

A NEW HEART FOR A NEW WORLD



News and Spirituality of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Vol. 4—No. 2 June 2011



May the Sacred Heart of Jesus Be Loved Everywhere!

A SPECIAL EDITION:

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART

JULY 1, 2011

Message from the Provincial

One of the strongest human needs is the longing to be loved. We are born with this yearning deep within us. Its early manifestations are the need to be fed, to be dry and to be held. Every baby needs this to survive and to feel secure. This has been powerfully dramatized by Mother Teresa's Sisters caring for dying babies in India, who would sometimes smile only when being held in loving arms.

The need to be loved doesn't end with early childhood, but remains with us throughout our lives. However, it's a need that can only be partially satisfied by the people around us. That's because other people are also finite, human, having the same needs we have. Only God can fully satisfy our need to be loved, because only God is not subject to human limitations.

It has been revealed just how much God is willing to love us by sending the Son. St. John puts it this way: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." (3:16) God's love is made real and personified in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Because the heart is a symbol of love, the Sacred Heart represents God's love for us.

As Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, we are sent to reflect and to offer God's love to whomever we encounter. We share God's own love in every ministry, in all situations, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. Where people are hurting or damaged or broken, we stand with them to reveal God's presence in the Heart of

Jesus. When people are healed or reconciled or forgiven, we are there to point to the Heart of Jesus.

During the month of June, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, we invite you to join with us in prayer, asking God to use us as instruments to offer a troubled world God's love revealed in the Heart of Jesus. In whatever way, great or small, that we can touch someone's heart with even a little bit of love, we are all being Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere.

Fr. Ray Diesbourg, MSC



V. Rev. Raymond Diesbourg, MSC
Provincial Superior
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

MSC Spirituality Books



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A New Heart for A New World



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The Sacred Heart Foundation Stays Connected to the MSC

This year the Sacred Heart Foundation awarded \$66,000 in scholarships to 59 Missionaries of the Sacred Heart students studying to be priests. Students were from the United States and nine other countries of the world.

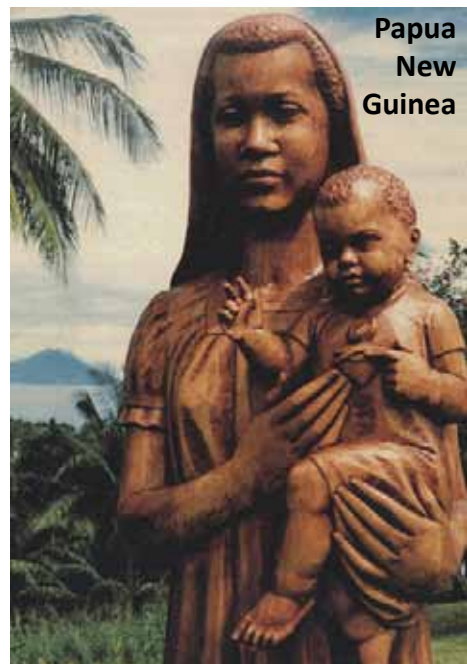
The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are involved in our entire scholarship process. Father Mark McDonald, MSC, Superior General, selects the provinces we will favor. Father Richard Kennedy, MSC, Pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown, NY, chairs our Scholarship Committee. Father Kennedy and Father Michael Camilli, MSC serve on our Board of Directors. The Board approves all giving. Father Pierre Aubin, MSC, one of our founders, serves on our Honorary Council.

The Foundation, whose only mission is to provide financial support to MSC students, is housed in the MSC building in Watertown, NY. The building is home to two MSC Brothers and four MSC Priests who all are very active in this community.

You can help us work to facilitate the growth of the MSC community throughout the world by becoming a member or a donor. Donations can be sent to the Sacred Heart Foundation, 668 Thompson Street, Watertown, NY 13601. For further information on how you can contribute, please contact the Foundation at mail@sacredheartfoundation.com or 315-782-3344.

MSC Scrapbook: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Around the World

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Pray for Us...



