



Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Proclamation for Schools



The purpose
of this proclamation
is to articulate the essential
nature of the OLSH Charism
and the way in which
it informs the life
of an OLSH College.

The proclamation includes
what it is we are called
to do as OLSH educators
and what the core values
are in an OLSH College.

History

Father Jules Chevalier, MSC founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Issoudun, France, on August 30, 1874.

Jules Chevalier saw the Mother of Jesus as the first disciple and witness of the love of Jesus and was inspired to honour her and cause her to be honoured under the title Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. On December 8, 1882, Marie Louise Hartzler accepted from Father Chevalier the role of spiritual mother of the infant Congregation. She was a woman of faith, courage, resilience and hope; a wife, mother, widow, refugee. Fr. Chevalier left to her the full initiative of developing the Congregation, while remaining friend and wise counsellor.



Spirituality

Jules Chevalier had an all-encompassing belief in the love of the Heart of Christ for each of us and for all people and, at the same time, a belief in the capacity of the human heart to love and to be loved. This belief became a spirituality that comprised all aspects of faith, religion and daily life, social life as well as family life. He believed in the unconditional love of God as revealed in the Heart of Jesus Christ and in the intrinsic relationship between the Heart of God, the Heart of Christ and our human hearts.



Chevalier reminds us that the Heart of Jesus possesses all kinds of human virtues: gentleness and strength, power and humility, obedience and love, generous resoluteness and faithfulness. And today we would add anger, frustration or even darkness. Chevalier's vision indicates that unity and harmony will be created when all the emotions and attitudes of the human heart – the human heart of Jesus as well as our own human hearts – are taken into consideration and respected. Living a Spirituality of the Heart implies the readiness to listen to another person and to accept him or her with all his or her emotions, pleasant or unpleasant.

Mission

In our ministries, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart value every human person and hold as precious the words of Jesus **‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full’.**

The vision and mission of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Colleges have their heart in the mission and ministry of Jesus and the charism given to us by Jules Chevalier. These colleges particularly value the dignity of the human person and the compassion of the Heart of Christ for others. In his book ‘Le Sacre Coeur’ (1900), Jules Chevalier reminds us that each individual is ‘a special being... this particular someone... who has a place in the heart of Christ, and each of us is surrounded by God’s love’.



Jules Chevalier saw a particular value in the education of girls, as a way of proclaiming and giving witness to the love of God in our world.

Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Mary did not receive the Son of God only into her body, but into her entire being as woman. By Jesus becoming human, God assures us that the unique condition of woman is an essential element in his extraordinary and wonderful plan of coming to live among us. When we reflect on the way Mary herself sees her life journey, we see that she creates space in her being in order to accept the human Jesus and all the Good News of salvation. She enters into a personal relationship with Christ, developing her gifts of tenderness, perceptivity, and listening. Mary makes her special gifts of intuition and sensitivity effective in the service of Christ’s mission.

As the first disciple, Mary is a role model for each of us in our relationship with God, through the heart of Jesus, and in our relationships with others.



Education in the OLSH Tradition

Our motto: “May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved!” is our tradition.

All who belong to the family of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart are called to live out this motto. It is to live the very life of Jesus... to be on earth the Heart of Christ!

Pillars of OLSH Education

For members of school communities, this means living the OLSH Spirit as expressed in these four pillars of OLSH education:

1. We are Heart people who are Faith-filled

We believe in God’s personal love for us. This gives us meaning and purpose in our lives and enables us to help others find meaning in their lives too. So we value

- the Incarnation (Jesus becoming human) as foundational to our personal faith journey;
- prayer, our Catholic tradition, and involvement in the wider church community;
- relevant liturgy and retreat experiences;
- a spirit of reflection;

2. We are Heart people who Reverence Relationships

We believe in the dignity of every human person. Our OLSH family is both local and international and we make an effort to build and support community. So we value

- hospitality and a welcoming spirit
- gratitude, simplicity, integrity, compassion and forgiveness
- inclusion of all
- collaboration and consultation
- discernment and the sharing of wisdom
- teams and team leadership



3. We are Heart people who Pursue Excellence

We believe in Jesus' words 'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10).
We pursue excellence in everything we do.
So we value

- Striving for our personal best
- Academic Achievement
- Creativity, Resilience and Perseverance
- Education of the whole person and life-long learning
- Critical thinking and the provision of a dynamic curriculum
- Pushing the boundaries of our capabilities
- The development of leadership skills

4. We are Heart people who Touch the Hearts of Others

We believe in our call to be united with the mission of Jesus. Together we seek to build the Kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace. Our tradition of service and outreach and our option for the poor are vital aspects of our OLSH identity.
So we value

- a vision that dares to be different
- courage, hope, determination and vitality
- global responsibility and stewardship of creation
- reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters
- reaching out to others, locally and globally
- leadership that serves and empowers others



The OLSH Graduate

The OLSH Graduate is a woman of simplicity and a leader who is prepared to serve. She is recognized because she is a woman of:

- Heart
- Active Faith
- Compassion
- Courage
- Integrity
- Wisdom
- Prayer
- Independent Thought
- Hope and Resilience
- Transforming Vision



The OLSH Educator

Those who choose to join us in the ministry of service in education will seek to grow in their understanding of our OLSH spirituality. They will be committed to actively engage with the OLSH tradition as a member of the College community.

The OLSH educator is one who:

- values her/his personal faith
- works with a team and in a team
- is committed to respecting the dignity of each person
- values friendship and collegiality
- is professional and committed to lifelong learning
- relates to students with love, compassion and availability
- nurtures an atmosphere of joy and hope
- encourages attitudes of optimism, generosity, gratitude and outreach
- pursues excellence
- is welcoming and hospitable
- engages in reflective practice



From the Heart

“Jesus Christ is the way we have to follow,
the truth we have to believe,
the life that animates us here and now
and which we hope will still be ours throughout eternity.”

(J Chevalier, Ecole du Sacre Coeur, Introduction)

Regnet Christus!

May Christ Reign