



SCJ News

A newsletter of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians)



In the midst of a late winter storm, Fr. Ed Kilianski leads the final prayers for Fr. PJ McGuire before his interment in the Sacred Heart Mausoleum.

Fr. Paul J. McGuire, SCJ, Dehon scholar, laid to rest

Fr. Paul ("PJ") McGuire, SCJ, died February 22 in suburban Milwaukee. Well-known for his research and expertise on Fr. Leo John Dehon and SCJ spirituality, his death is not only mourned in the United States, but by members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart throughout the world, as well as many friends, family and coworkers.

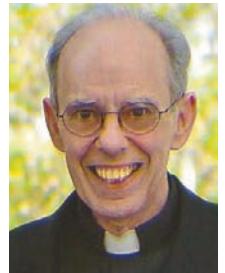
Born and raised in Jersey City, NJ, Fr. PJ was 73. He professed his first vows in 1960 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1968 in Honesdale, PA.

"When I was a kid growing up, my brother was an SCJ seminarian," wrote Fr. PJ about his first encounters with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. "Together with my parents, and later, by myself, we visited him in the various communities where he was stationed. I got to know many members of the SCJ community.

"I was impressed by their friendliness, warmth, hospitality and humor," he continued. "They seemed genuinely happy and yet still had a sense of seriousness about their work. Daily prayer was an integral part of their lives. If you visited them, you also prayed with them because that was just a part of every day life."

Reflecting on why he decided to pursue his own vocation with the SCJs, he wrote that "What I value most as a member of our congregation is the community's understanding of the person of Jesus Christ. The SCJs have a distinctive approach to Jesus which focuses on his human dimensions. It's a Jesus who showed his love for God in his care and service for other human beings. It's Jesus who is sensitive to human issues, who understands human weakness and who has the patience and courage to call people to a better, fuller life.

"The SCJ community is a group of people who are attracted to the same ideals and who struggle to embody these values in daily living. Sometimes the community



Fr. PJ McGuire



Fr. PJ with students in the Philippines. "The Philippines for him was like a magnet, where he always returned with pleasure," wrote Fr. Francis Pupkowski, SCJ, regional superior of the Philippines. Fr. PJ taught formation classes on Dehonian spirituality in the Philippines, including the 2010 international final vow program.

fails to live up to all of this. So one of the first places where we are called to enact our SCJ vocation is within the community.

"It's a daily challenge to BE what we are called and committed to be," he concluded.

A lifelong researcher and academic

Immersed in academics most of his life, after completing his seminary studies at Sacred Heart Monastery (now Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology), Fr. PJ earned both a master's degree and doctorate in theology from Fordham University.

His first teaching assignment was at SHSST (1974-76). From there he went on to serve as a professor at the University of Illinois - Champaign (1976-78) and at Seton Hall University in New Jersey (1978-80).

In 1980 he was named pastor of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (now St. Martin of Tours) parish in Franklin, WI. Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, provincial superior, did his diaconate

and first priestly assignment under Fr. PJ's mentorship at the parish.

Following a one-year sabbatical at Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, MA, Fr. P.J. returned to teaching, serving as both a professor and as a chaplain at Bellarmine College in Louisville, KY, from 1986-89. From 1989-93 he was a professor at Mt. Mary College in Milwaukee, WI.

In 1994 he became director of the Dehon Study Center for the US Province. His research on Fr. Leo John

Dehon, and translation of many of the founder's works, have benefited the entire congregation. He led retreats and classes on the Dehonian charism on just about every continent.

"The Philippines for him was like a magnet, where he always returned with pleasure," wrote Fr. Francis Pupkowski, SCJ, regional superior of the Philippines. Fr. PJ taught formation classes on Dehonian spirituality in the Philippines, including the 2010 international final vow program.

Fr. PJ was a well-received retreat director outside of formation as well. "The fact that he was invited in 2003 to guide the retreat of the XXI General Chapter members testifies to the recognition of his work in the congregation," wrote Fr. Stefan Tertünte, SCJ, director of the Dehon Study Center in Rome. Much of Fr. PJ's work also appears in the newly developing formative guides for Lay Dehonians.

Fr. PJ served on several province commissions and boards, as well as on the Provincial Council.