Credit: Images from the website of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Australia (www.olshaustralia.org)

Lucky Calendar Winners

In order to conserve printed materials, we are now posting Lucky Calendar Winners on our website at www.misacor-usa.org. Winners are notified after the drawing. If you have questions, please call our office at (630) 892-2371.

(Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm, Central Time).

In your kindness, would you remember the MSC when making or changing your Will?



Our official title and address is:

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If you would like to donate a gift of stock to the MSC, please contact us at: (630) 892-2371 for specific brokerage information.

Celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart

Moving from Devotion to Spirituality

The Church sets aside days to honor special devotions to teach us and to remind us of what's important in life. Some of these devotions are becoming popular due to the positive impact on people's lives. I believe that we have a feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for all of these reasons.

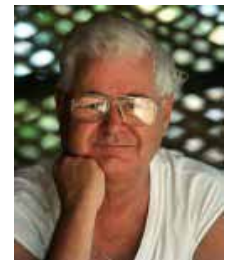
As the years go by, our needs, understandings, and motivations change. In order to meet the needs of our changing situation, the meanings contained in a devotion often develop and grow. I believe this is happening in the Sacred Heart Devotion. The change is from devotion (something we do) to spirituality (something God does within us). Often in devotions, we hope God will cooperate with us and our needs and desires. Spirituality is about our cooperating with God and His desires. His first desire for each of us is a loving relationship with us because He loves us. His next desire is that we radiate the sentiments of His heart, which are the fruits of this relationship and which help those around us enter more deeply into a loving relationship with Him. All of our teaching, praying, sacraments, and vocations to priest-

ly, religious, married, or single life are really about this. Missionary activity, evangelization, contemplation, and meditation all are about a loving relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Since the soldier pierced the side of Jesus on the cross, there has always been some form of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart is intimately connected with the movement of the Spirit. The blood and water flowing from His pierced Heart was a symbol of the living water, which is another way of describing the Holy Spirit. Saint Paul in Galatians 5:22-23 speaks of the Fruit of the Spirit. "In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." It is worth remembering that we cannot force plants to grow and bear fruits. Rather we let them grow, removing obstacles such as weeds and providing water. Likewise, we let the Fruit of the Spirit grow within us by removing the weeds (fears, angers, compulsions, addictions, etc.) and by giving sufficient water (opening ourselves to the movement of the Spirit in our

lives through prayer, penance, good works, etc.). The Fruit of the Spirit contains the nature of its source, love, because God is love. It will grow on its own if it is well tended and it gives the same kind of life that it has received (love). We can help the fruit of the Spirit grow within us by dying to ourselves, that is, by opening ourselves completely to God's love and God's will for us.

As we continue our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us also continue to open ourselves to the Spirituality of the Heart, cooperating with God in His desire for a loving relationship with each one of us. The love of the Sacred Heart is like a plant within us. Let us remove the weeds and open ourselves to the Living Water, so that we too may radiate the sentiments of His Heart.



Br. Joe Tesar, MSC

Ask an MSC: Older Children Who Are Not Living the Faith

Ask an MSC

Have questions?

Ask one of our members.

www.ask.misacor-usa.org

Question: I feel very guilty that my children who are older now, do not practice our faith. They, as they grew up, slowly left assisting Mass and the sacraments. I am sure it is because I did not pray enough or at all with them while young. I ask myself what punishment I deserve now for not bringing up my children to be faithful Catholics.

Fr. David Foxen's response: I think you are finding yourself in a position with which many parents are familiar. Parents do their very best to share their Faith and their values with their children. They want their children to be mature, loving adults, and above all, to be happy. Being realistic, parents know that their children are going to need inner strength as they encounter "for better and for worse." So they want their children to embrace the values which have given them guid-

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FOLLOW THE WAY OF THE SACRED HEART

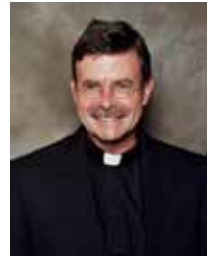
The Spirituality of the Heart and Religious Freedom

