

SCJ NEWS

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

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Dehonians in North America

Celebration, Reflection, Action

It may have been the NORTH AMERICAN Continental Conference but it reflected an internationality that went well beyond Canada and the United States. SCJs from Africa, South America, Europe and Asia were among those in the conference room not only as guests but primarily as fellow SCJs of the Canadian Region and U.S. Province.

Among them was Fr. Gustave N'dotoni Lulendo, a Congolese member of the Ottawa community; Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec, a Polish SCJ who serves at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston; and Fr. Vincent Suparman from Indonesia, a member of the Lower Brule Pastoral Team in South Dakota.

Over a dozen countries were represented among conference participants.

Of course, the participants also included Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, superior general, and Fr. John van den Hengel, vicar. The North American Continental Conference was the concluding moment of their general visitation of the United States and Canada. At least once in his six-year term a superior general is expected to visit each of the locations of the congregation. North America was Fr. Ornelas' final stop as he nears the end of his second administration.

A continental conference has been held at the end of each of the visitations. The North American conference took place September 24-27. Participants split their time between the Provincial Conference Center on the grounds of Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology and across the road at the newly completed Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

"Dehonians in North America: Celebration. Reflection. Action," was the conference theme.

Pictured above are the participants at the North American Continental Conference; at right is Fr. Stefan Tertünte who set the tone for the gathering with his opening presentation on Fr. Dehon and his spiritual and social engagement.

Fr. Dehon's spiritual and social engagement

Fr. Dehon's spiritual and social engagement

Fr. Stefan Tertünte, an SCJ from the German Province, set the tone for the gathering with his opening presentation on "Fr. Dehon's spirituality and social engagement."

"Fr. Dehon's spiritual basis is in an experience of God's love... a love that inevitably led him to social and political engagement," said Fr. Stefan. He noted a statement of Fr. Dehon's from 1910:

"I was led by Providence to walk down various pathways but two of





them left a profound impression on me: Christian social action and the life of love, reparation and immolation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

To continue to live the founder’s spirituality in their own lives Fr. Stefan encouraged SCJs to “pray with open eyes” as a way to move “towards the lived union of the spiritual and the social in the tradition of Dehon.”

He added that it is not just HOW SCJs pray that is important, but where they pray. “Pray in proximity to the people, to pray with open eyes you must be able to see something. . .

“Meditating on the Sacred Heart, the pierced side of the Lord, meditating on his love is quite different if you do it in the proximity of, or with peo-

PICTURED ABOVE: Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, facilitated the gathering; the conference logo is behind her at the SHML chapel. LOWER PHOTOS L-R: Fr. Greg Schill, Fr. Vincent Suparman, Fr. Gustave N’dotoni Lulendo, and Fr. Jack Kurps (chairperson of the conference organizing committee).

ple whose life is pierced, who struggle for hope and for daily bread.

“It’s not only important how we pray, but where we pray, where we live. For us – and for others.”

View Fr. Stefan’s presentation at: http://youtu.be/age2Ha7s_Hw

Congregation becoming increasingly international

Moving from a reflection on Fr. Dehon to one on the congregation, participants heard from Fr. Ornelas and Fr. John who spoke about the congregation today.

Much of what they shared has been presented at other SCJ gatherings in recent years. The Priests of the Sacred Heart, as are other congregations and the Catholic Church in general, is growing in the southern hemisphere. Provinces and regions that were once led by missionaries

now send their own men as missionaries, and not always to places that fit the stereotype of “the missions.”

Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo is an example. A Brazilian SCJ, he comes from a country which boasts the highest number of SCJs in the congregation. European missionaries began the SCJ presence in Brazil. But now, the roles are reversed and it is Brazil sending its men around the world.

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

“But instead,” he told those gathered at the conference, “My superior told me that I would be a missionary in CANADA!”

The room broke out in laughter.

“A missionary goes where there is a need, and so I went, and I am very happy,” he said. “We have a good community and we are doing good ministry.” Fr. Will is a part of an international SCJ pastoral team ministering to an international parish in Toronto, St. Thomas More.

Fr. Will is just one example of internationality being lived in North America. The SCJ presence on the Lower Brule and Crow Creek reservations in South Dakota continues primarily because of SCJs from the Indonesian Province: Fr. Vincent Suparman and Fr. Christianus Hendrik (who also serves on the Provincial Council). In Toronto Fr. Aegidius Warsito fills out the parish team at St. Thomas More with Fr. Will and Fr. Jim Casper. In Houston, a Polish SCJ, Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec, is often at



the altar, celebrating the sacraments in Spanish.

The SCJs in North America

In a setting of prayer, begun with an opening ritual Tuesday evening and ending with a concluding liturgy on Friday, SCJs reflected on their founder, the worldwide congregation, and finally, on who the Priests of the Sacred Heart are and can be in North America.

They began in table discussions answering the question "What are the three social realities of our day that most urgently need to be addressed at this time?" Many identified immigration and economic injustice. Other concerns: youth, individualism, violence, a search for greater meaning, relationships, moral values and the impact of communications technology.

Next, participants listened to the voices of the future: the youngest members of the U.S. Province and Canadian Region. In a conversation led by Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, conference facilitator, six young men, including Novice Justin Krenke, talked about what gives them hope in the congregation and what they see as the urgent realities in need of a Dehonian response.

"The fact that we are here and talking about our future is what gives me hope," said one of the young SCJs. "We are small in number but we can and do affect the lives of so many people. Continuing to do that gives me a lot of hope for our future."

When asked what they viewed as the urgent realities of today, several talked about immigration, as did the larger group the previous day. However, many also emphasized that more effort needs to be placed on youth. Many young people today want to help others, they seek ways of social engagement, but they do not always connect "good works," such as working in soup kitchens or helping the poor through home-repair, with their faith.

Most important, said another in the discussion, is to be present to youth, to



Fr. John van den Hengel, general councilor, and Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, superior general, share a laugh at the end of the conference.

share Dehonian values with them. "We need to make our life and ministry more visibly Dehonian," said one.

What next?

In the final sessions of the conference SCJs identified ways in which the congregation in North America could respond to the urgent realities noted. Focus was placed on education — the need to become educated on issues of concern, such as immigration, and then educate others through mass communication, the pulpit and in the many other ways SCJs touch the lives of people.

Noting the SCJ-sponsored youth programs in South America, Asia, Africa and Europe, it was suggested that such programs be developed in Canada and the United States with SCJ youth days involving young people from throughout North America.

There is an energy and enthusiasm that builds in gatherings such as the North American Continental Conference. People spend time getting to know each other better, there is sharing and a growing sense of a common bond, a common purpose. Wonderful ideas are exchanged. Possibilities for the future are found in group conversations and in small one-on-one settings.

"But so often that all ends when the last prayer is said and everyone goes home," said one participant. "What started here needs to continue."

"Dehonians in North America: Celebration. Reflection. Action" was the conference theme. During the gathering there was much celebration and reflection.

And now, the conference continues as its participants — the SCJs in North America — move toward the final part of the theme: action.



View more photos of the conference and the visitation at: www.scjusa.smugmug.com

Pictured: Fr. Jim Schroeder, Fr. Stefan Tertünte and Fr. Peter Sanders

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Email: marygorski@sbcglobal.net
Mary Gorski, editor.
Postage prepaid.



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Priests of the Sacred Heart



The visitation in photos

During September Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, superior general, and Fr. John van den Hengel, vicar, toured SCJ communities and ministries in Canada and the United States as a part of the general visitation of North America. Stops included Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, South Dakota, Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Chicago and Wisconsin. View a photo album from their travels at www.scjusa.smugmug.org



The Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a clerical apostolic religious Institute of pontifical right, made up of provinces, regions, and dependent districts

Its members take public vows of consecrated celibacy, of poverty, and of obedience according to the Rule and the norms of the Institute.

All its members are equal in the same profession of religious life, without any other distinction except that of ministries.

As members of Christ, faithful to His pressing invitation *Sint unum*, they fraternally bear one another's burdens in one same common life.

-SCJ Rule of Life, No. 8

Province jubilees

A celebration of religious life!

On September 23 the province celebrated the golden and diamond jubilees of religious life of five of its members: Fr. Johnny Klingler, Br. Peter Mankins and Fr. Jim Schroeder (50 years) and Fr. Frank Clancy and Fr. Larry Rucker (60 years).

Friends, family and fellow SCJs packed the chapel at Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology for an evening liturgy and dinner.

Fr. Frank, 81, is originally from Chicago and ministered first as a brother with the community in assignments at St. Joseph's Indian School and Divine Heart Seminary. His next assignment was also at a school, but this time as a student. He became a seminarian at Sacred Heart School of Theology and was ordained

Jubilarians with the superior general and provincial superior: Fr. Johnny Klingler, Fr. Jim Schroeder, Br. Peter Mankins, Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho (superior general), Fr. Larry Rucker, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter (provincial superior) and Fr. Frank Clancy.

in 1974.

Fr. Frank served in parish ministry in South Dakota, Wisconsin and Texas. As a parish pastor he often did visits to the sick and found that it was something he felt particularly called to. Fr. Frank enrolled in CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) and served as a

hospital and prison chaplain in Willacy County. He is now retired and a member of the community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

Fr. Larry Rucker, 79 was born in New York State but spent much of his adult life in South Dakota. His first assignment after ordination was at St. Joseph's parish in Cherry, Creek, SD; he continued ministry in South Dakota for almost 30 years.

