



# SCJ News

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

## The joy of community!

*Assembly focuses on unity in diversity*

“**T**he Joy of Community Expressed in Our Mission” was the theme of the 2017 Province Assembly. It began with the Jubilee Celebration on June 5 and continued through the week with presentations on a wide variety of topics including personality exploration, multiculturalism, migration and community. It also included testimonies from the province’s stu-

dents, reflecting on what they see in the Priests of the Sacred Heart and why they have chosen to follow their vocations with the community.

### Your personality **COLOR**

Dr. Young Hoang is a psychologist who works with local, state and federal agencies, as well as the Church. He has provided psychological testing to seminarians and workshops to faith communities on personalities, boundary issues, conflict resolution, cultural diversity and leadership. Dr. Hoang led Tuesday’s assembly ses-

sions, beginning with a presentation on personality exploration, helping people to understand their own personality traits and those others.

“We all have four temperaments, but generally one dominates,” said Dr. Hoang, who divided the traits into four colors: orange (risk takers, high energy, spontaneous, resourceful), green (analytical, process-oriented, research-based decisions), gold (serious, dependable, loyal, organized, appreciative), and blue (sympathetic, focus on serving



Dr. Young Hoang



**Participants at the 2017 Province Assembly**



On the second morning of the assembly students in formation talked about what attracted them to the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) and why they decided to discern their vocation with the community. Pictured left to right they are: Phong (Paul) Hoang, Kodjovi (Hubert) Liassidji, Frater Joseph Vu, Henry Nguyen, Angel Romero, Celsus Robert and Luis Alonso Barrantes

others, seeks harmony in groups, creative, emotionally driven).

Assembly participants did an exercise to determine their dominant color, and then followed up with several activities to understand how people live and work together. In what situations do people of one personality color thrive, while another would be frustrated?

Dr. Hoang broke up the presentations with lively songs — complete with dance moves — that got participants out of their chairs with arms in the air.

### Why do I want to be an SCJ, a Dehonian?

Wednesday morning began with a video presentation that “celebrates our history and shows where we are now, what gives us as individuals and as a community joy,” said Frater Joseph Vu, SCJ, who put the presentation together. Following the video were testimonies from the candidates who spoke about what attracted them to the Priests of the Sacred Heart and why they decided to pursue their vocation with the community.

Phong (Paul) Hoang has been a candidate for three semesters; in August he will enter the novitiate. Paul began by reflecting on what is “home” for him now.

“When I first came to formation, I missed home, my family and friends in Houston,” he said. “Now, I am

happy to go back to visit, but when I am in Houston, what I miss is Chicago [the formation community].”

Now “home” for Paul, is with his SCJ community.

“There is joy, spiritual joy, in our community,” he continued. “My favorite part of the day is Mass in the morning. We are there together in a sense of belonging, leaving each other with support for our day. We connect at meals; we connect in labor, doing dishes together.

“In the SCJ community I feel like myself and can actualize who I am; I feel at home, I feel that I belong,” he said.

For Henry Nguyen, who will be joining Paul at the novitiate, it was laughter that first attracted him to the community. A trainer for State Farm Insurance, he said that he wanted something else in life, he needed more to feel fulfilled; he wanted to serve others.

“In 2013 I came to the community and saw the joy and hospitality of the SCJs,” he said. I have visited communities in Houston and Mississippi and I have seen passion, love and joy... In Mississippi I saw a willingness to get out of the sacristy and serve, to be a prophet of love. What gives me hope for the future is the drive that we have as a community to continue to go to the people.”

Celsus Roberts has an extensive background in social work and management (he earned degrees in both, including an MBA in health care man-

agement) before pursuing his vocation.

“I am 44, and my whole life has been social justice, seeking ways to serve the poor,” he said. “I had great jobs and was already doing what Fr. Dehon calls us to do. But I wanted more and that is why I am here.”