An excerpt from an article by Fr. David Foxen, MSC

The point of religious freedom is to respect the beliefs and practices of others because we recognize their fundamental human dignity. As missionaries we do not see our mission limited to any one group for it is a call to reach out to every person. We are formed in the Spirituality of the Heart, and the Spirituality of the Heart is the basis of dialog with every person, regardless of their personal religious convictions. It is an understanding of God's love, made human in the person of Jesus Christ, that transcends language and culture. In the Gospels we see the unseen love of God become visible and present in the human words and actions of Christ. In the deepest sense, it does not really require words. God's love is revealed in the healing touch, the comfort to the widowed mother, the respect and forgiveness shown to the woman at the well or the woman about to be executed.

The Spirituality of the Heart is realized when we listen to the person whose life has become darkness or who has lost a loved one. Or the Heart is present when we share someone's relief, accomplishment, or discovery of their own value and dignity. They may be Catholic or we may have no idea of their faith or lack of faith background. We listen, we are present, we offer what we have. The Spirituality of the Heart speaks all languages. It is not limited by doctrine or adherence to a belief system. It is the humanity of Christ reaching out to touch a human being who needs his love. Perhaps someday, even today, he will discover who is the source of that love. Perhaps one day he or she will be filled with the light of Jesus Christ. And even if not, we know that through our weak and very human reaching out, Christ has touched that person.

The Spirituality of the Heart is the greatest realization of dialog. It always finds the common ground, the shared value, what binds us together and binds us to God. It respects differences and acknowledges the other's right to find their way and act on what they believe. It opens new doors and lets light overcome the dark.



Ask an MSC: Fr. David's Response *Continued...*

ance and strength throughout their lives. In other words, I think you have probably done the best you could, giving a good example but at times not being perfect.

The other important element here is that children grow into adults and adults need to make their own decisions. They need to discover the values which will guide them and make them their own. We are glad to see them making decisions (no parent would want their adult children dependent on them as they were at ten years old). We hope they will make good decisions based on genuine values, but sometimes they don't. But that is part of being adult and is also part of the wonderful gifts God has given each of us. These gifts are intelligence and free will. God trusts us to learn even by making some mistakes.

And of course, only God truly knows what is in our hearts. We have all known people who may not have been overly devoted to religious practice but who are truly good and loving people. God knows them too.

My main thought I'd like to share with you is that you should not feel guilty as a parent even though your children may not be fully living the faith they grew up with. You did your best, but they must make their own decisions. Certainly you will continue to pray for them and encourage them. You will include them and their families in your love. And you will appreciate all the wonderful things they do which reflect the values of faith, hope, and love which were part of their home when they were young.

Celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart

Prayer of Consecration to the Sacred Heart

Lord Jesus, we praise you and celebrate the love of your heart. We honor you, we glorify you. We are grateful for your help this day. We offer our thanks; we consecrate and give our hearts to you. Take them, hold them fast and make them your own forever. Fill them with your life. Let us follow all the ways you mark for us. Jesus, merciful Savior, may your love be known everywhere.

V: May all people know the goodness of God.

All: **And God's wonderful kindness toward them.**

Lord Jesus, with renewed kindness you enrich your Church with the boundless gifts of your heart. Help us to respond to such love, to serve you truly in our lives, and to live as reflections of yourself - holy and blameless - so that others may come to the fullness of Christian life.

Amen.

Feast of the Sacred Heart

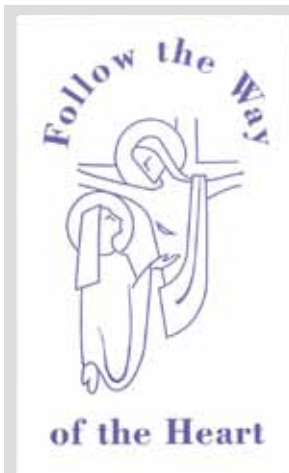
On Friday, July 1, 2011, we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart, our Patron. The Sacred Heart is the Source of all graces. Our Founder, Jules Chevalier, wrote in 1862, "The Heart of the divine Master is the center of which everything in the Old and New Testaments converges, the pivot around which everything in Catholicism turns, the sun of the Church, the soul of our souls, the source of our mysteries, the origin of our sacraments, the pledge of our reconciliation, the salvation of our world the remedy of all our ills."

