

A Guided Reading of the Social Works of Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ

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Note: There are two page numbers for every entry of the English translation of the Social Works, Volumes I, II, and III. The first page number refers to the print edition; the second, **bolded** page number in brackets, refers to the digital edition. There is no print edition of the Social Works, Volume IV. Thus, the single **bolded** page number in brackets refers to the digital edition.

Unit 1: Preliminaries

“Biographical Sketch,” Social Works, Volume I, p (3) [10]

“Introduction,” Social Works, Volume I, p (6) [13]

Unit 2: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart

“The Timeliness of the Reign of the Sacred Heart,” Social Works, Volume I, p 1 [37]

“Social Homage and Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,”

Social Works, Volume I, p 9 [42]

“Democracy and the Sacred Heart,” Social Works, Volume I, p 25 [54]

Note: On p 27 [55], there is a reference to “The Song of the Shirt.” A portion of the text of this song is given in this volume on p 83-84 [99-100].

“A Crisis of the Social Reign of Jesus Christ in France,” Social Works, Volume I, p 31 [59]

Unit 3: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart

“The Lamentable Condition,” Social Works, Volume I, p 72 [91]

“Val-des-Bois,” Social Works, Volume I, p 170 [165]

“Social Duties of Employers Devoted to the Sacred Heart,” Social Works, Volume I, p 88 [103]

“Religious Liberty, Yes; But Economic Liberation Also,” Social Works, Volume I, p 303 [265]

Note: For a parallel thought as that expressed on p 305 [266] in the second last paragraph of the article, see “The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response,” NCCB: 1983, #355.

Consecration to the Sacred Heart and the Social Reign of Christ,” Social Works, Volume I, p 401 [341]

“A Triumph of the Sacred Heart at the Exposition,” Social Works, Volume I, 433 [364]

Note: Read the following meditations, in Units 4-6, in light of Dehon's work and writing, which promoted the social reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and which were the "principal actions of his day," most intensely from 1888-1903.

Unit 4: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart

The Life of Love toward the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a collection of meditations that Fr. Dehon first wrote serially for his magazine, "The Reign of the Sacred Heart in Souls and In Societies" from July 1897 until June 1901. During this time, the bishop of Soissons and some diocesan priests criticized Dehon for his work, and this led to his resignation as rector of St. John's Institute. It was also at this time that Dehon grew frustrated with the lethargy of the clergy to get involved in social issues.

Third Meditation, "The Desire of Our Lord: I Have Come to Cast Fire on the Earth," p 15

Twenty-Third Meditation, "The Oblation of Oneself to the Heart of Our Lord Out of Love for Him," p 157

Twenty-Fourth Meditation, "The Life of Oblation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus," p 165

Twenty-Sixth Meditation, "The Practice of the Love of Our Lord in Our Daily Actions," p 179

Thirty-Third Meditation, "Perseverance in Love," p 223

Unit 5: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart

Note: Crowns of Love for the Sacred Heart [English title is **The Love of the Sacred Heart**] is a three-volume collection of meditations first published in 1905. In the immediately preceding years, the French government was expelling the Priests of the Sacred Heart from France and was about to liquidate the Congregation's houses and goods. In Rome, the difficulties connected with obtaining papal approval seemed insurmountable.

Volume I, "An Appeal of the Sacred Heart: Come to Me All Your That Labor," p 128

Note: In the "Resolution" of this meditation, Dehon admits that he is "stripped of everything." Read this meditation on the Sacred Heart in light of Dehon's "temporal evils" precipitated by the French government.

Volume II, "Insults to the Sacred Heart Continued in the Church," p 32

Volume II, "Insults Will Be Borne Easily If We Love the Sacred Heart," p 43

Volume II, "The Sacred Heart Calls Upon Generous Souls to Participate in His Sufferings," p 63.

Volume III, "What the Life of a Friend of the Sacred Heart Should Be on Earth and What It Will Be in Heaven," p 122

Unit 6: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart

The Priestly Heart of Jesus is a book of meditations first published in 1907, two years after publishing *Crowns of Love for the Sacred Heart*. In between publications, Dehon had been in Rome several times working towards the approbation of the Congregation and working for the Index. He had also travelled to South America, Finland, and Russia.

Tenth Meditation, "The Priestly Heart of Jesus and Preaching," p 73

Twelfth Meditation, "The Priestly Heart of Jesus and Sinners: The Parables," p 85

Thirteenth Meditation, "The Priestly Heart of Jesus and Sinners: Jesus at Work," p 91

Fourteenth Meditation, "The Priestly Heart of Jesus and the Suffering," p 97

Twenty-Sixth Meditation, "The Priestly Heart of Jesus and the Duties of Social Life and Popular Action," p 171

Unit 7: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart

Spiritual Directory of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Part One: The Spirit of Our Vocation: "Our Lord's Reign in Us," pp 7-10.

