

SCJ NEWS

a newsletter of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart

October 2012

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Parish ministry in India diverse, but always with focus on poor

What does a Catholic church look like in India? In Nambur, it is a cement skeleton, slowly seeing its flesh filled out as parishioners find the money to complete it. A half hour's drive away, it is just a foundation, filled on a sunny afternoon with a faith community standing within the footprint of what will some day be their first church.

In Thane, a city adjacent to India's largest metro area of Mumbai, a church can be a barren second-story room with no more than an altar, a coffee pot and a few religious objects. Barren, except for the giggles of a trio of teen girls sitting on the floor working on a church project together. Youth ministry is one of the priorities of SCJs working in Mumbai. The community has only been in the area a few months and already young people are getting more involved in the church, "and bringing their parents with them," said Fr. Aji, one of two SCJs who minister in the area.

Or, the church might be an open space on the first floor of an apartment building, above which is a small apartment that serves as both the modest living quarters for the priests of the parish, as well as the parish office and meeting hall (contained in what used to be the apartment's living room).

In Kumbalangi, it is a church too



ABOVE: Parishioners on the steps of their slowly evolving church of the Sacred Heart in Nambur, India. The U.S. Province and the Canadian Region have been prime financial contributors toward the project. **RIGHT:** In mid-September the roof had just about been completed and Mass was to be celebrated inside the structure before the end of the month. No more Mass in the rain!



small to hold the majority of its parishioners, many of whom sit in a room off to the side during Mass, looking at the altar through a window in the wall. St. Anthony's, next door to the SCJs' first formation community, Dehon Vidya Bhavan, was originally a family chapel built in 1543. Now, it serves a much wider community but because it is a historical site the church cannot be expanded to make room for its growing population.

In rural Eluru, churches are small, colorful cement structures along

rough dirt roads with traffic clogged by water buffalo and herds of goats. "Here, the water buffalo are the traffic police; no one can get around them," laughed an SCJ.

The people of the area live in modest thatched huts, with their livestock — if they have any — close at hand. But then again, livestock can be found next to a ramshackle home pieced together with tin, cement and the infamous blue tarps of India in midst of one of its most populous cities.



"Where is the church?" asked a visitor to St. Anthony's near Mumbai. "Look up!" The urban mission station is a barren room on the second floor of this building.

The churches at which the Priests of the Sacred Heart minister in India are diverse in size, structure and location but they generally have one thing in common: their focus on the poor.

"Our people are unskilled day workers, without guarantees of regular work, who make \$2 for a long day of difficult labor," said Fr. Dharma,

an SCJ who is helping his parish community in Nambur build a church. "Help," in this case is literal. Besides working to raise funds to complete Sacred Heart Church (which will replace the cowshed that the faith community previously worshipped in until it burned down) and its neighboring substation, "Presentation of Our Lord Jesus," Fr. Dharma has joined parishioners in putting in some "sweat equity" during the past year.

The paid labor of his parishioners is seasonal. "During the year they might only get 120 days of work," he said. "I often worry about them. The people here are good, devoted. There are nights that I cry for them in their situation."

In Eluru, Fr. Jojappa, SCJ, spoke about the challenges of working with the "very poor" with the limited funds of a religious community that often just has enough money each month to take care of its own needs. The District of India is young (the SCJs have only been in the country since 1994) and just starting to find its way toward self-sufficiency.

"They ask us for help, but we cannot simply 'give,'" said Fr. Jojappa. "We need to find ways to work together with the people so that it is 'their' church, something to which they give something as well."

The SCJ presence in India, as well as the SCJs themselves, is young. In some ways they echo the lives of those to whom they minister. The fo-

cus of the district is on educating its young membership, preparing SCJ priests and brothers to take on the administration of the entity and fully develop the Dehonian presence in the country.

A primary focus at parishes in the district is on youth, often helping them to prepare for their own future through education.

"Education brings opportunity," said Fr. Jojappa. "It helps them to live a better life."

In Thane, near Mumbai, Fr. Aji spoke of the need of the Priests of the Sacred Heart to reach out to young people in general, not just youth who come to church. "It is important to reach them at a young age and help them get a good foundation for their lives," he said.

His eyes light up when he speaks of his hopes for youth ministry. Driving through a rough urban area known for prostitution he talked about the children born into such circumstances.