Mass of Christian Burial for Fr. PJ McGuire was at the Good Shepherd Chapel at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. He is interred in the community mausoleum on the grounds of Sacred Heart Monastery.

Photos from the Funeral Mass and interment are available at:

[www.scjusa.smugmug.com/
Funeral-for-Fr-Paul-J-McGuire](http://www.scjusa.smugmug.com/Funeral-for-Fr-Paul-J-McGuire)



Fr. PJ shares a smile with one of his students in Asia.

Journal entries paint a diverse and colorful picture of the congregation

Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, started his first full year as a general councilor following the model of the founder: with bags packed. Beginning with India and then moving on to South America, Fr. Steve and Fr. Heiner Wilmer, SCJ, general superior, began the first of the general visitations. During his travels, Fr. Steve maintained a journal, which he shared on the province blog site. The following are excerpts from that journal:

A traditional welcome

Each time we reach a new SCJ house we experience a traditional welcoming: greeted by song, garlands of flowers, and marked on the forehead with soil from the Indian subcontinent. Then we are handed a coconut to drink. Most of the time a hole is already punched in the top and a straw inserted, but I also learned how to open a young coconut by dashing it against a rock.

We have visited three of our formation houses so far. I have heard many stories over the years from members of the US Province who served here for a time in order to build up the district, and smiled when I saw the "Thomas Garvey Memorial Study Hall" in our philosophy house in Aluva. I am a product of SCJ minor seminaries, and started my affiliation with the community at the age of 14. Seeing men as young as 16 playing soccer and basketball, and beginning to discern if God is calling them to religious life and the priesthood brings back memories for me.

In each of the houses the students

presented programs of song, dance, music and poetry. One of the students told a few jokes to warm up the crowd and another showed his juggling skills. The dances are energetic and entertaining, just like the ones from a Bollywood movie. Always there are words of thanks and gratitude. People say they are honored to have us here. It is an honor for us to be here among these thankful and grateful communities.

The challenge of formation

Formation is a difficult ministry. You don't get the same kind of affirmation as in a parish, so I am grateful for those who are dedicated to this needed service in our congregation. Students in formation go through a healthy independence and rebellion stage that is good but painful on both sides. Theologians wrestle with all kinds of questions about God, religious life, and how we are called to live. Our actions don't live up to our ideals, and students challenge formators.

One student said there can be two different ways to feel you have disappointed your elders, depending on your relationship with them. Some people you obey out of fear of punishment or consequences. With an inspiring leader you fear disappointing them because you want to make them proud. The latter is the kind of leadership all of us aspire to live.

Parish ministry

After several days of formation house visits, we experienced some of the SCJ parishes in India.

The parish priests have seen growing attendance and participation by following the advice of Fr. Dehon – "Go to the people." They visit homes and try to respond to the needs of the



Fr. Heiner and Fr. Steve with SCJs and students in India.

communities in many different ways. One of our SCJ brothers has trained in social work in order to help families through their struggles...

Mass in Divine Mercy parish was in English so Fr. Heiner presided and I was invited to preach. St. Paul's exhortation about love being patient and kind fits in so well with both SCJ spirituality and our struggles to daily live a Christian life. Dancers led the entrance procession, and the youth choir sang out in lovely harmonies.

After Mass the 16 members that make up the parish council sat in a circle and after sharing a snack, began to tell us how they see the needs of the church in this area. Though a small parish, people are committed to building up the community with many groups and activities. Though the dreams of a new church seem far beyond their means, they are making small sacrifices and slowly building

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Priests of the Sacred Heart

towards the day that can become a reality.

In the evening we took a drive to the substation, St. Anthony, a tiny worship space on the 2nd floor of a building that looked much like all the concrete homes on the block. We climbed a narrow concrete stairway to reach the upper room. While so different from the grandeur of historic Roman churches I've been visiting, this more clearly called to mind the basics of our faith. This more surely resembled the upper room where Jesus ate with his disciples. On a hot day we were greeted with a glass of cool water, and I thought of the gospel and prayed God would bless them for the hospitality given in Jesus' name.



Fr. Steve (back) with the Sisters of Charity in South America.

