

Vigil  
14 March 2013

Anniversary of the Birth of Fr. Leo Dehon  
and Dehonian Vocations Day

**SERVANTS OF RECONCILIATION  
RECONCILED IN CHRIST**

**INTRODUCTION**

"Father Dehon expected his religious to be prophets of love and servants of reconciliation of people and the world in Christ. (Cst 7). On the Founder's birthday and on the day celebrated for Dehonian vocations, the Superior General and his council remind us of his magnificent vocation and affirm that if we invite others to join us it is "because we are convinced that it is necessary to carry on the ministry of love and reconciliation in the church and in the world". Let us pray for these intentions.

**EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Opening Hymn

**FIRST INVOCATIONS**

V) We praise, bless, and adore you.

**R) We praise, bless, and adore you.**

V) Jesus in the Eucharist, Memorial of our Reconciliation.

**R) We praise, bless, and adore you.**

V) Jesus in the Eucharist, Testament that unites the Church.

**R) We praise, bless, and adore you.**

V) Jesus in the Eucharist, Sign of hope for the world.

**R) We praise, bless, and adore you.**



V) Jesus in the Eucharist, Heart of humanity and the world.

**R) We praise, bless, and adore you.**

V) Jesus in the Eucharist, our peace and reconciliation.

**R) We praise, bless, and adore you.**

V) Jesus in the Eucharist, source of all vocations.

**R) We praise, bless, and adore you.**

*(period of silence)*

### **I READING: ROM. 5: 1-2, 6, 8-11**

*Christ gave his life for man distanced from God and unable to overcome the greatest alienation of all: death. Once reconciled, no longer distanced, man can hope, because God will complete the process of his salvation.*

Brothers and sisters: Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. For while we were still weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **PSALM 129 (130)**

**R) With the Lord is mercy and fullness of redemption**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my voice in supplication. **RESPONSE**

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities,  
Lord, who can stand?  
But with you is forgiveness  
that you may be revered. **RESPONSE**



I trust in the Lord;  
My soul trusts in his word.  
My soul waits for the Lord  
more than sentinels wait for the dawn. **RESPONSE**

More than sentinels wait for the dawn  
Let Israel wait for the Lord,  
for with the Lord is kindness  
and with him is plenteous redemption;  
and he will redeem Israel  
from all their iniquities. **RESPONSE**

## **PRAYER**

V) Wonderful, O Lord, is your salvation.

**R) Wonderful, O Lord, is your salvation.**

V) You do not cease to spur us on  
to possess a more abundant life  
and being rich in mercy,  
you constantly offer pardon.

**R) Wonderful, O Lord, is your salvation.**

V) Never did you turn away from us,  
and, though time and time again we have broken your covenant  
you have bound the human family to yourself  
through Jesus your Son, our Redeemer,  
with a new bond of love so tight  
that it can never be undone

**R) Wonderful, O Lord, is your salvation.**

V) Even now you set before your people  
A time of grace and reconciliation,  
and as they turn back to you in spirit,  
you grant them hope in Christ Jesus  
and a desire to be of service to all  
while they entrust themselves  
more fully to the Holy Spirit.

**R) Wonderful, O Lord, is your salvation.**

*(cf. Preface of Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I)*

*(period of silence)*



## **READING II: 2 COR. 5:17 – 6:1**

*Reconciliation is aware of the evil it has done, the cause of separation, but calls creation into an entirely new situation in which humanity begins to walk along paths beyond its historical boundaries. Therefore, the ministry of reconciliation assigned to us requires us to boldly create a new world, one beyond the borders in which we currently live.*

Brothers and sisters: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

## **PSALM 97(98): 1, 2-3a, 3cd-4.**

### **R) The Lord has revealed his justice to the nations.**

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have given him victory. **RESPONSE**

The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel. **RESPONSE**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth:  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. **RESPONSE**

### **PRAYER**



V) We proclaim your glory O Lord.

**R) We proclaim your glory O Lord.**

V) We acknowledge your Fatherly love,  
when by testing us  
in a world divided by dissension and discord,  
you change our hearts to prepare them for reconciliation.

