

## SECTION 19

### “The very heart of the Gospel”

By communicating the Gospel, the Pope states that we should always focus on “*the very heart of the Gospel*” (Evangeliium Gaudium n. 34) that means, on its core message. When trying to “*reach everyone without exception, the message has to concentrate on the essentials, on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most necessary*” (n. 35). What should always stand out “*is the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead*” (n. 36).

For Pope Francis, this message about the incarnation forms the core of the Christian faith. We need to recognize and internalize the significance of this statement: the INCARNATION, that is, the manifestation of God’s love in the person of Jesus Christ, in his ministry, death and resurrection, forms the CORE of the Christian faith. The Pope admits that by saying so, “*the message is simplified,*” but it will lose “*none of its depth and truth, and thus becomes all the more forceful and convincing*” (n. 35).

Fr. Chevalier would have totally agreed with Pope Francis. In fact, in his book “Le Sacré Coeur de Jésus” (1900), he had already written something similar. There, with full approval, he quoted the words of his contemporary, Cardinal Pie, who had written that the history of Christian religion is found “*wholly and entirely in the sublime statement “God so loved the world” (John 3:16). Moreover, the Cardinal added: “the whole creed is reduced to these words of the beloved Disciple: “We believe in God’s love for us” (1 John 4:16).*

When becoming an auxiliary bishop, James Cuskelly MSC chose as his motto “*Credidimus Caritati*” (1 John 4:16), which he himself freely translated as “*we believe in a compassionate love*”. For him as well, this confession formed the core message of the Gospel, and at the same time of a Spirituality of the Heart.

### A Reflective Moment

What is said in the Constitutions of the MSC,  
applies to the entire Chevalier Family:  
“*In our communion as brothers and sisters  
we live our faith in the compassionate love of the Lord.*”

Pope Francis writes:  
“*The first proclamation that must ring out over and over, is:  
“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you;  
and now he is living at your side every day  
to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”*  
(Evangeliium Gaudium n. 164).