Following his first year at Cherry Creek, Fr. Larry did ministry at All Saints Church in Eagle Butte, St. Martin in Murdo and Sacred Heart in Dupree. In 1983 he moved to Sioux Falls and began a 12-year commitment to the Kateri Indian Center, where he ministered not only to the area's Native American community but also to the nearby hospital and prison.

In 2001 he headed south for parish ministry in Mississippi until his retirement in 2001. Like Fr. Frank, Fr. Larry is also a member of the community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

Fifty years of religious life

Fr. Johnny Klingler, 78, is from Paterson, N.J., and was ordained in 1967. His first assignment was as a teacher and formation director at the SCJs' Kilroe Seminary before a brief stint in parish ministry in St. Louis. In 1974 he became province director of





Retired Archbishop Rembert Weakland receives the cup from Fr. Jim Schroeder. Two retired bishops joined jubilarians at their celebration; Bishop Joseph Potocnak, retired bishop of De Aar, South Africa (and now a member of the Mississippi SCJ community) was also at the jubilee.

Justice and Peace.

In 1977 Fr. Johnny was named provincial superior of the US Province. He finished his second term in 1983, moved to the Rio Grande Valley, but then found himself in administration again a year later when he was elected to the General Council. He was a general councilor from 1985-91. Fr. Johnny came back to the States in 1992 and spent six years with the Cheyenne River Pastoral Team based in Eagle Butte. He then ministered for a year in South Africa before again joining provincial administration, this time as director of apostolic activities, and



Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, provincial superior, was the homilist at the jubilee. Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, superior general, was the main celebrant.

later, director of ministers and ministries.

Throughout his years of ministry, Fr. Johnny was also active in social justice issues, volunteering with several organizations and serving as the general councilor with responsibility for Justice and Peace when he was in Rome. He is now retired and living with the community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

Br. Peter Mankins, 84, is a Chicago native. His first assignment was at Divine Heart Seminary and it became a stepping stone to a lifetime devoted to formation ministry. Br. Peter served at Bellefontaine in Lenox, Mass., Dehon Seminary in Great Barrington, Mass., and Dehon Seminary in Lanesboro, Mass.

He was also on the formation team with the SCJs' undergraduate program in San Antonio. When the formation programs were brought together in Chicago, he moved back to his hometown in 2002 to serve with the candidacy program and as assistant novice master. Br. Peter was also responsible for the formation community's bookkeeping.

Now retired, as are Frs. Johnny, Frank and Larry, Br. Peter is a member of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML.

Fr. Jim Schroeder, 69, is from southern Illinois and has spent many years of ministry not too far from where he grew up. A psychologist, he has been based in St. Louis since 1989, focusing on the treatment of priests, religious and other church ministers through individual and group therapy. His doctorate in clinical psychology is from Loyola University, Chicago. He also did sabbatical studies in France and Spain.



Fr. Johnny Klingler smiles during the evening reception at Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology.

At the province and international levels Fr. Jim has served on the Religious Life Commission, the North American Spirituality Commission, the Province Finance Commission and three times as a delegate from the U.S. Province to the General Chapter in Rome and at several international meetings.

"In grade school I realized that religion, the church and the sacraments were very powerful forces in my family's life," wrote Fr. Jim when reflecting on his own vocation for a Vocation Central publication. "My family turned to prayer and the priest to help them with daily struggles and crises. Through enforced daily Mass, I realized the importance of Christ in the Eucharist.

"The local pastor showed me that being a priest was a good way to live and help give people what was most valued. My eighth grade teacher, Sr. Emilia, O.P., showed me that people could live together and support each other in service.

"One weekday morning after communion I realized I wanted to be a priest... A good friend went to the SCJ seminary. After an initial visit, I decided to follow. Although the original decision was questioned and reaffirmed many times, it holds true to this day... I was and still am drawn by the idea of the centrality in Christianity of God expressing Himself as a loving heart who calls us to respond by loving Him and others."

SCJs providing an education to the children of migrant families

In 2008, SCJs partnered in ministry with the diocesan parish of St. Paul near Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The population that surrounds St. Paul is made up primarily of factory workers and young migrant families. Many have come from the poorest areas of the country, seeking jobs and a better life near the city. Few can afford to send their children to school.

In 2000, St. Paul's rented a small parcel of land and put up four classrooms. Migrant parents were invited to send their children to the makeshift school. Through the generosity of volunteer teachers — Catholics from the area — these children, who otherwise spent their days on the street, were able to get an education. The U.S. Province financially supports the school.