From India to South America

The trip from Chennai, India, to Buenos Aires, Argentina, took about 40 hours door to door. It included an eight-hour layover in London, two breakfasts on each leg, and seven movies. I slept a little, but was extremely glad for a long siesta when we arrived. I have never visited South America before and am very excited.

Fr. Leonardo, the Argentine provincial, met us at the airport. On the way home to the community house he pulled up to a typical two-story neighborhood house and had us get out for a closer look. It was the house where Jorge Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, grew up. Our SCJs in leadership had regular dealings with him when he was the head of the Jesuit college, and the Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

SCJs in Uruguay

We have only a half dozen SCJs in Uruguay, missionaries all originally from Italy. Some of our elders have spent up to half a century serving the church in South America. While few in number, the Dehonians have made a significant impact. Besides the pastoral work, we have a history of publishing theological books, and *Umbrales* is a respected national periodical.

The SCJs serve in the Gruta de Lourdes, a well-known national shrine in Montevideo. Many pilgrims visit each day. We were told how, besides leaving devotional candles, some people now bring clothing and food as an offering for the poor. La Gruta is at the edge of one of the poorer barrios of the city.

Our neighboring mission, Our Lady of Guadalupe, is in the midst of one of the toughest areas of the city, notorious for narco-trafficking. The barrio has many small cinder block houses. Three jails that no one else wants in their neighborhood are located within a few blocks of the church. In an effort to address the problems of the area, the city located a new police station and fire department nearby, and finally put in a nice playground. Security guards from one of the detention centers patrolled the area the morning we walked through.

We also have two schools that serve the educational needs of the barrio. The challenges of running schools in poor neighborhoods are many, as we try to give young people tools they will need in the future. Money is a constant worry because what the students are able to contribute to their education only meets a fraction of the real costs of running a school.

Comparisons to the US

The SCJ parish of Sagrado Corazon serves a large barrio in Buenos Aires. The church and rectory complex is big, with a school attached, and at one time served as a formation house for the province. The parish takes in a huge area of high-rise low-

income housing. They reminded me of projects I saw in Chicago, where concentrating the poor in one area without many support services was a recipe for crime and failure. Because of past theft, and ongoing drug violence, the parish has to be barricaded with locks and iron bars across the gates. When you are committed to working with and among the poor it can be a sad fact of life.

We traveled north to the Province of Chaco. The landscape of vast plains, grasslands, and groves of palm trees reminded me of a cross between Texas and South Dakota.

Four SCJs minister at San Martin. The parish complex is large, with one of the buildings meant for retreats and province gatherings. Our first night a surprising 80 folks showed up for the weekday Mass. A young woman just turned 15 and her family came to church for prayer and a blessing as she celebrated her Quincinera. Even on Sunday the main parish Mass is at 8:00 pm, after the heat of the day. The priests travel to the outlying mission chapels up to 50 kilometers distance during the day.

Two SCJ priests, Mario and Caesar, serve the parish in Alberdi. During the rainy season they are unable to reach some of the missions because the roads become impassible. Upon our arrival the group of 15 parishioners who are pastoral animators had a meal waiting for us. Besides sampling tasty local dishes with them they shared their efforts at sharing the faith, and their appreciation of SCJ presence. I came away impressed by the lay leadership of these committed people.

Frs. Juan and Marcelo serve Resistencia, the capital of the Chaco Province with a population of 400,000. The central part of the city is quite nice, with wide boulevards with trees and green space in the median. The part of town the Dehonians serve has primarily dirt roads, badly rutted from recent heavy rains. I often heard the clip clop of horse hooves as the charitos clomp through the streets,

wagons still much in use to haul produce or garbage or whatever materials needed for work or home improvements.

Fr. Juan took us on a tour of the town. On the flood plane of the Rio Negro, it is illegal to build, but many poorer families have few other choices and form a village of corrugated iron huts huddled together. The "parish" has 10 chapels and serves a flock of 50,000. Several of the chapels are close to the main parish; others are on the expanding outskirts of the city. As the area grows, the bishop would build a new parish but has no priests to send, so the workload of our two dedicated men continues to expand. They place lots of effort on training catechists and lay leaders. The parish social outreach is done through Casa Betania, a drop-in center for teens after school, where they can find help with their studies, a safe place for recreation, and a nutritious meal. The house also serves as a domestic violence shelter, and stocks clothing for families in need.

