



Summer 2023

Good Stewards

United in faith, we bring the Reign of the Sacred Heart to the world.

A message from Fr. Dominic



In St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus gave us the parable of the sower who scattered seeds around, with the yield depending on the type of soil.

During these summer months, let us strive to become that good soil and produce plentiful yields by earnestly hearing, faithfully embracing and cultivating daily the word of God we have received so the Holy Spirit may produce His fruit in our lives.

And let the seed that we ourselves sow be not just for ourselves, but for others in need of food, survival and basic necessities. Your gifts — your legacy — that you sow will touch people in need in ways you would never imagine, 30, 60 or 100 fold!

Fr. Dominic

I knew Fr. Dehon

Over the past few years, this space has been dedicated to letters I have received from our benefactors. In this issue, I wanted to tell you about the joyful surprise we received some years ago when we discovered one of our dear friends actually knew the Venerable Fr. Leo John Dehon, the founder of our Congregation.

Before Marie-Louise passed away in 2008 at the age of 93, she had been in constant contact with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. She had lost her husband (he died at the age of 90) and asked for prayers for her health. Imagine how surprised I was when she wrote to Fr. Paul:

"I was born in Belgium. It is a small country, and we knew Fr. Dehon." She recalled that Father *"came to Mass to sing with the coal miners. They all had very good voices."* The headquarters of the Priests of the Sacred Heart was in Brussels, Belgium, before they were moved to Rome. Fr. Dehon died there on August 12, 1925.

Marie-Louise noted that her mother's nurse had served in Kinshasa, a town in what was once known as the Belgian Congo and is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Fr. Dehon sent the first missionaries to that part of the Congo in 1897.

Marie-Louise was inspired by the Catholic faith of the Congolese people and moved by their poverty, especially the elderly who were often neglected. She often sent donations to be used by our missionaries there.

I am mindful of Marie-Louise these days as I read reports of the violence and war which afflict the Congolese people today. Fr. Silvano, SCJ, a missionary from the Congo, once shared the horrors of what the Congolese people have been going through. The economy has collapsed, communication and travel are difficult, and there is an extreme health crisis.

"Hunger, dirt and even death — these are awful," said Fr. Silvano. *"But they are nothing compared to seeing people lose hope, lose their dignity, lose their will to live. The population lives at an unbearable level of misery and suffering."*

However, there are rays of hope. The Church has a strong presence in the Congo where we were proud to have celebrated 100 years of hope in 2022.

Marie-Louise wanted to make certain she could leave a legacy of this work and listed the Priests of the Sacred Heart with a bequest at her passing.

Thanks to Marie-Louise and her support, our SCJ missionaries continue to fulfill the dream of Fr. Dehon "to bring the love of the Divine Heart to such pagan lands as the Holy See may entrust to us."

To learn more about a legacy gift or to receive our free, no obligation Estate Planning Series, contact Pam at 1-866-268-0157 or email her at pmilczarski@poshusa.org.

“A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.”

— St. Francis of Assisi

Are you planning a trip or activity this summer? Are you looking forward to relaxing at home while enjoying the sunshine? Summer can be a welcome relief from routine.

Whatever your plans are, you probably don't want to be strapped down when you are busy or relaxing. Just like automatic bill pay, the Priests of the Sacred Heart provides the automated opportunities for you. This way, you'll never have to worry about remembering your favorite charity!

Here are a couple gift giving practices to consider:

- A Donor Advised Fund (DAF). You simply reach out to a management company of your choosing, such as Fidelity or Schwab to name a few. You establish an account and then tell them when and how much to donate and to whom! They will track your donations for year-end reporting, too.
- Join the Heart-to-Heart Society with the Priests of the Sacred Heart and set-up recurring donations of your choice.
- Many banks also have programs where they will send in donations on your behalf.

If you find that summer is also when you have more time, you may want to reevaluate your financial situation and your estate plans.

Your Will is an expression of your values. It is part of the legacy you leave for those close to you — family, loved ones and favorite charities.

Making certain you have taken care of all that you have worked hard to accomplish during your lifetime will lessen anxiety and reassure you that you have thought about the people and causes closest to your heart.

Your legacy also sets an example — an inspiration that can have a ripple effect on your loved ones.

Once in place, you will have the satisfaction of a job well done. You can make changes at any time, knowing you will make a difference in whatever you decide.

When resolving how to have your estate distributed, be certain to consider the needs of family members or loved ones who may need your support. While we hope you will provide assistance for our work, we do not wish your bequest to leave dependents in a state of need.

If you would like to receive our Estate Planning Series, please contact us at 1-866-268-0157 or email Pam at pmilczarski@poshusa.org to receive your free no obligation package.

