

Final message of the Meeting of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation

Madrid, 21- 22 November 2011

On November 21 and 22, 2011 a group of Dehonians, invited by the sector Justice, Peace and Reconciliation of our General Administration, came together in our School for Business Administration (ESIC) in Pozuelo de Alarcon (Madrid) to draw up common lines of action in this field and to offer them to the consideration of the Congregation. As “Servants of reconciliation,” we reaffirmed that this action is marked by the love and graciousness of God. For two intense days, in an atmosphere of openness and friendship, we experienced the desire to have "new eyes and new heart" (*Caritas in Veritate*, 77). Aided by prayer, reflection and times of discernment, we became aware once again of the invitation of our founder, Father Leo Dehon, to be *sensitive and supportive* of the men and women of our time and our world (see Cst 29).

Reconciliation is unconditional and is derived from the experience of the love of God. For us Dehonians the gift of the Son to humanity is at the same time a reconciliation and a pardon of our sins. In Him and with Him we build the kingdom of God. This unconditional reality is not preceded by our repentance; it is itself the foundation and the possibility of repentance. This action we welcome only in the Spirit of liberty and love, only in the Spirit of gift. Reconciliation gives to those who divide and offend the sole possibility to heal relations. It is for us a demonstration of the action of the Spirit, a revelation of the love of God the Father and a prophecy of the kingdom. If the resurrection tells us that death does not have the last word, reconciliation tells us that sin – conflicts, hunger, violence, corruption and other forms of violation of human dignity- is not the truth of this world.

The rereading which we have made of our different social contexts has made us see the many situations of brokenness, and we have been made aware that there is no exit to this poverty except through an effective involvement in social reconciliation and a culture of hope. We ask all Dehonians to be attentive to the causes that provoke injustice and we ask some members among us to commit themselves directly to eliminate the reality of sin that afflicts so many of our brothers and sisters as a way of living our spirituality.

To accomplish this, we propose that

1. to the extent possible, the teaching of reconciliation will be an integral part of our formation programs – initial as well as on-going- so that it will be recognized as a key element of Dehonian spirituality;
2. we give renewed value to initiatives of social reconciliation already present in our respective entities;
3. in the congregation, in the continents and in our entities there exist a minimal organizational structure to support activities on behalf of the most vulnerable and that

those in authority will give time and resources to support those who work for reconciliation, justice and peace;

4. the congregation is inserted into the larger international networks of justice and peace, so that our actions for social justice will also have weight in international organizations in their search for solutions in unjust situations;
5. all Dehonians know the principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church and some Dehonians will have the opportunity to specialize in social analysis and the intervention in social conflicts on the basis of the social doctrine of the Church and the social and political sciences.

With you we are convinced that only in the love of God for us is it possible to make changes to the good. Moreover in these times of fatigue and suffering, we remember the eternal promise of Christ: "I will be with you all days until the end of the world" (Mt 28.20). Through this promise we can truly be artisans of reconciliation, justice and peace.

Impelled by the love of God, at the end of the meeting we committed ourselves to return to our homes to let others share in our excitement about what we have experienced during these days.

As our last act we want to thank our community at ESIC and the whole Spanish Province for their generous and warm attention for us. It allowed us to feel first-hand the meaning of *sint unum*.

In communion with Christ for a new world

Participants:

From Africa: Jean-Claude Mbassi, CMR, Joshua Moorosi Mpiti, RSA, Jerome Albert Florent Ramanantsoa, MAD.

From Asia: Arthur Palamino Guevara, PHI; Blasius Sukkot INA.

From North America: Edward Kilianski, USA, Peter Michael Mckenna, CAN.

From South America: Mario Tito Angioletti, BRM, Daniel Aparecido de Campos, BSP, Rosana Mancini, Prof. Faculty Taubaté, SP, Manuel Antonio Teixeira Siqueira, VEN, Leonardo Javier Zampa, ARG.

From Europe: Valentín Pérez Flores, ESP, Jose Maria Perez Vidaurreta, ESP, Jose Agostinho de Souza Figueiredo, FOR, Artur Sanecki, POL, Paolo Dalla Zuanna Elio, ITS, Giovanni Mengoli, ITS, Heinrich Faller, GER

From the General Administration: Rinaldo Paganelli, Cláudio Weber, John van den Hengel.

Madrid, November 22, 2011.