

Heart of Jesus, *fountain of life and holiness*

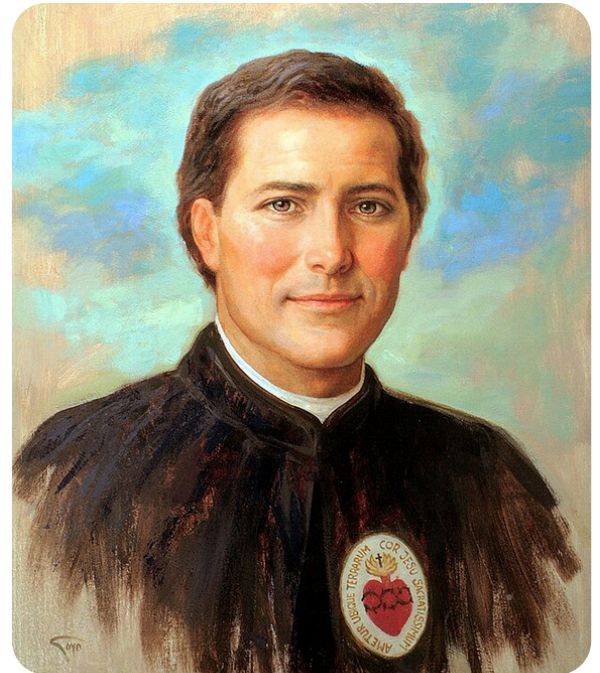
June 7



Pray

The love poured out from the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a constant source of renewal for the missionary spirit of the Church and our call to universal holiness. Servant of God Fr. Jules Chevalier, who founded the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1854, recited this [daily prayer](#) to remain close to the Sacred Heart.

Lord Jesus,
Saviour of the world and source of holiness,
look with kindness
on all whom you have chosen
to be Missionaries of your loving Heart.
Ask your heavenly Father
to keep us in your love,
and sanctify us in the truth
so that you may be glorified in us
and we may reflect your goodness.
Ask your Father to keep us from evil
that we may always be united in bonds of love.
As you are one with your Father,
so may we be one with each other
in your divine Heart,
whose sentiments shall forever be ours
and to which we consecrate ourselves
in time and for eternity. Amen.



Servant of God Jules Chevalier

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Learn

The devotion of the wounds of Christ as the fountain of life and holiness dates to the earliest Christians. The Church Fathers interpreted the blood and water flowing from Christ's side as a profound mystery, fulfilling His promise to provide living water (John 4:13–14; 7:37), which symbolized the Holy Spirit's outpouring on the Church and the cleansing waters of baptism. We see an early correlation to the heart of Jesus in the words of Origen of Alexandria, who said, "Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water" (*In Num. homil.* 12, 1: PG 12, 657).

In the 13th century, Saint Bonaventure connected the salvation that flows from the pierced heart of Christ to the sacramental life of the Church, reflecting that the price of our salvation flows "from the hidden wellspring of his heart, enabling the Church's sacraments to confer the life of grace" (*Lignum Vitae. De mysterio passionis*, 30).

Pope Francis encouraged the devotion of the pierced heart of Christ as the fountain of life for the Church's mission. The Holy Father taught that "in contemplating the pierced heart of the Lord, who 'took our infirmities and bore our diseases' (Mt 8:17), we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others, and confirmed in our efforts to share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love" (*Dilexit Nos*, no. 171).

Act

When Jesus revealed his heart to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, he imparted [12 promises](#) to all who venerate his Sacred Heart. One promise is that Jesus will "bless the home in which the image of my Sacred Heart shall be exposed and honored." When we place the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a prominent place in our homes, we signify that Jesus is king and the center and source of love for all. Consider enthroning the Sacred Heart in your home with this [enthronement ceremony resource](#) from the Knights of Columbus.

Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus