

June 20, 2019

Dear Confreres,

We invite you, wherever you are, to join with us this Thursday June 20 to mark

UNITED NATIONS WORLD REFUGEE DAY.

Acutely and painfully aware of what is happening in Venezuela and how our Dehonian brothers are attempting to accompany the people, we offer a "[Dehonian Prayer of Solidarity with Venezuelans](#)" which you can use for your personal and/or communal reflections. Also included are resources that offer concrete action steps to create events, engage our faith communities and take action to defend refugee rights. These include a [toolkit for action](#). This day not only highlights the courage, perseverance and resilience shown by refugees in overcoming enormous odds to rebuild their lives, but also calls each one of us to do whatever we can wherever we are "to recognize one another as neighbor."



As you may remember, at the October 2017 meeting of the members of the Joint Councils it was stated that: "*Migration is a priority issue for Dehonians in North America. It should be a part of our ministry, the focus of our pastoral work.*" We hope to continue to collaborate with you and the members of your local community to develop responses as to what migrants are experiencing in your area. Any insights from your own experience with migrants or insights flowing out of the US Province Assembly: "*Interculturality: Together in Christ*" would be whole heartedly appreciated.

Please contact any of the committee members and/or Mac/Peter as co-chairs.

Joining with you in the spirit of Leo John Dehon

*"may every stranger who knocks at our door be an opportunity
for an encounter with Jesus Christ,
who identifies with the unwelcomed and rejected strangers of every age" (Pope Francis)*

Claude Bédard, Diego Diaz, Jan de Jong, Dick MacDonald,
Peter McKenna, Lily Ooi, Mark Peters and Tony Russo

Members of North American Migration Committee