

# Dehonian Associates Prayer Book

## Introduction

“Let us pray much for our work, for our missions, for our recruiting,  
but above all for our immense spiritual needs,  
that our Lord may pardon all our shortcomings and that he may grant us great increase  
in the life of love and immolation that he awaits from us.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ

## Prayers of Oblation composed by Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ

### **Life for Jesus**

I renounce my own glory  
and from now on  
I wish to live only for the glory of God.  
Everything that I have I consecrate to God:  
my body, soul, and intelligence,  
my feelings and will,  
all my material possessions and relationships.

From now on,  
I must use everything solely for God’s glory  
and for the joy of the angels and saints.  
Therefore, I want to live in Jesus:  
in his presence and in his love.  
I want to live through him,  
through his grace and inspiration.  
I want to live for him,  
for his glory and his reign.  
Amen.

### **My Heart Made Holy**

Lord,  
the desire I have for my own holiness  
and that of my loved ones,  
even the desire that the saints have  
for the holiness of the world:  
all these are nothing  
in comparison to the ardent longing of your Heart  
to make us holy.  
Lord,  
through your almighty power  
give my heart the right dispositions  
so that it may be able to welcome the grace you bestow on it.  
Amen.

### **Call and Oblation**

Good master,  
I understand the call of your Heart,  
and I am eager to respond to it.  
I offer myself entirely to you, for love of you.  
I wish to live in complete dependence on you,  
to do everything for you and with you.  
Receive my offering,  
bless it,  
and nourish it by your grace  
that it may be generous and persevering.  
Amen

### **Gift of Grace**

Good Master,  
you have given me the grace to begin loving you;  
give me also the grace to persevere in your love,  
cost what it may.  
In the spirit of love  
I wish to offer to you constantly  
my daily actions, works, and sufferings.  
Amen.

## **Additional Prayers of Oblation**

### **Center of the Church**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Heart is the center of the Church,  
a sign of intimate union with God  
and the unity of all people.

Make us life-giving members of your family  
according to our calling  
as Dehonian Associates dedicated to your love.  
Increase our loyalty, charity, and availability,  
so that, following your example,  
we may be at the service of God  
and all who are in need.  
Make us grow in the unity for which you prayed  
on the night before you gave your life for us.  
Amen.

### **Living Bread**

Lord Jesus,  
you are the living bread come down from heaven.  
You gather us at your table,  
in union with the whole Church.  
You unite us with your own offering to the Father.  
With joy we receive from your hands  
the gift of your body and blood.  
In return, we offer you ourselves today,  
as bread that is broken for the life of the world.  
Amen.

### **With Mary's Oblation**

Gracious God,  
from the arms of Mary you received your son  
presented in the temple,  
the first fruits of a life of complete oblation.  
Accept us too,  
so that, sanctified by Christ's offering,  
we may live in your presence  
for the salvation of our brothers and sisters.

On Calvary  
you joined a mother's compassion  
to the passion of your son,  
so giving her a share in his sacrifice.  
With Mary's oblation,  
accept the offering of this day  
as a continuation in us  
of Christ's death and resurrection  
for the redemption of the world.  
Amen.

### **Gift of Love**

Lord Jesus,  
you call us to repent and to believe,  
for God's reign has come near  
You teach us to do God's will.  
You invite us to follow you  
on the way to the cross.

Renew in us the grace of our baptism  
and of our commitment as Dehonian Associates.  
Transform our thoughts, words, and deeds.  
We offer them to you today.  
May they become a gift of love to God for people.  
Amen.

### **Messengers of Love**

Lord Jesus,  
in union with your mother and your beloved disciple  
at the foot of the cross,  
we gaze at your open side  
and contemplate the depth of mercy  
with which you handed yourself over  
to us sinners.

As we behold your pierced Heart,  
may we be transformed by your compassion  
for those wounded and humiliated by evil.  
Take our hearts, often weary and discouraged,  
and make us servants of reconciliation  
and messengers of love  
to a world which hungers for your peace.  
Amen

### **Send Us Forth**

Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
you call your own by name.  
Your people recognize your voice  
and follow you.  
so when you called him forth,  
Lazarus walked out of his tomb  
to be unbound and set free.  
When you spoke her name,  
Mary Magdalene recognized you  
and, as an apostle herself,  
went to tell the apostles the good news.

Lord,  
with Lazarus and Mary Magdalene,  
we offer you our hearts today.  
Send us forth as you were sent,  
that others may hear your word  
and know you to be the Son of God.  
Send us into the world  
to bear witness to your work of life.  
Amen.

