

A SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART
in accordance with FR. JULES CHEVALIER'S CHARISM
An on-line program for members of the Chevalier Family
and for everyone interested
to live a Spirituality of the Heart

Part Four:
Living a Spirituality of the Heart in Daily Life.

Section 30: A Spirituality of the Heart and the Joy of Love.

We have started this On-Line Program by presenting some brief annotations concerning a widespread need for Spirituality in today's world and the existence of different kinds of spiritualities, including spiritualities of the Heart. (Section 1-3). A second part of the program (Section 4-16) briefly introduced the main aspects of the Charism of Fr. Jules Chevalier. The third part (Section 17-29) referred to the writings of Pope Francis, above all to his letter "Evangelii Gaudium" (the Joy of the Gospel), while highlighting the fact that living a Spirituality of the Heart is as relevant to the mission of the Church today as it was in the days of Fr. Chevalier.

In the following sections, we will reflect on a Spirituality of the Heart as a source of inspiration for living our daily life as married or single people in family life, or as religious and priests, living in communities. First of all, we will focus on Pope Francis' letter "Amoris Laetitia" (the Joy of Love) and discover how he shows us the way of the heart in family life and personal relationships. In one way or another, we all live in families or communities, either as parents or children, as couples or singles, or as members of religious and church communities. The Pope's letter is basically a document showing us the bumpy road towards living joyfully together in family or community, while trying to keep growing in love.

In his reflections on marriage and family life, the Pope departs from the daily challenges, faced by families in today's society. He shows himself to be a good councilor, who, before proposing a way to proceed, first listens to the joy and struggles of people's hearts. Likewise, he shows a deep respect for the small voice of someone's heart. He wants to accompany everyone, not only people leading a harmonious family life, but also those facing big challenges in their relationships, or whose marriage has ended in failure. To everyone he shows the way of the heart.

A Reflective Moment

*“No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed;
families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love.*

This is a never-ending vocation

*Our contemplation of the fulfilment
which we have yet to attain also allows us
to stop demanding of our interpersonal relationships a perfection,
which we will only encounter in the Kingdom to come.*

*It also keeps us from judging harshly
those who live in situations of frailty.*

*All of us are called to keep striving
towards something greater than ourselves and our families....*

Let us keep walking together.

What we have been promised is greater than we can imagine.

*May we never lose heart because of our limitations,
or ever stop seeking that fullness of love
and communion which God holds out before us.”*

(Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* n. 325).