"There are programs for the girls born to prostitutes," he said, adding that a women's religious community offers educational opportunities to such children near where he ministers. "But there is nothing for the boys, and without education they are left to a life on the streets." One of his dreams is to establish a boarding school for these children, "and ideally, a normal school [primary school], a technical school to give job training, a computer



LEFT: Visiting after Sunday Mass in Kumbalangi. MIDDLE: Fr. Dharma (left) with parishioners in Nambur standing on the newly completed roof of their new church. RIGHT: Even in the midst of road-flooding rains people came to a weekday morning Mass.



ABOVE: Water buffalo walk past the street near a rural church in Eluru. RIGHT: Sacred Heart church, also in Eluru.



center... there is so much that can be done for children and youth, they are the future."

Many challenges face the SCJs as they expand their pastoral presence in India, challenges not limited to poverty

"Language," said Fr. Thomas Vinod, SCJ, district superior. "To minister in India you need to know the languages."

The Indian constitution recognizes 22 official languages. But there is no one language which is spoken throughout the nation. English is growing in popularity in many areas, especially for business and higher education. Hindi is spoken by the majority of Indians in the north, but it is not popular in southern India where Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam are more popular.

Fr. Thomas said that most members of the district need at least four languages: their home language, English for study, Hindi, and then the language of the state in which they minister. For those who travel outside the country for education or ministry, there are other languages as well.

The SCJs hope to develop a significant presence near Mumbai, but few members of the district speak Marathi, the language of the area. "However, in this parish," said Fr. Aji, speaking of Divine Mercy in Thane, near Mumbai, "most of the people are here from other areas for work and they do not speak the local language either." Malayalam, Telugu

and Tamil are just some of the many languages that parishioners bring with them from their home states. Fr. Aji and Fr. Abraham generally work in Hindi or English with parishioners while they work to become more comfortable with some of the other languages.

"It's not just a need to be understood at Mass," said Fr. Thomas, district superior. "People want to speak in their native tongue when they need counseling." And at Mass, he added, people expect the priest to give his homily without looking at notes. "Otherwise it does not seem like he is speaking from his heart."

Pastoral ministry in India is filled with challenges, yet it is no different than any other location in which the Priests of the Sacred Heart are found, where its members follow the words of Fr. Leo John Dehon to "get out of the sacristy and go to the people."

Mary Gorski, communications director for the U.S. Province, and Fr. Heru Ismadi, SCJ, secretary general, had a whirlwind tour of the District of India after several days of giving workshops at Dehon Vidya Sadhan, Aluva. Mary wrote a reflection on her visit that is available in the "News" section of the province website (www.sacredheartusa.org).

A photo album titled "Snapshots from India" with more pictures of the areas noted in this article is available at: www.scjusa.smugmug.com.

Dehonian spirit grows in Vietnam

Fr. Francis Vu Tran, SCJ, emigrated from Vietnam to the United States when he was a child. As an adult, he has returned several times to visit family but in recent years, he has also had the opportunity to visit a group of people who didn't exist in Vietnam when he was a child: the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

The community was just taking root when he first visited it four years ago in Ho Chi Minh City. Two years later, he came again and saw many changes.

And now, "it is much different," he said. "Instead of just a few missionaries we now have several Vietnamese SCJs who are in leadership."

Fr. Francis recently went to Vietnam to attend his cousin's ordination. It was an opportunity to go back to Ho Chi Minh City and meet with two new SCJ priests: Fr. Phong Tran and Fr. Quang Tran. The last time he saw them they were still students preparing for ministry. Now, Frs. Phong and Quang work in formation, giving guidance to fellow Vietnamese who are discerning their vocation with the SCJs.

Fr. Phong is director of the formation house for pre-candidates. These are men who live and pray together as a community while completing their college studies. There are approximately 20-25 young men in the pre-candi-

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date program. If they continue with the community after college, the next step is the Philippines, where they start as postulants and then move to the novitiate and theology.

Approximately 10-15 students are studying in the Philippines now. Two Vietnamese priests and three deacons have gone through the Vietnamese/Filipino program.

Besides the formation program that Frs. Quang and Phong are a part of, there is another directed by Fr. Vincent Nguyen, SCJ. Fr. Vincent is a Vietnamese member of the French Province. The program he directs is an open discernment program, a place for people who are looking at religious life and the priesthood but who have not committed to a particular community or diocese.