In solidarity with those living on the margins of society

We closed our last day with evening Mass. The Gospel of the day was the story of Lazarus and Dives. Many poor people have crossed my path on this visit: the man washing car windows with a squeegee, the elderly woman with no teeth who begged while we ate ice cream, the teen girls seeking refuge at Casa Betania, and the tattooed man with knife scars across his arm. Our SCJs in Argentina and Uruguay are constantly put in contact with those at the margins. I have been inspired by their willingness to reach out in a spirit of misericordia while serving the needs of God's people.

Read Fr. Steve's blog posts in full, as well as those of Fr. Tom Cassidy and others at:

www.scjusa.wordpress.com

Former general councilor says it was "love" that called him to SCJs



Fr. Albert Lingwengwe speaking during the 2015 General Chapter in Rome.

"Love" is what caused Fr. Albert Lingwengwe, SCJ, to leave his job and follow the call to religious life.

"The love of Jesus, the love found in the Sacred Heart called me to the congregation; I am very grateful to the Lord for my vocation," he said.

As a young man in his 20s, Fr. Albert walked away from a good-paying job as a civil servant, a job that wasn't easy to come by in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was work that not only helped to support him, but his family.

Fr. Albert came in contact with the Priests of the Sacred Heart when he was a young adult becoming more active in his parish, an SCJ parish. The spirituality of the community inspired him, but so too did the example of many of its members.

"In particular I remember Fr. Władysław Stasik, an SCJ priest who died last year," said Fr. Albert. "He was humble, hard-working and always close to the people. His example was a model for me."

Later, as an SCJ priest, there would be other models, including Fr. David Maher, SCJ. An American, Fr. David served as a missionary in Congo for most of his religious life. Fr. Albert ministered for three years with Fr. David before going to Europe to

study at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.

An unexpected call

Fr. Albert was novice master for the Congolese Province when he learned that he was being considered for general administration in Rome.

"Never for a moment did I think that I would work in Rome, moreover, as a member of the General Council," said Fr. Albert. "Nothing predisposed me to this. But I was encouraged to do so by my former spiritual director who had accompanied me in the first steps of my vocation. By this time, he was helping me in the formation of the novices.

"I was also strongly encouraged by many other SCJs in Rome and elsewhere, including Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho [now bishop of Setubal, Portugal] and Fr. Claudio Dalla Zuanna [now archbishop of Beira, Mozambique]. However, what really convinced me of the need to accept the call to general administration was the insistence of Fr. Augustin Ihwa, a Congolese SCJ priest."

A student in Rome, Fr. Augustin was struggling with complications from a brain tumor. He died in 2010.

"We need you here, do not say no to this responsibility," said Fr. Augustin to Fr. Albert. With Fr. Augustin's final words of encouragement Fr. Albert accepted his 2009 election to the General Council. He completed his term last summer.

Fr. Albert is now on sabbatical, studying in the ESL (English as a Second Language) program at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. In-between classes he took time to reflect on his service on the General Council, and on the impact of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in the Democratic Republic of Congo, his home country.

Different, yet the same

Being on the General Council gave Fr. Albert an understanding and knowledge of the congregation that few have.

"I knew the history of the congregation, but not really the life of the congregation," he said. "I didn't know the experience of our confreres in different areas of the world until I was with them in person and got to know their situations.

"Eventually, I came to realize that the whole congregation experiences nearly the same challenges. It is only the emphasis and cultural accent that differs in each entity. All face the same concerns of religious life, SCJ identity, formation, finances and pastoral activities...

"I feel more than ever a sense of belonging to the congregation because of this experience."

The general "team"

When asked about work or projects that he had been a part of during his six years as a general councilor Fr. Albert always referred to himself as a part of a team. "There was a great spirit of collaboration in the group, we mutually sustained each other," he said.

"I cannot claim any role alone," Fr. Albert continued. "It was only by God's mercy that I was a servant to the Church and congregation. If I can claim any merit I would say that I had a providential luck in working with Fr. Ornelas and those who were with



Fr. Albert Lingwengwe talks with a fellow SCJ during the General Chapter.

him in his administration.