### **Unite Our Hearts**

All-loving God,  
you are well pleased with Jesus.  
In obedience to you,  
and as the gift of his life for us,  
he accepted death.  
Today, we wish to unite our hearts  
with the Heart of Jesus open on the cross.  
together, may we present to you  
a world re-born in heart,  
animated by your Spirit,  
and united in charity.  
Amen.

## **Building God's Reign**

Lord Jesus,  
you opened your Heart to Leo John Dehon,  
and he responded in love.  
He offered his life to you:  
working to restore a broken world,  
proclaiming your abundant love,  
and founding a congregation  
to live a life of love and reparation in the world.

As Dehonian Associates,  
we are inspired by his example.  
We offer you our lives and our work.  
May we be faithful to our commitment  
to work for the building of your reign  
in hearts and in society.  
Amen.

## **Brief Prayers for Renewing the Act of Oblation Throughout the Day**

Behold, I come to do your will, O God.

Lord, make us a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you.

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Lord Jesus, unite us to your offering for the world.

In your will is our peace.

May the love of Christ live in us.

## Prayers of Reparation

### **Love Embracing All People**

Jesus,  
your love embraces all people;  
but we often respond with indifference, neglect, and ingratitude.  
towards you and towards one another.  
We thank you that, despite this response,  
you have become one with us.  
By dying and rising with us,  
you have taught us your way of love.  
By opening your Heart to the world,  
you have invited us to share in your life  
with the Father and the spirit.

Jesus,  
with the Father and the Spirit, live in us  
so that through our compassion and understanding,  
our giving and receiving,  
our efforts at reconciliation,  
we might truly live in you.  
By our active faith,  
grant us a place in your prayer:  
“Father,  
I have given them the glory you gave me,  
so that they may be one, as we are one,  
that the world may know that you sent me  
and that you loved them even as you loved me.”  
Amen.



## **A Beautiful World**

God our Creator,  
you made a beautiful world:  
the land and the sea,  
the hills and the valleys,  
the plants and the animals.  
You made woman and man in your image.  
You saw how good your world was,  
and you loved it.

When we turned against you,  
when we polluted your creation,  
you did not stop loving us.  
You gave us new life in the Heart of Jesus.  
Through him you gave us the Holy Spirit  
to make everything a new creation.

Gracious God,  
we welcome your Spirit today.  
Help us restore the earth and the air,  
the water and the plant life we have poisoned.  
Help us care for all the creatures, great and small,  
that we are injuring.  
May we love all of life as you do  
and so worship you in the heart of the world.  
Amen.

## **All Things Are Possible**

Gracious God,  
in the face of the human struggle for liberation,  
you have given us your love  
through the Heart of Christ.  
By breathing the Spirit into us,  
Christ gives us the power to see  
that all things are possible for you.  
Your Spirit moves our hearts to love,  
to seek your reign and its justice,  
and to build an earthly city  
where all may live in harmony.  
Loving God,  
today we want to welcome your Holy Spirit.  
Help us bear witness to your passionate love  
through our commitment as Dehonian Associates.  
May we never tire of building a new humanity in Christ.  
Amen.

## **The Struggle for Liberation**

Lord our God,  
you have made the world  
and all it holds.  
You preserve it and you bless it.  
You rise above every human boundary  
of nation and culture,  
age and status,  
sex and race.  
Shatter in us every barrier of prejudice and fear  
that prevents us from acting as disciples of Jesus.  
Today we want to unite ourselves  
with your compassion for those who suffer.  
Help us stand with them  
in their struggle for liberation.  
Amen.

### **Love Visible to Our Eyes**

God, our loving Father,  
you sent your Son among us as our brother.  
He came to make your love as visible to our eyes  
as the faces of our own family.  
Illumined by the Heart of Jesus,  
Leo John Dehon taught us to see,  
in the rejection of your love,  
the source of injustice and cruelty in our world.  
Touch and illumine our hearts,  
so that we might love as Jesus taught us.  
May we identify with our brothers and sisters,  
value the differences among us,  
and collaborate with them  
in healing the wounds that divide us.  
In this way, may your grace be nurtured in the human family.  
Amen.

### **Living for Others**

Lord Jesus,  
through your incarnation  
you united yourself with us.  
Send us your spirit  
that we may live for others as you did.  
May we go wherever people long to hear  
your word of love:  
in the marketplace,  
on the streets of the world,  
and wherever they no longer hope for justice.  
In this way,  
may we follow Leo John Dehon's lead:  
proclaiming the boundless riches of your love,  
building a world fit for human dwelling,  
and bringing your hope to all we meet.  
Amen.

