



"I've received countless New Year's wishes. I have fully 200 letters and 800 cards to respond to, not counting the visits. Many of the letters are quite cordial. They make my heart beat more lively at the memory of these good and pious acquaintances."

Leo John Dehon, SCJ,

Diary entry for January 1893

Date

Dear ,

Fr. Leo John Dehon may have been exceptional in his ability to compose numerous newspaper articles, to author social and spiritual works, and to carry on vigorous personal correspondence, but everyone experiences the pleasing memory of past acquaintances. This may be particularly true for those of us who share academic and spiritual formation with SCJs.

As the Director of Dehonian Associates, I have the mission "to promote Dehonian spirituality beyond the members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart." If, on some level, you are living your life from a "Dehonian" spirit, such promotion is unnecessary. Rather, I would like to facilitate a spiritual and social fellowship among SCJs, former SCJs, and former SCJ seminarians.

I propose to communicate with you approximately four times a year, by email or snail mail [your preference], initially, with a short reflection on SCJ spirituality, any anniversary notices, and the facilitation of any reasonable connections/activities that individuals request. Thereafter, ideas generated by those who choose to be on the list, will shape the focus of these contacts. Of course, at any time, you can remove your name from this list.

I envision creating a database with whatever contact and personal information each one cares to share. After this list seems to be established, I will print this information and send it by snail mail to all on the list. This old-fashioned approach would ensure the best protection for your private information.

I'm enclosing a list of possible contact and personal information items that you might want to share, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. If you prefer sending the information by

email, my address is dfschimmel@juno.com. If you are definitely not interested in being on this list, kindly indicate your choice on the list, send it back to me, and I will try my best not to bother you in the future.

Sincerely,

David Schimmel
Director of Dehonian Associates
Priests of the Sacred Heart