As with many developing entities, the focus in the first years is on formation. It is difficult for newly developed religious communities to establish ministries in Vietnam or have responsibility for a parish. It is hoped that the community can soon receive a parish in Ho Chi Minh so that it has a base near the formation communities. However, in the future Fr. Francis sees the SCJs moving to rural areas where the need for priests is greater. "This is where we can really offer a Dehonian presence," he said.

But again, for now the emphasis is on formation. The SCJs are building a formation house near the university that should be able to hold 30 more students. It is hoped that the project can be finished by April, 2013.

"This is a true international community," concluded Fr. Francis. "For me it is good to see missionaries from outside of the country working together with Vietnamese to build the SCJ presence, the Kingdom of God, in Vietnam. Instead of just being a dream to have a Dehonian presence in the country, it is now a reality."

The U.S. Province has played a significant role financially, supporting many of the basic needs of the community in the country. "You can see the fruit of the work — that of the U.S. Province and other countries," said Fr. Francis. "The Dehonian spirit is alive and growing in Vietnam."



The Dehon Formation Community. Top row: Gabriel Gutierrez, Br. Duane Lemke, Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas, Justin Krenke, Anthony Nguyen and Fra. Luis Fernando Orozco Cardona. Bottom: Fr. Tim Gray, Fra. Joseph Vu, Fr. Bob Bossie and Fr. John Czynyski. Not pictured: Br. Clay Diaz.

From across the country and across the world

Dehon Formation Community 2012-13

The Dehon Formation Community in Chicago's Hyde Park is a base for those preparing for ministry and religious life with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Its primary focus is candidates and professed SCJs in their initial years of formation, but the community also hosts SCJs, as well as priests and brothers from other communities and dioceses, who are doing advanced studies or sabbatical programs.

The 2012 fall semester begins with two candidates, two novices and two professed SCJs in initial formation (along with Br. Clay Diaz, SCJ, who is currently in a program in St. Louis). They are directed by Br. Duane Lemke, SCJ, and Fr. John Czynyski, SCJ, novice master. Also a part of the community are Fr. Tim Gray, SCJ, Fr. Bob Bossie, SCJ, and Fr. Antony Wijaya, an

Indonesian SCJ who is with the community while doing studies at Loyola.

As has become the yearly tradition, our students introduce themselves:

Fra. Luis Fernando Orozco Cardona, SCJ

I am Luis Fernando Orozco Cardona, born October 25, 1974 in Medellin, Colombia. I come from a large Catholic family of nine children. My elementary education was in a public school and I went to a minor seminary for high school. After that I was in a diocesan seminary for two years. College was at a pontifical university, where I earned my degree in philosophy.

For five years I taught ethics and philosophy in high school and at the university where I earned my degree. During my last two years in Colombia,

before I came to the United States, I worked as Secretary of Education in my hometown. I came to the United States in January, 2006, to study in the ESL program at Sacred Heart School of Theology. After a year-and-a-half I was accepted as an SCJ candidate and I moved to the formation house in Chicago where I started my theological studies at Catholic Theological Union.

In 2009 I began my novitiate year and professed my first vows in 2010. Right now I am full time student at CTU completing my studies for a Master of Divinity degree. This is my last year of theology. I am looking forward to doing my pastoral experience, which will be at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Houston.

There are two fundamental things that attracted me to the Priests of the Sacred Heart. First, I like how we take care of each other. I really feel support from the community; I feel welcome and I have come to believe that God takes care of me through this community. Second, the SCJs offer so many opportunities in pastoral and advanced education that allow me to grow in knowledge, but also, to grow in my faith and vocation.

Br. Clay Diaz, SCJ

I have been with the Priests of the Sacred Heart for the past nine years, first as a candidate, then as a novice and now in vows. I made my first profession in 2007.

I came to know the SCJ community while living in Puerto Rico in 2000 through *Vision Magazine*. I truly appreciate the SCJ charism and the ministries of the community: working with the poor and serving those who have needs, be it through parish ministries, social outreach, schools and many other ministries.

I was born in Massachusetts in 1964. I lived in various locations, including Puerto Rico, which I moved to when I was 21.

Two years ago I began studies at Chicago Theological Union (CTU) and am working toward a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS). This semester I am in a program near St. Louis.

My hobbies are reading, playing music (guitar and piano), and pencil

art. I am also a big sports fanatic, starting with football, hockey, baseball, and basketball.

[Editor's note: Br. Clay is bilingual in Spanish and English in sign language as well in the written and spoken word.]