Br. Luong Nguyen, SCJ, wrote the following update on the school:

Huong Tam School was initiated by a Vietnamese citizen living in the United States who came to visit Vietnam. She saw many poor children, most of them uneducated, just living

off of what they found in the streets. Their parents didn't have enough money to send them to school. She decided to establish a small school for these children and called it "Huong Tam."

In the first year there were 20 children and three teachers. Children were even fed and bathed. The school officially opened on August 15, 2003. Everything was simple: tables, chairs and equipment. The number of pupils increased year by year. The school went well until 2008.

In 2009 the school was forced by the government to close. Fr. Pham Trung Dong, a priest at St. Paul parish, tried to find a way to maintain the school. He decided to rent a small piece of land for three years and asked the help of the people in the parish to build a simple school. Each year the student population grew from 100 students in 2009 to 278 this year.

Initially, the purpose of the school was simply to teach children how to read and write. It was not expected that these students would transfer to a

government school after studying at Huong Tam. However, with the development of the school the parish priest and the teachers saw possibilities for more. They submitted an application to Binh Tri Dong, an elementary school, and asked for cooperation, allowing Huong Tam students to get accreditation for further education. A partnership began.

On September 6, the school started the new year with 278 students. In an opening celebration they were joined by their parents, the parish priest, local government leaders, SCJ seminarians, teachers and staff. Each student received notebooks, a pen and a backpack.

There are now seven classes from kindergarten to fifth grade, but there are only four classrooms. They are divided into two periods, four classes in the morning and three classes in the afternoon.

Each year Huong Tam School improves. The greatest concern now is that the land contract for the school will come to an end this year. New facilities may be needed.

All of the students come from poor families, from different provinces, and their parents are immigrants working for local companies. They receive small incomes. Many of them say that their salary sometimes is not even enough for the food of the family. Last August we Vietnamese SCJs, together with the SCJ vicar general, Fr. John van den Hengel, went to visit the school and some of the families nearby.

One of the mothers shared with us: "I have four children but I already sent two of them to their grandparents in my hometown because if I keep them all here, I cannot take care of them well. My salary is just enough for food, sometimes not even enough for it."

The Huong Tam School community is grateful for the SCJ community, and especially for the support of the U.S. Province.



Fr. John van den Hengel and Fr. Rino Venturin with staff at Huong Tam School

SCJ NEWS

100 years in Austria!

On September 29 the Priests of the Sacred Heart celebrated the 100th anniversary of the congregation's presence in Austria. In 1913 the first SCJ came to Vienna to begin parish ministry in a working-class district of the city.

The archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, was the main celebrant at the September celebration.

North to South

After taking part in the North American Continental Conference, Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, headed to Santiago, Chile, to join SCJs in South America at their conference a week later.

"There was a good mix of our SCJ charisma, our spirituality and the apostolate," wrote Fr. Ed from Santiago.

"Bishop Virginio Bressanelli [former SCJ superior general] spoke about Dehonians in Latin America in relationship with and to the larger Church. He also sends his regards to all his friends in North America!

"There were nine countries and the General Curia represented at this conference. As with our conference in North America, there was much talk about youth, and the need to minister to them. Also, about serving the poor. There was, as well, a great deal of enthusiasm and hope for the future.

"It is always a great experience for me to meet my confreres in other parts of the world."

Fr. Ed is vice-provincial of the U.S. Province.

Diverse group begins new semester at SHST

Twenty-three new seminarians representing nine nations joined the student body at Sacred Heart School of Theology this fall, bringing the total number of seminarians this year to 87. Their ages range from 22-year-old Matthew Rappl from the Diocese of Green Bay to Alfred Pillarelli, 66, from the Diocese of Gaylord, Mich.

In addition to the students in the seminary program, Sacred Heart has 47 other students, including 26 non-seminarians in the ESL program, lay students in the Master of Arts

Program, and non-degree students.

The average age of the new seminarians is 40. Fifteen students are from the United States, while the others come from elsewhere in the Americas, Nigeria and Vietnam.

Overall, the seminarians represent 27 dioceses across the United States and Canada, plus five religious orders. New sponsors include: the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau (Mo.), the Diocese of Orange (Calif.), the Diocese of Duluth (Minn.), the Diocese of Calgary (Alb.) and the Servants of the Paraclete.

Congratulations!

Fr. Quang Nguyen, SCJ, successfully defended his dissertation and will be awarded a Ph.D. in Economics/Political Science from Claremont Graduate University in California. The title of his dissertation is "Doi Moi (Economic Renovation) Revisited: The positive economic outcome(s) and a negative externality, especially in the service sector of Vietnam."



Fr. Quang Nguyen

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