One of the greatest messages of our Faith is that God loved us with a human heart. This Heart was formed in the womb of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. It is the fountain of human love, emotional love and divine love. (Cf. Pius XII, Haurietis Aquas)

Jesus' whole life expresses His human love through human compassion and mercy for the poor, for those hurting and for the marginalized. Jules Chevalier writes, "If we follow our Lord in his public life, we see his Heart pour itself out on every sort of misfortune, on every sort of misery, moral and physical. (Sacred Heart, p. 9) We see Jesus' expressing concern for the four thousand hungry souls: "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." (Matthew 16:32) He identifies the poor, the hungry, and the sorrowful and persecuted as "blessed." His heart reaches out to those not accepted and calls for reconciliation among enemies. (Luke 6: 27-36; 10:29-37; 17:11-19; John 4:4-42) Rather than condemning His compassionate Heart brings forth forgiveness. (Luke 7:36-49; 15:1-7; 11-32; John 7:53-8:1-11) On the cross, His heart cries out to the Father, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Throughout His life, the Heart of Jesus experiences profound human emotions. His Heart manifests love for children and expresses much joy in their presence. The Reign of God belongs "to such as these." (Matthew 19:13-15) The Heart of Christ happily cooks breakfast for the hungry disciples after a long, arduous fishing adventure. (John 21:12-13) Profound sorrow is also experienced from the Heart. When his friend, Lazarus dies, "Jesus wept." (John 11:35) He was deeply distressed from the Heart. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' hurting Heart

Join Us in the Devotion to the Sacred Heart



Follow the Way of the Heart and the Sacred Heart prayer card are available in both English and Spanish.



Step 1: Follow the Way of the Heart

In each MSC community, our members use the "Follow the Way of the Heart" prayer booklet every morning. We invite you to join us in this daily devotion, which includes a special prayer for each day of the week.

Step 2: Prayer of Consecration to the Sacred Heart

Every evening, our members pray the Prayer of Consecration to the Sacred Heart (see above left). Please consider joining us in this prayer.

To order the "Follow the Way of the Heart" booklet and the Sacred Heart prayer card, please call our office at (630) 892-2371 (M-F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM). Cost is \$2 per booklet and \$1 per prayer card (for orders within the USA).

A Special Edition

Feast of the Sacred Heart *Continued...*

entreats the Father that the “cup” of His Passion and Death will pass.. The Gospel of Luke (22:44) describes His pain, “He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. On the cross, in desperation, His heart clamors, “My God my God, why have you forsaken me? (Mark 15:34) Jules Chevalier sums up the human emotions of the Heart of Christ: “On such occasions, Jesus was deeply moved; waves of tenderness and love invaded his soul. His Heart reacted to these impressions, his blood flowed more rapidly; his face, his gestures and his fears betrayed the emotion he felt inside him, an emotion he would not restrain.” (Sacred Heart, p. 129) So human was the Heart of Jesus, the Heart of God.

Jesus is the most perfect revelation of God and manifestation of God’s unconditional and infinite love. The Heart of Jesus is the Heart of God. It is not as two hearts, but one Heart, human and divine. The “Father and I are one.” (John 10:30) Our Founder saw Jesus as “completely coming from the Heart of His Father, from there he receives his life while in the womb of Mary.” ((Sacred Heart, p. 143) When we encounter the Heart of Jesus, we encounter the Heart of God. At that moment hearts become as one: “On that day, you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you....And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him...Whoever loves me will keep my word and my Father will love him, and will come to him and make our dwelling with him. (John 14:20-21, 23)

As members of the Jules Chevalier family, we come to know that the human sentiments of the Heart of Jesus are those of God. We invite you to take on the same sentiments as our Patron and Master. Our Founder wrote, “If the Missionary of the Sacred Heart wants to make his [her] work and words effective, he [she], must imitate his divine model. (1885) Like Jesus, we are called to merciful love in action. Following the behavior of the Heart of Christ, we are called to bring about the Reign of God with the bonds of love for God’s people, “not hesitating when necessary to carry them on our shoulders.” We will “strive by every means to rout out the contrary spirit of fear and severity.” (Jules Chevalier).