### **The Power of God's Great Love**

Lord Jesus,  
help us to recognize you in the poor,  
in those who suffer persecution,  
and in those who are denied basic human rights.  
Open our minds, our hearts, and our lives  
to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Increase our faith in the power of your great love,  
so that we may face our fears and reject all false security.  
Inspire us to take the risks necessary to change the world  
and to proclaim the equality of all people.  
Savior and lover of humanity,  
make your love know through us.  
Help us to work unceasingly  
to build the reign of God you proclaimed.  
Amen

### **Christ's Work of Redemption**

God, merciful judge,  
because of our own imperfection and sin,  
we want to be sensitive to everything  
that hinders your love in the world and in the Church.  
We know that our efforts need constant purification.  
We also know that Jesus, crucified and risen,  
has redeemed us.  
So, we welcome the Spirit moving among us,  
and join with Christ's work of redemption,  
bearing suffering, if necessary,  
with patience and abandonment.  
By sharing in Christ's reconciliation,  
we believe that our love heals humanity,  
gathers it together into the Body of Christ,  
and consecrates it to your glory.  
Amen.

## Table Blessings

### **Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness**

Provident God,  
your grace sustains us  
and your love challenges us.  
We praise you for your goodness,  
we thank you for all you have given us,  
and we ask for your guidance.

Make us hunger and thirst for righteousness  
in order to embody fully  
your life in the heart of the world.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

### **Sharers in the Heavenly Banquet**

We praise and thank you, God of creation.  
Through our baptism and commitment as Dehonian Associates  
you make us sharers in the heavenly banquet  
here on earth.

How can we return your love?  
We offer to you the gifts you have given us.  
As we share this food,  
we rededicate ourselves to work for your reign  
in hearts and societies everywhere.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

## Litanies of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

### Litany Approved by Pope Leo XIII

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

God our Father in heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, one God,

Heart of Jesus, Son of the eternal Father,  
Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit  
    in the womb of the Virgin Mother,  
Heart of Jesus, one with the eternal Word,  
Heart of Jesus, infinite in majesty,  
Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God,  
Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,  
Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven,

Heart of Jesus, aflame with love for us,  
Heart of Jesus, source of justice and love,  
Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,  
Heart of Jesus, wellspring of all virtue,  
Heart of Jesus, worthy of all praise,  
Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,  
Heart of Jesus, treasure house of wisdom and knowledge,

Heart of Jesus, in whom there dwells the fullness of God,  
Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father is well pleased,  
Heart of Jesus, from whose fullness we have all received,  
Heart of Jesus, desire of the eternal hills,  
Heart of Jesus patient and full of mercy,  
Heart of Jesus, generous to all who turn to you,  
Heart of Jesus fountain of life and holiness,  
Heart of Jesus, atonement for our sins,

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.**

**have mercy on us.**

**have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.**

**have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.**

**have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, overwhelmed with insults,  
Heart of Jesus broken for our sins,  
Heart of Jesus, obedient even to death,  
Heart of Jesus, pierced by a lance,  
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,  
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,  
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,  
Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins,  
Heart of Jesus, salvation for all who trust in you,  
Heart of Jesus, hope of all who die in you,  
Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints,

**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart,

**Touch our hearts and make them like your own.**

Let us pray:

Father,  
we rejoice in the gifts of love  
we have received from the Heart of Jesus your Son.  
Open our hearts to share his life  
and continue to bless us with his love.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

**Amen.**

Litany from *A Book of Prayers* © 1982, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

### **Litany Based on *Dehonian Associates Rule of Life***

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, heart of humanity and of the world,  
Jesus crucified, in whose open side we see the sign of love,  
Jesus, in whom we discover more and more the mystery of your Heart,  
Jesus, who strengthens us when we contemplate your Heart,

**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, who will complete your work of salvation only when you are recognized and loved by all,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, who calls us to be united in your love for the Father and for people,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, whose love regenerates all humanity,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, whose love is the source of the full development of persons and communities,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, who restores broken humanity in unity,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, who frees people from sin,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, whose love re-creates humanity in the image of God,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, who calls us to enter into the movement of your redemptive love,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, whose work of reconciliation heals humanity,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, who gathers humanity together into your body,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, who offers yourself and us with you to the Father as a living and holy offering,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>
Jesus, united to us so that all our sufferings and joys share in your death and resurrection for the redemption of the world,	<b>have mercy on us.</b>

Together let us pray,

**Jesus Christ, our Lord and God,  
out of love for your Father and for humanity  
you have called us to a life of service.  
You have chosen us  
and united us to yourself  
like branches on a vine  
so that our works might bear fruit,  
abundant fruit that lasts forever.  
In the spirit of Leo John Dehon,  
we offer ourselves  
to repair a broken world  
and restore all things in you.  
Make us living witnesses to your love in the Church,  
which was born from your pierced side  
as you hung upon the cross,  
opening the way to truth and life for us.  
Amen.**



## Prayers for Vocations

### **Called By Name**

Lord Jesus,  
you call me by name  
to tell me how much I am worth in your eyes.  
May this whisper of your love  
also reach all my brothers and sisters.