Gabriel Gutierrez

My name is Gabriel Gutierrez and I am from a small desert town named Ridgecrest in California. I am the eldest of three children and I have been discerning a vocation to the priesthood for a very long time, ever since I was a child. I heard about Priests of the Sacred Heart when I filled out an information request card; they were the first to reply. At the time I was too young to move much further in my discernment process.

When I became a junior in high school I got a call from Br. Ray Kozuch, SCJ, the vocation director for the Priests of the Sacred Heart and we set up a meeting for him to interview me in California. After the meeting, in which we discussed school, discernment, support and mission, I truly felt that God was leading me into this direction with them.

What has struck me the most in choosing the SCJs is their ministry of love; reaching out to those in most need through acts of charity. I feel that is my essential motive in life, especially as a priest, to live out that motto.

So now I am a freshman at St. Xavier University, majoring in philosophy, with a minor in religious studies. And it has been a blast! Also, the communal life here at the formation house has been amazing. Our life is centered, of course, around the Holy Eucharist within the Sacrifice of the Mass and within Adoration and community prayer. Although we do not live a cloistered lifestyle, it is truly remarkable how we are able to be contemplative in our spiritual life.

Justin Krenke

My name is Justin Krenke, and I am a second year candidate. I am 21 years old and was born in West Allis, Wis., but grew up next door in Milwaukee. I lived with my mom, step-dad, and two older sisters. After I graduated in 2009 from W.E.B. Du Bois High School I

took a year off of school to help my sister, Heather, with her three children. I would have liked to have gone to school right away instead of taking a year off, but she needed the help. This is my third year in the formation program and I am starting my third year at St. Xavier University. I am enjoying my time at St. Xavier, despite the homework, and I am enjoying all of my courses this semester.

I learned about the SCJs from a vocational website that matched people with religious communities based off of their interests. After I visited the community on a Come and See weekend I became very interested and decided that this is the community for me. I am glad I choose this community; we enjoy each other's company and are always telling jokes and laughing. The directors and other students in the house are always around if you need help with anything and I look forward to continuing my discernment with the SCJs.

James Nguyen

It was four years ago that I traveled to Chicago for the Come and See weekend after meeting Fr. Francis Vu Tran at the camp for the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Society. At that time, I had no anticipation of being back again to the formation house. However, God works in amazing ways and here I am, staying this time for a little more than one weekend.

I am James Nguyen, 23. I was born in Saigon, but lived in Seattle since I was four. I am the middle of three boys; the oldest is a Jesuit and the youngest is still in high school. I am a graduate from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Sociology, and a minor in Values in Society. I am a Husky for life and will fly the colors of purple and gold where ever I go.

This year, I am taking a year off from my studies at Catholic Theological Union for the novitiate program.

During my spare time, I enjoy exploring the outdoors on hiking, camping or backpacking trips. I love to travel and hope to one day return to South America where I have been to Peru and Brazil. Not many people can

say they have been to the Amazon twice, but I am blessed to be able to.

This past summer, I had the chance to work with Catholic Social Services for the Sacred Heart Southern Missions in Mississippi. It was shocking to see the images of third world America with my own eyes. Seeing it on television is one thing, but being there, listening to the stories of their struggles, and breathing in the same air they were breathing was something really powerful. I realized during my time there that no one asked me what degrees or academic credentials I had. I did spend four hard, enduring years of college to get those degrees. But there, it was about companionship, the trust of the people and the relationships that you know. It was a humbling experience and I felt that when I lost the need to impress others I became freer to deepen friendships and explore new ways of loving. This is part of the reason why I chose the L'arche community for my ministry this year.

Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas

There is no place like home. I have heard that many times and I strongly agree with it. My name is Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas. I am 30 years old and I am from, Medellin, Colombia. I love horses, cooking, and spending time with my family and friends. Since I was a kid I felt that I was called to the religious life. But I never thought that it was going to be a long distance call!

Since January, 2006, I have responded to God's call here in the United States, doing my discernment process about my vocation with the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

Since the very first day I arrived here, I felt welcome. Learning a new language was not easy, but thanks to all the support that I received in the ESL program at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Milwaukee I was able to make it. And that is how I ended up in the formation house in Chicago, working on my spiritual and academic formation. Here I found people like me who responded to God's call, here I found friends, but more than that, I found a home and a family.

I was attending St. Xavier University studying philosophy in order to continue my academic formation and move to Catholic Theological Union, but now, happily since August 14, I am doing my novitiate year. I know it is going to be a great experience and it is a step forward toward achieving my goals and becoming a SCJ. I am really happy learning more about the charism and the history of my community. This year is full of adventures and I am ready to live them with an open heart.

