Priests of the Sacred Heart

(A Roman Catholic Religious Community of Priests and Brothers)

The Founder of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Leo John Dehon, was struck by the injustice of poverty and social neglect in St. Quentin, France in the 1800's. His dream was to establish a community committed to continuing Christ's work of building God's Kingdom of justice and love.

Today's Priests and Brothers serve in a variety of ministries. They are pastors, community organizers, teachers, chaplains, legal advocates, development and management personnel, spiritual and formational directors and caregivers.

It is not what the Priests of the Sacred Heart do, but who they are, how they live and what they believe in that defines them...

the love of the Heart of Jesus.
Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJ)

FORMATION PROGRAM: Common for Priests and Brothers

• Candidacy: First Two Years - Introduced to community life, prayer, ministry, and SCJ spirituality. Study at College (St. Xavier University Chicago) or Graduate Program.

• Novitiate: Year exclusively to pray and study the Congregation, its history, charism, and Founder Leo John Dehon. Visits to apostolate in US and Canada.

• Profession: This follows Novitiate and lasts for at least three years. First year in formation house with continued education, if needed. Ministry in one of the apostolates.

• Final Vows: After completing three years of temporary vows and a year of ministry. This may be extended. Education is completed during this time.

• Mentoring: Education completed/ not living in formation house. Living with SCJs who have experience in community and your area of ministry.

SCJ Education Requirements:

• Priesthood: Four-year undergraduate degree including 30 credit hours of Philosophy and 12 credit hours of religious studies. Master of Divinity (MDIV), Track II at Catholic Theological Union (CTU).

• Brotherhood: Four-year undergraduate degree including 12 credit hours of Philosophy, 12 credit hours of Religious Studies. One year of graduate theological studies at CTU. Many complete a Master of Arts (MA) in Pastoral Studies, a Master of Divinity Track I, research MA, or Graduate Study in area of Professional expertise.

CANDIDATE EXPECTATIONS

During formation, candidates in the formation program, like all professed members, participate in our common life. They are present, involved and in relationship with people in the community.

Activities includes:

• Weekday Adoration and Mass
• Weekday Meals
• Weekly Meetings
• First Fridays
• Weekly Social
• Weekly Work Period
• Come and See Weekends
• House Social Outings
• Community Thanksgiving
• Community Retreats

Community Expectations:

• Hospitality
• Accountability
• Shared Transportation
• Being Social
• Community-Living Skills

SCJ Religious Life

New Testament Studies indicate that some people responded to Jesus' call by coming together to make prayer and service the focus of their lives.

Community Living

A unique aspect of religious life is the ability to share in community living. The individual joins with others who have made a similar commitment of service, simplicity of life and common prayer. They come together to actualize the Charism of their community. SCJs particularly serve those who are marginalized, those most in need in a variety of ministries.

Religious Vows

SCJs profess three vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. These vows embrace gospel values of Jesus' own life on earth and are a public statement of one's desire to live simply, love inclusively and listen attentively in service of God's people and the Church. "Here I am Lord; I come to do your will." (Hebrews 10:7)