**R) We proclaim your glory O Lord.**

V) By your Spirit you move human hearts,  
that enemies may speak to each other again,  
adversaries join hands  
and peoples seek to meet together.

**R) We proclaim your glory O Lord.**

V) By the working of your power it comes about, O Lord,  
that hatred is overcome by love,  
revenge gives way to forgiveness  
and discord is changed to mutual respect.

**R) We proclaim your glory O Lord.**

*(cf. Preface of Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II)*

*(period of silence)*

## **FROM THE LETTER OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND HIS COUNCIL**

March 14<sup>th</sup> this year falls in the midst of the Lenten period. For Christians reconciliation is inextricably connected with the narrative of the death and resurrection of Christ. The difficulty of breaking down the walls that humans have created around themselves to protect them against the other becomes magnified for us in the story of the exclusion, condemnation, and death of Jesus. He was made sin for us: he became the excluded one. At the heart of reconciliation and the human conversion lies, therefore, the suffering and death of Jesus. The freedom and life that Jesus bought passed through his



death to burst forth as the power of the Holy Spirit upon the world in what we call his resurrection. That is why the resurrection stories are filled with greetings of peace and the power of forgiveness. It is the broken and raised body of Christ – symbolized in his pierced side - that gathered the despairing, fearful and dejected disciples into a new community. The memory of violence – the wounds in the hands and feet and side of Jesus – remains as a mark carried on the body of the risen one. It is the crucified Christ who is with and in God. The violence of the world is brought into the healing presence of God. The cross remains the symbol of the possible transformation of humanity into a reconciled community.

*(period of silence)*

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Brothers and sisters: through the merits of Jesus Christ who died for us while we were still sinners, let us pray to God our almighty Father and ask him with absolute trust:

### **R) Lord, hear our prayer.**

For bishops, successors to the Apostles, and for all those called to proclaim the gospel of peace and to be ministers of reconciliation in order to be faithful to their vocation, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who govern peoples and nations, that by their wisdom and honesty that they may strengthen the just in the civil order, let us pray to the Lord.

For the world afflicted by so many divisions and dysfunctions, that it may find in Christ, who died and rose again for our sins, the path to reconciliation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and for all those who find in Fr. Leo Dehon an inspiration for their lives, that they may be prophets of love and servants of reconciliation for humanity and the world in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

That, through the intercession of Blessed Juan Maria della Cruz, patron of Dehonian vocations, the Lord of the harvest may send to the Priests of the Sacred Heart the vocations necessary to the fulfillment of its ministry of love and reconciliation in the Church and the world, let us pray to the Lord.



O God, who made your Son our peace and reconciliation, grant that we may bring to all men and women the freedom won for us by Christ, who is God with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

R) Amen.

Benediction Hymn

Eucharistic Benediction

Recessional Hymn

*If there is no Eucharistic Benediction, one can conclude in the following manner:*

V) Bow your heads for God's blessing.

O God, protect your people  
forgive our sins and turn us toward your love  
that we may serve you with all our hearts  
all the days of our lives.

**R) Amen.**

Grant Christian people, O Lord,  
to ability to understand fully the gifts of your mercy  
and to live courageously the faith they profess.

**R) Amen.**

Make the light of your face shine upon your family  
That, by living in reconciliation and peace,  
it may give witness to your love  
and serve the reconciliation of humanity and the world in Christ.

**R) Amen.**



And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come upon you and remain with you forever.

**R) Amen.**

May the joy of the Lord be our protection. Go in peace.

**R) Thanks be to God.**

**HYMNS THAT MAY BE USED:**

De - us ca - ri - tas. De - us ca - ri - tas. De - us ca - ri - tas est.

De us ca - ri - tas est. De - us ca - ri - tas est. De - us ca - ri - tas est.



Dis - ci - te a me! Dis - ci - te a me

qui - a mi - tis sum et hu - mi - lis cor - de.

## SINT UNUM

G<sup>+</sup> E<sup>-</sup> A<sup>-</sup> D<sup>+</sup> G<sup>+</sup>

Sint u - num! Sint u - num.