

Section 25

“May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved”

(First part)

His love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus led Fr. Chevalier to honor the Sacred Heart in a variety of manifestations and to study them as well. In his book on the Sacred Heart, he describes the Heart of Jesus as the center of God’s plan not only in redemption, but also in creation: *“Jesus Christ is the starting point, the center and the summit of the whole of creation.... Everything is summed up in Jesus. And in Jesus everything leads back to his Heart”* (Sacré Coeur de Jésus, 1900, p. 77).

Concerning the creation of human beings, Chevalier declares: *“When God made the heart of the first human being, evidently his attention was fixed on the Heart of his Son, which the Holy Spirit would have to form later from the blood of a Virgin”* (Sacré Coeur de Jésus, 1900, p. 139). Accordingly, his love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus and its role in creation brought Chevalier also to highly esteem the place of human beings in creation. In Chevalier’s vision, all things are made not only for Jesus Christ, but for us as well. *“All things are made for us and put at our disposal.”* Such nobility, however, brings about responsibility. On behalf of all creatures, *“it is our task to sing the hymn of thanksgiving, to lend them our voice, our heart, our faculties in order to give glory to God. Without us the universe would be mute, but with us everything in nature turns to heaven, prays, adores.”* (Retraite de huit jours selon la méthode de Saint Ignace, Issoudun 1904, p. 22; Daily Readings March 2).

In Laudato Si, Pope Francis proclaims the same message: *“When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them”* (Laudato Si n. 87). The Pope even broadens our vision by stating that, *“a sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings”* (Laudato Si n. 91).

So, the motto of the Chevalier Family, *“May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved”*, expresses an invitation to practice a love without

boundaries. We are invited to love the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the center of the universe, making the entire universe into a sacred community of creatures. The life of our fellow human beings and nature in its great variety of creatures as well, is sacred and deserves our respect and admiration. Because, as Pope Francis said: *“as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect”* (Laudato Si n. 89).

A Reflective moment

A Christian prayer in union with creation

*“Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.*

*God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.*

*Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you! Amen”
(Pope Francis, Laudato Si n. 246).*