May The Sacred Heart of Jesus Be Loved Everywhere! Now and forever!

Br. Warren Perrotto, MSC



Novena Prayer Intentions

Each month, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in the United States pray a novena (pray the rosary each day for nine days) for one of the intentions set forth by the Holy Father. To join us in the novena, simply set aside time to say the rosary each day during the dates below, for the intention listed for that month. If you’re not sure how to pray the rosary or if it has been a while, don’t worry. Just email us at info@misacor-usa.org and we’ll send you a step by step guide.

June

That the Holy Spirit may bring forth from our communities numerous missionary vocations, willing to fully consecrate themselves to spreading the Kingdom of God.

Novena Dates: June 17-25

July

For the religious who work in mission territories, that they may be witnesses of the joy of the Gospel and living signs of the love of Christ.

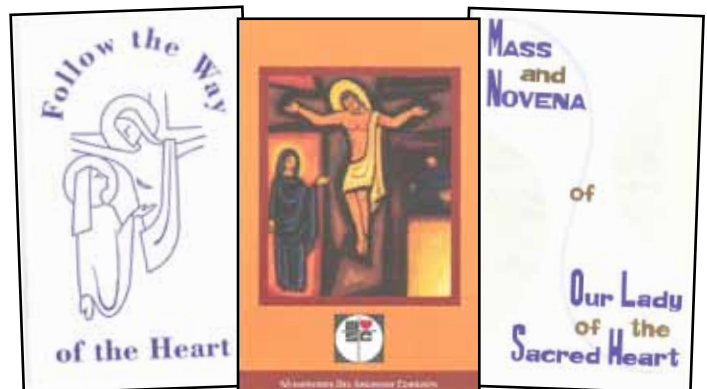
Novena Dates: July 22-30

August

That Christians of the West, docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, may re-encounter the freshness and enthusiasm of their faith.

Novena Dates: August 19-27

MSC Devotional Booklets



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"I am the way and the truth and the life..." (John 14:6)

ENHANCING THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

Excerpts from an article by Fr. Joseph Muller, MSC

In 2008 Sacred Heart Villa in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, was designated as the site for the National Shrine to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

The chapel of the Villa contains a beautiful wood-carved statue of Our Lady, which formerly graced the chapel of the major seminary of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Shelby, Ohio. Below the statue lie banks of votive candles which perpetually glow, reflecting the petitions of our donors.

As visitors move from the chapel into the main sitting room of the community they are greeted by another image of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Both images invite us to imitate the love of Jesus for us and for his mother, and Mary's love for us and her Son.

In June 2010, as part of his assignment to care for the external property at the Villa, Fr. Joseph Muller, MSC began clearing the pines which arched the eastern and southern boundaries of the property, as well as the spring-fed creek which marked the northern boundary.

As he progressed on the work, a natural cathedral-like nave began to appear through the double line of the nearly fifty year old pines. It seemed to lend itself naturally to an outdoor Way of the Cross and also suggested an ideal spot for a small shrine where visitors could quietly meditate. So Fr. Muller shared his ideas with Bob Matyas

and Phil Stofanak, a master cabinet maker. Both volunteered to help him realize his dream.

The shrine encompasses a double circle of decorative stones with a two foot pedestal in the center. Atop the pedestal stands a lovely wood carving of the Sacred Heart, which formerly hung above the altar in the minor seminary of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Geneva, Illinois. A refinished wrought-iron and wood bench, placed before the shrine, invites visitors to relax and meditate, as they read the words of Christ which lie below the statue: "Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of hearts, and you will find rest for your souls." Mt 11:29



The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, outdoor Way of the Cross, and Shrine to the Sacred Heart are open to the public during daylight hours.

This labor of love took approximately seven months to complete. Hopefully, many visitors will find it attractive and draw closer to the Sacred Heart and Our Lady through it.