SCJ Rule of Life [2011]

4 "restoring His Reign in individuals and in society."

10-15 "Witnesses to the primacy of the Kingdom"

29 "...purified and transfigured...to arrive at the fullness of the Kingdom."

32 "...establishing the reign of justice and Christian charity in the world."

37 "We share these aspirations of our contemporaries...with the coming of the Kingdom."

38 "...that it is the Kingdom of God and His justice which should be sought..."

60 "...our profession of the evangelical counsels...announces the coming Reign of God."

Unit 8: The Social and Political Leadership of the Church

"The Social Question," Social Works, Volume I, p 6 [40]

"The Sacred Heart and the Question of Workers," Social Works, Volume I, p 15 [46]

"The Pope, Hopes and Forebodings," Social Works, Volume I, p 57 [79]

"Civil Death," Social Works, Volume I, p 378 [323]

"The Christian Democratic Pilgrimage to Rome," Social Works, Volume I, p 407 [345]

"The Bark of Peter," Social Works, Volume I, p 474 [394]

Unit 9: The Social and Political Leadership of the Church: Pope Leo XIII

Concerning the encyclical, “The Condition of Labor” [*Rerum Novarum*], May 15, 1891:

“The Encyclical of May 15 on the Social Question,” Social Works, Volume I, p 18 [49]

“Teachings from Rome, the Proletariat,” Social Works, Volume I, p 404 [343]

“Ten Years after the Encyclical,” Social Works, Volume I, p 524 [432]

Concerning the encyclical, “Church-State Relations in France” [*Inter Innumeras Sollicitudines*], February 16, 1892:

“The Peace and Truce of God,” Social Works, Volume I, p 489 [405]

Concerning the encyclical, “Christian Democracy” [*Graves De Communi*], January 18, 1901:

“Christian Democracy,” Social Works, Volume I, p 470 [391]

“Yellows and Reds,” Social Works, Volume I, p 482 [400]

“Christian Democrats All,” Social Works, Volume I, p 492 [407]

“The Neutralists,” Social Works, Volume I, p 499 [412]

“Christian Democracy,” Social Works, Volume I, p 575 [471]

Concerning Democratic Associations:

“A Matter of Conscience,” Social Works, Volume I, p 521 [430]

“Youth Divisions,” Social Works, Volume I, p 548 [452]

Concerning France:

“French Workers to Rome,” Social Works, Volume I, p 12 [44]

“Leo XIII and France,” Social Works, Volume I, p 398 [339]

“To France,” Social Works, Volume I, p 467 [389]

Eulogy:

“Leo XIII,” Social Works, Volume I, p 595 [485]

Unit 10: The Social and Political Leadership of the Church: Pope Leo XIII

Pontifical Instructions: Social and Political, Social Works, Volume II, p 357 [274]

Note: *In his Preface, Dehon explains this work as “a synthesis of Leo XIII’s teachings.”*

Unit 11: The Social and Political Leadership of the Church

Concerning Pope Pius X:

“Pius X: Friend of the Humble,” Social Works, Volume I, p 592 [483]

“Pius X and the Reign of the Sacred Heart,” Social Works, Volume I, p 603 [491]

“The Good Shepherd,” Social Works, Volume I, p 605 [493]

Note: But recall what happens two months later as described in the

“Introduction,” Social Works, Volume I, p (36, paragraph 4) [35, paragraph 3].

“The Next Congress,” Social Works, Volume I, p 614 [499]

Concerning Pope Benedict XV:

“Benedict XV: An Intimate Memoir,” Social Works, Volume I, p 631 [514]

Unit 12: Social Issues

“Social Philosophy,” Social Works, Volume I, p 276 [244]

“The Present Situation and the Causes of the Social Malaise,” Social Works, Volume I, p 289 [255]

“Social Change in France,” Social Works, Volume I, p 307 [268]

“Social Inquiries and Expert Opinions,” Social Works, Volume I, p 321 [279]

“The Land,” Social Works, Volume I, p 384 [328]

“The Land,” Social Works, Volume I, p 390 [333]

“The School,” Social Works, Volume I, p 392 [337]

“The Essential Freedoms,” Social Works, Volume I, p 551 [454]

“Dark Spots,” Social Works, Volume I, p 618 [502]

“American Impressions: Paris, A Small Town,” Social Works, Volume I, p 625 [509]

“Finland: Feminism,” Social Works, Volume I, p 628 [512]

Unit 13: Social Issues

“Christian Social Renewal,” Social Works, Volume III, p 169 [123]

Unit 14: Socialism and Capitalism

“Socialism,” Social Works, Volume I, p 61 [82]

“The Partnership between Capital and Labor,” Social Works, Volume I, p 126 [131]