Fra. Joseph Vu, SCJ

Chicago is my "hometown." I am currently in my third year of studies at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) and am part of the M. Div program for priestly ordination.

As for hobbies, I love to read; I read from all sorts of genres, but currently I'm into spy novels. As part of my continuing education, I have been recently adding books that delve into the mentality of teenagers, as it would help me out in youth ministry.

Currently I'm working at St. Henry parish as a youth group coordinator. This year will my tenth year with the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Society. I have been an active member of my parish for the last 14 years.

I am also ministering at the Br. David Darst Center, an organization dedicated to justice and peace. The Center's main activity is hosting retreats for youth and introducing them to social issues and the social services offered around the Chicagoland area. This is my second year at the Center.

I am currently in my third year of temporary vows. I met the SCJs through my youth group. My vows continually remind me of my dedication to live my life's intent on being united with the heart of Christ and to be in community with my brothers.

My goal is to get through CTU. The curriculum for M. Div students is quite rigorous, and I am feeling it through the workload of my courses. Graduate school is a struggle. However, I hope that, with God's help, I become ordained as a priest.

Internationality of congregation reflected in Toronto

The congregation came to Canada in 1910, paving the way for the SCJ presence in North America. Over 100 years later, the congregation continues to be present in Canada, and now more than ever, reflects the international face of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

As previously noted in the *SCJ News*, the Canadian Region's Dehon House in Ottawa has long been an international one. Montréal as well is an SCJ community that includes members of the congregation not only from French-speaking Canada, but from Asia and Africa too.

Six years ago, Toronto SCJs made a commitment to internationality, both as a community and in ministry.

"[In 2006] we came together to draw up a pastoral plan designed to respond to the changing demands of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)," said Fr. Jim Casper, SCJ. "Toronto is a multicultural city whose population of approximately 6.5 million includes people from Asia, Europe, Africa, Central and South America, the Middle East and the Caribbean.

"Every weekend in Toronto the Eucharist is celebrated in over 35 languages!"

Outreach to Indonesians

For 31 years SCJs in Toronto have had a special ministry to the large Indonesian community in the area. It began when Fr. Wayne Jenkins, SCJ, then associate pastor at St. Joan of Arc parish, met a few Indonesian Catholics at a grocery store. Fr. Wayne had lived in Indonesia for several years and enjoyed connecting with people from the country.

A chance meeting in a store evolved into a full-time ministry to the Indonesian Catholic community in Toronto. Umat Katholik Indonesia now includes approximately 3,000

members.

When Fr. Wayne left for a new assignment, the archbishop of Toronto asked if the SCJs could continue the ministry. It was then that the Toronto community began its collaborative relationship with the Indonesian Province, which sent an Indonesian SCJ in the early 1980s.

"When the first of our Indonesian confreres arrived, the naïve assumption was that he, and others, would adapt to our way of life, and ultimately, adopt our view of Church, of SCJ religious life and our world view," said Fr. Jim. "What in fact ensued was a challenging dance in which both new arrivals and those already settled were drawn toward adaptation and change."

The community decided to not simply live as individuals from different countries and different cultures, but to live as an international community flavored by all of the cultures within it.

"To be a part of an international community means being open and vulnerable, and perhaps most importantly, humble enough to learn from our brothers of every age and culture," said Fr. Peter McKenna, SCJ, another long-time member of the Toronto community. "It is only through this openness and humility that we can grow to be a truly international and intergenerational Dehonian community."

Fr. Peter not only lives internationally at home, but ministers full-time with "Becoming Neighbors," an organization devoted to refugees and newly arrived immigrants in Toronto.

"Living internationally calls all of us to contribute our best gifts to ministry, to the congregation and to the Church," he said. "It invites each one of us to let go of pre-conceived ways of doing things."

Fr. Aegi Warsito, SCJ, the most recent member of the Indonesian Province to serve UKI, said that after several years of working and living in the Toronto the idea of "We the Congregation" had really taken root in his heart.

He said that for him, one of the great joys of living in an international



Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo and Fr. Aegi Warsito of the Toronto community

community is the opportunity to learn about and accept other cultures. In Indonesia he felt that his identity, who he was as an SCJ, "was tied to being a member of the Indonesian Province," not to the wider congregation.

