give voluntarily of their time and abilities in support of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.**

If you wish to know more about the life and work of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart please visit our website at [www.msccireland.com](http://www.msccireland.com) . For further information about vocations to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart visit [www.msccvocations.com](http://www.msccvocations.com) .



**Prayer for the Beatification of Fr Jules Chevalier M.S.C.  
Founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. 1824 – 1907**

God our Father,  
you so loved the world that you gave us Jesus, your Son,  
to bring salvation to all people.  
We thank you for Jules Chevalier whom you gave to your Church.  
He found in the Sacred Heart an effective remedy for the ills of his time.

With Mary who stood at the foot of the cross  
he contemplated the “one who was pierced”.  
He became the apostle of Christ’s merciful love,  
whose Heart he wished to make known and loved  
throughout the whole world.

Father, we ask that Jules Chevalier may be recognised in your Church today  
as an intercessor close to your own Heart.  
May we also, inspired by his example and prayer,  
become apostles of the Heart of your Son,  
so that your kingdom of justice, love and peace may be established everywhere,  
and that the Heart of your Son may  
be the heart of a new world. Amen