“Capitalism in Modern Societies, the Danger and the Solution,” Social Works, Volume I, 220 [194]

“The Role of Wealth in Social Life,” Social Works, Volume I, p 237 [216]

“Lessons to be Learned from Recent Events,” Social Works, Volume I, p 344 [297]

Unit 15: Democracy

- "Democracy, View from Rome," Social Works, Volume I, p 338 [292]
- "Will We Understand?" Social Works, Volume I, p 341 [295]
- "History and Democracy," Social Works, Volume I, p 347 [299]
- "For Rome," Social Works, Volume I, p 395 [337]
- "Demophilie," Social Works, Volume I, p 418 [353]
- "True Christian Democracy, An Interesting Decision in Canada," Social Works, Volume I, p 554 [456]
- "Socialism or Christian Democracy," Social Works, Volume I, p 589 [481]

Unit 16: Social Action

- "Methods of Social Work," Social Works, Volume I, p 157 [154]
- "Monograph: A Union and Allied in a Rural Parish," Social Works, Volume I, p 166 [162]
- "The Duty of Catholics with Regard to Occupational Associations," Social Works, Volume I, p 227 [209]
- "Social Virtues," Social Works, Volume I, p 234 [214]
- "The Present State of Social Study in our Nation," Social Works, Volume I, p 281 [248]
- "A Practical Rural Syndicate," Social Works, Volume I, p 287 [253]
- "Rome," Social Works, Volume I, p 336 [290]
- "Let Us Be Practical," Social Works, Volume I, p 361 [309]
- "Catholic Action: Old Substance, New Forms," Social Works, Volume I, p 367 [314]
- "The Agricultural Crisis and Catholic Action in Italy," Social Works, Volume I, p 370 [316]
- "And Us?" Social Works, Volume I, p 381 [326]
- "Whatever Are We Doing?" Social Works, Volume I, p 412 [349]

Unit 17: Social Action

- "Notes from Spain," Social Works, Volume I, p 421 [355]
- "Tutors of the Dauphin," Social Works, Volume I, p 424 [357]
- "Let Us Throw Our Support to the Barbarians," Social Works, Volume I, p 427 [359]
- "Idealism in Social Works," Social Works, Volume I, p 442 [371]
- "The New Era," Social Works, Volume I, p 464 [387]
- "Our Boers," Social Works, Volume I, p 502 [415]
- "Occupational Unions," Social Works, Volume I, p 508 [420]
- "A National Effort," Social Works, Volume I, p 514 [425]
- "Without Commentary," Social Works, Volume I, p 529 [436]
- "The Elections, View from Pompeii," Social Works, Volume I, p 533 [440]
- "An Evocation," Social Works, Volume I, p 536 [443]

Unit 18: Social Action

- “The Peace of God,” Social Works, Volume I, p 539 [445]
- “A Frame of Mind,” Social Works, Volume I, p 542 [447]
- “A Communal Program,” Social Works, Volume I, p 545 [450]
- “The Trade Union Movement,” Social Works, Volume I, p 567 [465]
- “The Strike,” Social Works, Volume I, p 572 [469]
- “As in Belgium,” Social Works, Volume I, p 576 [471]
- “France, Help Yourself; Heaven Will Help You,” Social Works, Volume I, p 585 [478]
- “Ozanam,” Social Works, Volume I, p 608 [495]
- “A Form of Christian Corporation in Brazil,” Social Works, Volume I, p 620 [504]
- “Workers’ Circles in the Republic of Argentina,” Social Works, Volume I, p 623 [507]

Unit 19: Social Action and the Clergy

- “Assembly on Social Studies for the Clergy,” Social Works, Volume I, p 177 [171]
- “The Clerical Ideal and the Secular Ideal,” Social Works, Volume I, p 439 [369]
- “Humble Curates at the Forefront,” Social Works, Volume I, p 462 [385]
- “On the Preparation of the Clergy for Catholic Social Action,” Social Works, Volume I, p 485 [402] **Note:** *This is a translation of the writing of Canon Pellegrini-Fini.*
- “Social Action by the Clergy in Rome,” Social Works, Volume I, p 495 [409]
- “Social Action by the Clergy,” Social Works, Volume I, p 505 [417]

Unit 20: Ecclesiastical Social Congresses

- “An Ecclesiastical Social Congress at St. Quentin,” Social Works, Volume I, p 207 [194]
[see article in Dehoniana 1981/2, pages 85-98]
- Christian Democracy, Ecclesiastical Meeting on Social Studies**, held in St. Quentin, 1895:
- “The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [359]
- “Modern Usury,” [St. Quentin 1895], Social Works, Volume I, p 188 [180]
- “Some Thoughts on Usury,” [St. Quentin 1895], Social Works, Volume I, p 204 [192]
- Ignem Veni Mettere in Terram, Ecclesiastical Congress**, held in Reims, 1896:
- “Ignem Veni Mettere in Terram,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [362]
- “Closing Address at the National Catholic Congress,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [380]
- Ecclesiastical Congress**, held in Bourges, 1900:
- “Duc in Altum,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [368]
- “The Priest: A Man of Faith and Study, Works, Zeal, and Prudence,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [374]
- “After the Bourges Congress,” Social Works, Volume I, p 446 [374]