"As a team, much of what we did was built on the work of previous general administrations. We also followed the recommendations of the XXII General Chapter."

Fr. Albert said that was most pleased during his term with the international training experiences that were organized for SCJs serving in finance (such as province treasurers), administration (province secretaries) and formation. Added to that was on-site work in the local entities in regards to financial recordkeeping, and in the younger entities, planning for greater financial self-sufficiency.

"Also, much was done in the area of spirituality, and the sharing of our spirituality and life with the laity," he said. He added that the continental conferences were also significant moments during his term on the General Council. "Especially the one on Dehonian religious life in Africa."

The future

When asked if he had any advice for the new administration Fr. Albert said that instead of advice, he simply "shared ideas, viewpoints and information." He said that he was impressed by the Six-Year-Plan that the General Council published at the beginning of the year.

"Regarding Africa, I am glad to see Fr. Léopold Mfouakouet, SCJ, as the General Council's representative to the African entities," he said. "I remember his presence at the meeting of Major Superiors of Africa. He has an extensive knowledge of the two largest African entities — Cameroon and Congo [where Fr. Léopold studied and ministered] — and moreover, he showed strong leadership and collaboration skills as provincial superior of Cameroon. I enjoyed working with him when I was on General Council."

Reflecting more specifically on his home province of Congo, Fr. Albert talked about the SCJs' impact on the Church there, especially in the eastern part of the country. "The congregation

continues to make a large mark in social fields, especially in education and youth ministry. Our young SCJs are both strengthening current works and expanding the SCJ presence in Congo."

But the work of the SCJs in Congo is not without challenge. "We must evangelize, spread the Gospel, announce and testify Jesus amidst the difficult context of poverty, political and social conflict, the challenge of personal and selfish interests. People — even those in the SCJ community and the broader Church — can be attracted and even addicted to material self-seeking..."

"We SCJs face these challenges and give witness not by what we are doing, but how we are, the life we live among the people, including our own communities. Always what is important is who we are; what we do is secondary."

And then there is the practical issue of money. Congo, as well as other entities in Africa, said Fr. Albert, needs to find a pathway to financial self-sufficiency. It is not an easy challenge in a country where poverty is often the norm.

SCJ spirituality lived and shared by example

Fr. Albert said that it is in Congo where Dehonian spirituality has been lived deeply by example, especially by SCJs who have remained with the people of Congo through many years of conflict, some even losing their lives as martyrs during the 1964 Simba Revolution.

"We SCJs have always offered our faith, our spirituality and our works to the many people living on the periphery," said Fr. Albert. "And now, it is up to us who have been handed a spiritual inheritance from those who came before us to take responsibility for our future as a congregation in Congo, and in Africa as a whole."

"I am proud to be an African SCJ from Congo," said Fr. Albert.



Fr. John van den Hengel was the main presenter at this year's SHSM In-Service gathering.

Mercy and Fr. Leo John Dehon

Staff from all of the ministries of Sacred Heart Southern Missions in Mississippi, including schools, social service centers, the development office and parishes, came together for an in-service day on February 15. The focus was "Mercy," in commemoration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Fr. John van den Hengel, SCJ, former vicar general and now regional superior of Canada, led the group in a reflection on "Mercy and Fr. Dehon."

Fr. John acknowledged the wide variety of faiths present in the conference room. Although the Catholic Church is focused in a special way on mercy during this jubilee year, mercy is something essential to all faiths.

"Compassion and mercy belong to the Kingdom of God," he said. "You can't speak of mercy and compassion without God... What ties us together is God's mercy."

Fr. John spoke of mercy as an inexhaustible gift; it leads to the healing of brokenness, including broken relationships. It is a true gift, one without obligation. The experience of receiving mercy can make one merciful to others.

In small groups participants talked about their own experiences of mercy. Each table shared their discussions with the larger group. Stories were told of the joy of holding one's child for the first time, of feeling God's com-

passion in the midst of hardship and challenge, of the gift of a loving spouse, the call to be an instrument of God's love along with the strength to follow-through, the gift of being listened to and heard.