Select from our midst  
priests who will guide your people;  
religious who will be faith witnesses of your love;  
and lay ministers to lead the Church.

Open the hearts of the young adults  
to the challenge of living their love  
in the faithfulness of their lives.  
Grant unity to all these disciples of your love.  
Amen.

### **Hearts to Hear Your Voice**

Loving God,  
you call all things into being  
and bring order out of chaos.

Help those who are searching  
to recognize your will in their lives.  
Give those whom you call  
open hearts to hear your voice,  
and the courage to respond.

Grant us also willing hearts.  
As Dehonian Associates,  
may our commitment and ministry  
attract others to offer themselves  
in service to your coming reign.  
Amen.

### **For the Glory of God's Name**

Gracious God,  
you have blessed people with many gifts and talents.  
Grant them the wisdom  
to know how best to use them  
for the glory of your name.

Jesus calls, "Come, follow me."  
Help men and women to follow him  
and to be faithful to their call.  
Help them to see in themselves what you see  
and give them the courage  
to follow wherever you may lead.

Bless the Church with generous hearts,  
eager to serve your people  
and to spread your Word.  
Amen.

### **Prayer for the Sick**

Jesus,  
united with your compassionate Heart,  
we surround with special love  
our sisters and brothers,  
who bear the cross of infirmity.  
As they do their best  
to accept the fragile nature of our human condition,  
they model for us the spirit of oblation.  
We ask you to grant them the healing  
of which they are most in need,  
and we pledge to attend  
to their immediate needs.  
Amen

## Prayer for the Deceased

Jesus,  
as you completed your oblation to the Father  
on the wood of the cross,  
you confidently prayed,  
“Into your hands I commend my spirit.”

Our deceased brothers and sisters,  
who have gone before us in faith,  
have also completed their life of oblation.  
We entrust them to your mercy,  
and with steadfast hope  
we pray they are with you in paradise.

We pledge to stay united to them through prayer,  
trusting that our community,  
drawn together and held together by your love,  
will find its full realization in eternity.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Commitment

### **Ministers of Your Love**

Jesus,  
as Dehonian Associates,  
we wish to be conscious of our unity with all men and women  
throughout the world and throughout the ages.  
We regard it as our personal and communal mission  
to be ministers of your love  
to those who are frustrated and disappointed  
in their hunger and search for love,  
in their hunger and search for you.

And so, in this moment  
we wish to rededicate ourselves to you  
in order to share with them  
the experience of your love.  
In order to do this,  
we need your help to acknowledge and address our personal limitations,  
especially our missteps of selfishness, complacency,  
arrogance, intolerance, and impatience,  
which only highlight distinctions and promote divisiveness.

With the help of your grace moving within us,  
may all people feel the embrace of your love  
and recognize each other as brothers and sisters.

Amen.

## **Unfolding Charism**

Loving God,  
Creator and Generous Gift-Giver,  
we are grateful for  
the gift you entrusted to Leo John Dehon  
in founding the Congregation of the Priests of the Heart of Jesus  
and mindful of the continual unfolding of this charism  
among Dehonians throughout the world.  
With confidence  
we ask for an additional gift  
as we seek to make known the words and deeds of Fr. Dehon.  
Help us perceive his spirit—your Spirit—  
which motivated all his attempts to promote your reign in his day.  
And when we have understood that spirit,  
may it motivate us to look at our world  
and address the issues of today.  
Allow us a share in promoting your reign  
and in passing on this gift to the next generation.  
Prompted by the guidance of your Holy Spirit,  
we make this prayer  
through the Heart of Jesus.  
Amen!

## **The Human Touch of God**

Jesus,  
you are for us  
the human touch of God's love.  
May we allow this gift of divine love  
to affirm and challenge our lives.  
As Dehonian Associates,  
we wish to model what we experience,  
and trust that the spiritual heritage of Leo John Dehon  
will give us words to stir up in others  
a desire to share in this transforming love  
and be united to your Heart.  
Amen.