But now, he says, "I can go anywhere at anytime and minister as a Dehonian," a member of a religious community that transcends national borders.

International outreach grows

For many years, the Toronto community's ministry to Indonesian Catholics was its only significant international outreach. But as Fr. Jim Casper said, six years ago the community created a pastoral plan to better meet the needs of the international city in which they lived, based out of an international sense of community.

"We asked the Canadian council to consider inviting an SCJ from Brazil to join us," said Fr. Jim. "The Archdiocese of Toronto is desperate for Portuguese-speaking priests to minister to the growing Portuguese-speaking population of Toronto (it is estimated that there are approximately 115,000 Portuguese-speaking people in the city).

Inviting an SCJ from Brazil to join the Toronto community would address a need in the local Church, "but it would also add something to our SCJ community," said Fr. Jim. It is a way for the community to better reflect who the SCJs are, and "for us as a local community to reflect the multicultural nature of Toronto."

Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo, SCJ, is the first Brazilian to join the Toronto community; he arrived in May.

"I always had a dream of being a missionary priest," said Fr. Willyans. "I thought my provincial superior would send me perhaps to Africa or the Philippines."

But instead, Fr. Willyans was asked to be a "missionary" to Canada.

"I wondered, how would coming to Canada, a country well developed with lots of resources, be the work of a missionary?" he said.

But in a few short months he has learned much about the needs of the people of Toronto, including the "impact of secularization," he said. "I minister at St. Mary's Parish, a beautiful community, but a community also experiencing tremendous changes. Located on the fringe of Toronto's inner city, its base continues to be a vibrant Portuguese community but the area in which it is located is going through a gentrification process." It is a process that risks alienating many of the less affluent residents of the area.

What is his personal experience of living and ministering in an international community?

"Everything is different," he said. "The lifestyle, the way we pray, the way we are responsible for each other and for our community house. One of the challenges for me is to understand differences. We come from many different places and cultural heritages. There are many things that we need to learn together.

"I thank God that I can speak English but knowing the words doesn't necessarily mean that you understand fully the meaning of what is being said."

"We hope that we can continue to be blessed with a broader representation from the international SCJ community so that the local community reflects more clearly the multicultural face of Toronto," said Fr. Jim. "We would like to expand our response to the growing need for ministry among the Portuguese, Spanish and Chinese-speaking populations of Toronto as more members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart accept the vision of internationality."

SCJ NEWS

Former vicar ordained archbishop

As noted in the last *SCJ News*, Fr. Claudio Dalla Zuanna, SCJ, former vicar general of the congregation, was named archbishop of Beira, Mozambique. His ordination was October 7.

Thousands filled a Beira stadium for the event which lasted over four hours. Crowds followed the new archbishop literally from the moment his plane touched down. "A crowd of at least 500 were at the airport, welcoming him with drums and dance," said one of the SCJs there for the ordination. Well-wishers joined the archbishop in a procession through the city to the archbishop's residence.

An interview with Archbishop Claudio is available on the Generalate website at www.dehon.it/en. It was

posted on October 3. Also, an article about the ordination can be found in the News section of the province site: www.sacredheartusa.org.

Retiring after 50 years

Fr. John Strittmatter, SCJ, arrived in South Africa from the United States almost 50 years ago. He ministered in several locations but is probably best known for his work with the poor for the past 23 years in Middelburg. Now Fr. John is retiring. He recently joined the Sacred Heart Monastery Community in Aliwal North.

"I thank God for the wonderful people with whom I have worked over the past 50 years, including bishops, priests, brothers, sisters and all of our wonderful laity," Fr. John wrote. "They have all helped me so much. Any good that I have done must be credited to them, my family, friends and other benefactors who have so generously supported me..."

"There is a time for everything and now I will have more time for prayer and some other things which I may not have been able to do before."

Visit us on Facebook!

Often we post photos and short news items on our province Facebook page. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the page or the



Dn. David Nagel and Archbishop Jerome Listecky during the Mass for the Blessing of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. See more photos from the ceremony on the province Facebook page.

photo albums on it, but you do need to register to make comments on what is posted.

Recent photo albums posted on the FB site: the Blessing of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, the 2012 Culture Fair and the installation of Msgr. Ross Shecterle as president-rector of Sacred Heart School of Theology.

You can find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/PriestsoftheSacredHeart

From the page you can link to other SCJ FB sites, such as St. Joseph's Indian School, SHST, and several of our parishes.

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