We have been Blessed by Many

For many years, the Priests of the Sacred Heart has been blessed by friends and the Knights of Columbus in supporting our ministry with the gift of chalices.

Our friend Jean was happy to learn of a way she could support a new priest by purchasing a chalice for his ordination and was thrilled she could do so for Fr. Henry's recent ordination. Little did she know, he was being ordained at his parent's parish just a short distance from her home!

In addition to our friends' support, the Knights of Columbus has a chalice engraved for each of their deceased members.



Fr. Henry holding the chalice he recently received from Jean.

For many years, the Priests of the Sacred Heart has been a recipient of many chalices that have been sent to our priests and missions in the U.S., as well as abroad.

The Knights of Columbus were delighted that their recent gift of chalices would be sent to our Province in Poland, as they also have an order there.

Provincial Superior of Poland, Fr. Stawomir Knopik, SCJ, writes, *“Please express my gratitude to the family of the deceased members of the Knights of Columbus who were so generous to make this donation. Photos were taken in the chapel of our religious house in Warsaw. Notice that we placed on the altar a sign of the Knights of Columbus as one of our members is the chaplain to that community.”*



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF DEHONIAN MINISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

On March 25, 1923, Fr. Mathias Fohrman, SCJ, celebrated Mass at St. Mary's Church in Lower Brule, SD. Although Fr. Mathias had been in the United States since 1919 on a fundraising mission for the German Province, it was not until that first Mass that the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) had officially begun their commitment to serve in the U.S.

In 2023 — 100 years later — that ministry extends from South Dakota to Wisconsin, Mississippi, Texas and Florida, reaching across ethnic, social and economic lines.

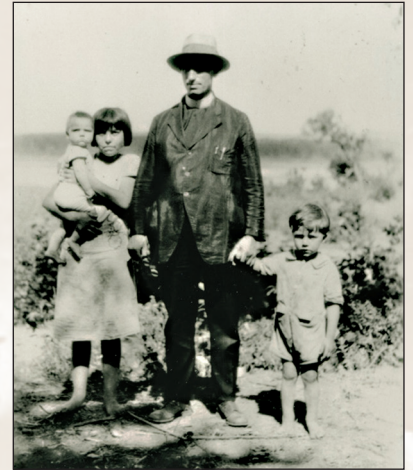
In Houston, TX, the Priests of the Sacred Heart are in the central city parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, one of the oldest Hispanic parishes in Texas.

In Mississippi, Dehonians are responsible for the Church's ministry in five northwestern counties of the state. Through Sacred Heart Southern Missions (SHSM), Dehonians offer social services and emergency aid, advocacy, housing, education, job training and counseling. The Sacred Heart Auto League, which promotes safe, prayerful driving, is also a part of SHSM's ministry.

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, WI, prepares men from around the country — and the world — for ordained ministry. It also offers master's programs for lay students, and an internationally regarded English and Cultural Studies (ECS) program specifically designed for those in, or preparing for ministry in the Church.

The Priests of the Sacred Heart minister at St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, WI, where they also serve the Vietnamese Catholic community of the Archdiocese of

*Fr. Mathias Fohrman, first
SCJ to minister in the U.S.*



Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, WI



*The Priests of the
Sacred Heart minister
at St. Martin of Tours
parish in Franklin, WI.*

Milwaukee. Just a few miles away, Dehonians operate Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, a senior apartment community with several units reserved for those who are economically challenged.

One of our oldest ministries in the United States is St. Joseph’s Indian School in Chamberlain, SD. Since it first opened its doors in 1927, the school has expanded its outreach well beyond the classroom with family counseling, healthcare, social programs and education in Lakota (Sioux) traditions. Dehonians also continue to minister in reservation parishes on the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Reservations.

And just as the Dehonian presence in the United States was begun by missionary outreach, the U.S. Province is committed to building the Church by supporting missions throughout the world including Vietnam, India, the Philippines, South Africa, DR Congo and Indonesia.

Dehonians, Priests of the Sacred Heart, SCJs — several names for a religious community of priests and brothers with a single mission: bringing the love of the Sacred Heart to those in the greatest of need.



Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake in Hales Corners, WI, were the retired priests and brothers are cared for after retirement.



The entrance to St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, SD.

Centennial Celebrations

The U.S. Province celebrated two significant Centennial celebrations this summer, one on July 16, 2023 in Hales Corners, WI, and a second on July 30, 2023 where that first Mass took place in Lower Brule, SD. Watch for the Good Stewards Fall 2023 edition to see photos from the special celebrations.



Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART



Priests of the Sacred Heart
Sacred Heart Monastery
PO Box 900 • Hales Corners, WI 53130-0900
1-800-448-7674 • poshusa.org

The Pearl of Great Price Leads the Way to Heaven



Fr. Dominic and Pam meet with Roxanne to thank her for her kindness to the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

Roxanne has been a supporter of the Priests of the Sacred Heart for over 15 years and is also a member of the Good Steward Society. After many conversations with Roxanne over the years, we had the pleasure of visiting her at her home and sharing a meal together.

It was at this visit Roxanne shared that she did not grow up Catholic. She said, *“I recall that one Christmas, while watching TV as I played, I saw a Mass come on and said to myself, ‘I am going to do that one day!’”*

And she did on April 30, 1989 with the help of the late Fr. Bob Scott, CSP, and Karen Love, her college friend, sorority sister, mentor and Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) sponsor, who has been a pillar of faith to her to this day.

“Thirty-five years ago, while I was in college, I heard an unexpected message during my prayer time: ‘Wherever I am, my mother will be.’ I was an International Studies major, and I knew, as all overly confident college kids do, that I would take the world by storm and work a series of diplomatic jobs around the world. In thanksgiving for all my mother did for me, I would take care of her, she would never be alone, and we would travel, making countless memories together. My youthful hubris was tempered with a string of

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.”

— Matthew 13:45-46

“These inspiring verses were proclaimed at Mass a month before my mother’s 77th birthday and are among my favorite in Scripture.”

— Roxanne

humbling failures that redirected my aspirations, yet still I knew wherever I am, my mother will be,” shared Roxanne.

Following her faith discovery, Roxanne’s mother one day surprised her by asking to attend Mass with her. Soon after, she entered RCIA with Roxanne as her sponsor. She was confirmed April 22, 2000.

Roxanne continues, *“In the fullness of time, the unfolding of this parable deepened my contemplation of Christ’s Passion, and its beauty assumed center stage in my life. En route to the kingdom of heaven, the resplendence of the Cross resided in the honor I was given to care for my mother who had Alzheimer’s disease. While there were light-hearted moments, this disease was unrelenting. As I journeyed alongside her, I recalled another Way of the Cross in which Simon of Cyrene helped Our Lord on His ascent to Golgotha where He was crucified. In my mother’s struggle and faltering memory, I glimpsed Our Lord.*

“I did not believe I was worthy to behold Him in her suffering, yet I was captivated by His beauty in her during that most difficult time.

“The pearl of great price came to us both, and on May 5, 2018, led Mom home to heaven.”

A Life-long Commitment as a Dehonian

Frater Paul Phong Hoang, SCJ, makes perpetual profession

On May 11, Frater Paul Phong Hoang, SCJ, made his perpetual profession of vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians). The ceremony took place at Sacred Heart Monastery/Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ, provincial superior, received Frater Paul's vows. Fr. John Czyzynski, SCJ, was Fra. Paul's final vows director.

Fra. Paul, who turned 31 just two days before his perpetual profession, is originally from Ha Tien, Kien Giang, Vietnam. *"It is a culturally diverse town of Cambodian, Chinese, and Vietnamese heritage,"* he said. *"Looking back, going from where I was to where I am now is nothing short of a miracle. I believe that God had a plan for me and was involved throughout my journey. I am forever grateful for the SCJs and our culturally diverse community."*

Fra. Paul's family immigrated to the United States in 2007 and settled in Houston, Texas. Before following his vocation to religious life, he earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Houston. Fra. Paul learned about the Dehonians through a member of his family and spent time learning about the community through Come and See weekends.

"I was attracted to the SCJs' simplicity, diversity and community life," he said. Fra. Paul professed his first vows in 2018. He did his pastoral year in Lower Brule, SD, and has been involved in a variety of other province ministries. Fra. Paul is scheduled to complete his M.Div. at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in December, 2023.

"My journey of faith is an existential one," said Fra. Paul. *"I was haunted by the idea of God and attracted to the love of Christ."*

"Psalms 139 says: 'Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence ... even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.'"

Fra. Paul continues, saying that he *"was closer to Buddhism and ancestor veneration in my youth back in Vietnam. Before seminary, I experimented with a few different Christian denominations. Captivated by philosophy, at some point, I wanted to be the master of my own ethics, God was an obstacle to my false conception of freedom. But in the end, I realize that only Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life."*

"The confession of St. Peter rang loud and clear whenever I thought of leaving the seminary, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life' (John 6:68)."

"I've found my life's meaning ultimately in Christ, in service, and self-denial. I want to live these principles through the Dehonian charism and way of life. This is why I requested to make final vows."



Fra. Paul making his perpetual profession of vows before Fr. Vien Nguyen, provincial superior.



Fra. Paul signing the document that states his commitment of perpetual profession (final vows) with the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians), as Fr. Vien looks on.



Fra. Paul with his family and members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.