

tenderness, compassion, mercy, strength, power, fidelity and constancy of the love of God revealed in God's Son.

Through the process of deepening his idea of God and the spirituality of the Heart, Father Chevalier gradually discovered the place of Mary in his life. Even though at first, as a child of his time, he centered his attention on the power of Mary's intercession, little by little he began to focus on the relations existing between Mary and the Trinity, between Mary and her Son, between Mary and us. In pointing to the Heart of her Son, Mary reminds us of the profound and intimate union and relationship that she had with him. Through her union with him, she knows the inexhaustible riches of his Heart and wants to lead us to him, who is the source of a limitless love that gives birth to a new world. She is the associate in the mystery of his Heart and she encourages us to work in her Son's mission for the good of humanity. Mary is close to a world in need and shares in her Son's solicitude for the world. Her song of praise (Lk: 1, 46-55), the story of the wedding feast of Cana (Jn: 2, 1-11) and her standing at the foot of the cross accompanying the sufferings of her Son on our behalf (Jn: 19, 25-37) are significant proofs of her preoccupation with suffering humanity.

** (excerpted from: www.misacor.org)

Prayer to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Remember, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
what ineffable power thy divine Son hath
given thee over His own adorable Heart.

Full of trust in thy merits,
we come before thee and beg thy protection.

O heavenly Treasurer of the Heart of Jesus,
that Heart which is the inexhaustible source of all graces,
which thou mayest open to us at thy good pleasure,
in order that from it may flow forth upon mankind
the riches of love and mercy, light and salvation,
that are contained therein;

grant unto us, we beseech thee, the favors which we seek ...

We can never, never be refused by thee,
and since thou art our Mother, O our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
graciously hear our prayers and grant our request.

Amen.

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Our Lady of the Sacred Heart



*Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
graciously hear our prayers and grant our request.*

Amen.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

ABOUT OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

*In the 14th century Saint Bridget of Sweden had a great devotion to the Heart of Mary. Jesus revealed to her that the Two Hearts of His Mother and His Own were a oneness of love:

" The Heart of My Mother was like Mine, We worked together for the salvation of mankind; I by the sufferings of My Body, she by the Sorrows of her Heart."

St. Francis de Sales, in his treatise, ON THE LOVE OF GOD, elaborated on Mary's love: "Since eternal love is the most ardent of all forms of love, and is an indefatigable and insatiable love, how much must it have been in the Heart of such a Mother and for the Heart of such a Son?" St. Francis promoted this devotion in 1622.

But St. John Eudes [1601-1680] is given the credit for being the decisive catalyst for the devotion in 1680. Through his preaching, he propagated it throughout France and wrote his work, THE ADMIRABLE HEART OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, which took almost 20 years of research. It was completed 3 weeks before his death. He had a saying: "The Heart of Jesus and Mary is one."

The devotion to Our Lady of the Immaculate Heart grew after the Apparition to St. Catherine Laboure, a Sister of charity in the Rue de Bac, Paris, in November of 1830; this was the occasion for the Miraculous Medal of the Immaculate Conception. On one side of the Medal is the image of the Cross with Mary's initial, M, on it and beneath the Cross there are two hearts close by each other, one with thorns encircling it, and the other, pierced by a sword. This was the image of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart.

All of these great events were leading to the special devotion of Our Lady as Our Lady of the Sacred Heart as such, which came from 19th century France, in the diocese of Bourges. This region had suffered particularly during the brutality of the French

Revolution. In 1854, a young priest, Fr. Jules Chevalier, who had been but a priest for 3 years, sought a remedy for the chaos and lack of religious piety and zeal, even faith itself, which had resulted from the Revolution. He was sure that the remedy only lay in "the Heart of Jesus." Reflecting on the gravity of the French situation, he felt inspired to found the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, on the same day that Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1854, which surely was no mere coincidence. The aim of the Congregation was to have a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to give to Mary a very special honor.

Through the love Fr. Chevalier bore for the Sacred Heart, he made a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Paray le Monial and prayed to the Saint to obtain for him a deep love for the Heart of Jesus. Three years later in May of 1857, he was moved to promote another title for Our Blessed Mother, that of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, saying:

"We would thank and glorify God for having chosen Mary among all creatures to form in her virginal womb the adorable Heart of Jesus ... we ask this compassionate Virgin to lead us to the Heart of Jesus."

Pope Pius IX was pleased by Fr. Chevalier's efforts, expressing a desire to be a member of the Congregation itself, adding to his signature, "Pius IX who desires to love the Blessed Virgin Mary." The devotion grew in Italy after that and by 1972 there were at least 45 Italian Bishops who have promoted the Devotion to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

*(excerpted from www.catholictradition.org)

**To understand this title, given to Mary by the Venerable Fr. Jules Chevalier, Founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, one should read the text of the title from right to left. The important part of this title is the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He is the center. Mary is the mother who offers him to us, who desires that we enter into union with him, who longs to form us as she formed her Son Jesus, so that humanity may discover the