Unit 21: Other Social Congresses

“Our Congresses,” Social Works, Volume II, p 335 [259]

National Congress of Christian Democracy, held in Lyons, 1896:

“The Present Situation and the Causes of the Social Malaise,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [391]

“The Present State of Social Study in Our Nation,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [402]

“After the Congress, Philosophical Meditation,” Social Works, Volume I, p 332 [287]

Third Congress of the Third Order of St. Francis, 1896:

“Propagation and Defense of the Evangelical Principles of Justice and Equity,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [407]

Fourth Congress of the Third Order of St. Francis, held in Nimes, 1897:

“Letters, Debates, Comments,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [413]

Fifth Congress of the Order of St. Francis, held in Toulouse, 1899:

“The Doctrine of Evangelical Charity and its Implications for Social and Economic Life,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [420]

International Congress of the Third Order of St. Francis, held in Rome, 1900:

“The Present Mission of the Third Order,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [428]

“Impressions of Brussels: Brussels and Its Social Tenor, The Great Congress and Its Social Character,” [1898 Congress], Social Works, Volume I, p 350 [301]

“The Sixteenth Italian Catholic Congress in Ferrata,” [1899 Congress], Social Works, Volume I, p 387 [331]

“On the Congress of Rural Credit Cooperatives, Idealism in Social Works,” [1900 Congress], Social Works, Volume I, p 430 [361]

“The Congress of Bologna,” [1903 Congress], Social Works, Volume I, p 611 [497]

Unit 22: Social Action Among Youth

“The Young People and the Pope,” Social Works, Volume I, p 356 [305]

“To the Young People,” Social Works, Volume I, p 359 [307]

“Social Action and the Third Order,” Social Works, Volume I, p 365 [312]

“Catholic Youth,” Social Works, Volume I, p 415 [351]

“Youth Works,” Social Works, Volume I, p 455 [380]

“A Place for Young People and Christian Democracy,” Social Works, Volume I, p 511 [422]

“The Young Knight’s Dream,” Social Works, Volume I, p 579 [474]

“Young Guards,” Social Works, Volume I, p 582 [476]

Unit 23: Assemblies of the Catholic Workers' Programs

"Letters of Convocation of the General Assembly of Works of the Diocese of Soissons, 1875,"
[Assembly held at Notre Dame de Liesse], Social Works, Volume IV, p [119]

"General Report on the Status of Social Programs and Men's Associations in the Diocese of
Soissons, 1875," Social Works, Volume IV, p [121]

"The Diocesan Bureau: Its Organization, Its Correspondents, Its Mission, Its Relationship with
the Programs, Its Resources," Social Works, Volume IV, p [137]

"Diocesan Assemblies, Their Utility and Mode of Organization, 1875," Social Works,
Volume IV, p [147]

"Report from St. Quentin at the Paris Assembly, 1876," Social Works, Volume IV, p [152]

"Annual Report of the Association of St. Joseph, 1876," Social Works, Volume IV, p [158]

"The Diocesan Bureau: Its Organization, Functions, and Resources, 1876," Social Works,
Volume IV, p [168]

"The Utility of Social Studies, 1893," Social Works, Volume IV, p [175]

Unit 24: Christian Social Manual [see article in Dehoniana 1980/4, pages 190-202]

"Propagation of Christian Social Ideas," Social Works, Volume I, p 100 [112]

Christian Social Manual, Social Works, Volume II, p 1 [8]

Unit 25: Social Catechism

Social Catechism, Social Works, Volume III, p 1 [5]

Unit 26: Finance

"The Role of Wealth in Social Life," Social Works, Volume I, p 237 [216]

Wealth: Moderate Means or Poverty, Social Works, Volume III, p 155 [115]

Usury Today, Social Works, Volume II, p 281 [222]

Unit 27: Jews and Freemasons

"The Army of the Antichrist," Social Works, Volume I, p 142 [142]

"The Great Enemy, Freemasons in Rome," Social Works, Volume I, p 408 [346]

"David and Goliath," Social Works, Volume I, p 518 [428]

"The School of the Ghetto," Social Works, Volume I, p 564 [463]

"Romans!" Social Works, Volume I, p 615 [500]

The Scheme of Freemasonry, Social Works, Volume III, p 357 [255]