One woman reflected on the devastating storms that ripped through Holly Springs just before Christmas. "A tornado was destroying my friend's home, her daughter's house as well, but there she was in my living room while it was happening. She was safe with me." She said that it was a miracle. But it was also the spark for extraordinary acts of mercy and kindness that continue today as the people of Holly Springs rebuild their homes and their lives. People give mercy, people receive mercy, all based in the infinite compassion and love of God.

Mercy in the life of Fr. Dehon

From the experience of mercy in our own lives Fr. John spoke of the lived experience of mercy in the life of the founder, Fr. Leo John Dehon. He noted the founder's first assignment as

the seventh assistant priest in a large parish in industrial France. Seeing the challenges that the people faced he was called by mercy to get out of the church sacristy and respond to their needs. Dangerous working conditions, child labor, poor compensation and work weeks that sometimes did not factor in even a single day of rest were typical of the time.

For Fr. Dehon, the answer to these concerns was found in the love of the Sacred Heart. The modern world needed an infusion of God's love, God's mercy. Bringing the reign of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Dehon realized, meant taking on the struggle of social justice.

At about the same time that Fr. Dehon was beginning to take action on this vision of God's love in society – working with business leaders to create better conditions for laborers, developing housing and education opportunities, and challenging political and social leaders — Pope Leo XIII came out with his encyclical "Rerum Novarum." It articulated much of what Fr. Dehon was struggling to infuse into Church and society. Pope Leo spoke of the mutual relationship of labor and capital, as well as the government and its citizens. The encyclical is considered one of the foundational texts of Catholic social teaching.

Fr. John also cited Pope Benedict's encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" that called for charity in action, arguing that love and truth are essential elements to the response to the global economy.

Social justice is not just colored by what a person or organization does, but by the generosity in which it is done. "Our work must reflect the surplus of God's love," said Fr. John.

In closing, Fr. John challenged SHSM staff to reflect on how mercy can enter more abundantly into their work. "What would change? What would you change?"



Lois Harrison, SHSM volunteer coordinator and Sherry Rayford, a teacher at Holy Family School in Holly Springs. View more photos: www.scjusa.smugmug.com/SHSM-In-Service-2016

SCJ NEWS

Hello from South Africa!

After giving conferences to SCJ novices in Congo in January, Fr. Charles Brown, SCJ, was in South Africa where he attended the blessing of the new Divine Mercy Center at St. Joseph parish in De Aar. The center includes a preschool, hospice for the homeless, and a school for handicapped children. It is funded in part by the US Province. While there, Fr. Charlie had a chance to visit with American SCJ



Fr. John and Fr. Charlie

Fr. John Strittmatter, who is now retired in Aliwal North after serving in the missions for many years. Fr. Charlie said that Fr. John "sends his greetings and blessings to all in the US Province."

Schools in Collaboration meet

"Schools in Collaboration" began as a way for SCJ schools in the US Province to share and collaborate, as well as seek ways of infusing the Dehonian charism into education. The group now includes the SCJs' Gymnasium Leonium in Germany and San Jeronimo in Spain.

On February 18, representatives from the schools met by conference call. Among the topics discussed: 1) the June Summer Institute (representatives of the German and Spanish schools will take part by Skype), 2) the development of a Schools in Collaboration website, 3) fundraising activities during Catholic Schools Week that benefited a children's refugee program in the Rio Grande Valley, and 4) this year's book challenge.

Gymnasium Leonium has had a partnership with St. Joseph's Indian School for many years. San Jeronimo joined the Schools in Collaboration project following connections made at the 2014 International Dehonian Educators Conference in Valencia, Spain.

Happy Lunar New Year!

On February 7 the Vietnamese community at St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, WI, celebrated the eve of Lunar New Year during the Sunday liturgy. Lunar New Year, or in the Vietnamese culture "Tet Nguyen Dan," or "Tet," is one of the most significant cultural celebrations in Vietnam.

Fr. Joseph-Thien Dinh, SCJ, is associate pastor of St. Martin of Tours (and pastor of the Vietnamese community); Fr. Yvon Sheehy, SCJ, is pastor.



Fr. Joseph Dinh blesses a child St. Martin of Tours in Franklin, WI, at the start of the Lunar New Year celebrations. More photos from the event are available at:

www.scjusa.smugmug.com/Lunar-New-Year-at-St-Martin-of

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