That “more” included community life. “You find love in our house,” he said of the formation community. “We are challenged, but we care about each other.”

He continued, reflecting on the jubilee celebrations. “When I saw men who were celebrating 60 years of religious life I was inspired!” he said. “They give me hope, they challenge me. And with their help – and yours – I will celebrate many anniversaries of religious life.”

### A new chapter at SHSST

Fr. Tom Knoebel, a familiar face to many from his years at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, briefly visited with the assembly. He will serve as SHSST president-rector for the next year, a role he has filled twice before.

“I can’t imagine a more fulfilling way to live out my priesthood,” said Fr. Tom, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, about his 30+ years at Sacred Heart.



Fr. Tom Knoebel

He continued, noting that the seminary is “at the edge of an exciting new chapter in its history. Major renovations are about to begin on the 50-year-old building. This summer we will see our largest summer ESL class ever. And our incredible ESL program continues as a resource for seminarians from around the country who come here for English and then continue to do their seminary studies with the assistance of our ESL faculty. Through our work we prepare men for effective ministry.”

Fr. Tom said that he has been in dialogue with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and noted its continued commitment to sending its seminarians to SHSST for their academic studies.

He also shared the news that the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, will deliver the next Dehon Lecture.

“It is an honor and a privilege to work with and for you,” said Fr. Tom in his closing remarks. “Please remember the seminary in your prayers so that we may continue to fulfill the dreams of Fr. Dehon in new and exciting ways.”

## The challenges of migration

“How marvelous God is! He will help you with what you need when you are doing the right thing, when you are doing good.”

The words were spoken by Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ, during the first of several presentations about migration. Executive director of Catholic Charities in the Rio Grande Valley for over 12 years, Sr. Norma has first-hand experience with migrants at the southern border. Many, she said, are fleeing horrific situations in their home countries; she felt compelled to do something to help.



Sr. Norma Pimentel



Participants in the “SCJ Mini-Golf Open” including Fr. Frank Wittouck, who wasn’t going to let a walker get in the way of his game!

“I called Fr. Tom [the pastor at Sacred Heart Church in McAllen, Texas] and told him that I needed to borrow his parish hall for a few days,” she said.

That was three years ago. In that parish hall she created the Humanitarian Respite Center, a place for migrants to get food, a shower and other basic necessities before they are linked with family or sponsors in the United States.

Sr. Norma said that she had no plan when she asked to borrow the hall but knew that she had to do something.

“I called a woman from a prayer group and asked her to meet me at the parish hall. ‘What for Sister?’ she said. ‘We’ll figure it out when we get there! Call your friends, have them call their friends.’”

That day Sr. Norma and her volunteers assisted 200 migrants. Three years later, that number grew to 73,000, all with donations. The Priests of the Sacred Heart are among those who continue to financially assist Sr. Norma with her efforts.

Many of the migrants who come to the center are children. “Families came to us destroyed in every way one could imagine.”

Sr. Norma talked about how the whole community — people of other

faiths, civic leaders — have come together to help. “Sometimes we have had more volunteers than immigrants,” she said. “It can be chaos, but it is HOLY chaos.”

Officers at a border detention facility were brought to tears seeing her go in and pray with cells filled with terrified migrant children. “They thanked me for helping us to realize that they [the migrants] are human beings,” she said.

“We are the most powerful nation in the world,” said Sr. Norma. “We must do better.”

## An impossible system

Sr. Norma spoke about the devastating situations that prompt people to flee their countries and come to the

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Priests of the Sacred Heart



Chairperson past and present: Fr. John Czynyski was chairperson of last year's assembly planning committee and Fr. Thi Pam chaired this year's gathering.



Students assisted with all assembly liturgies. Here, Henry Nguyen, Angel Romero are pictured with Fr. Ed Kilianski. Celsus Robert served as cantor at many of the prayer gatherings.



Fr. Joseph Dean and Fr. Paul Casper greet each other at the assembly. Fr. Joe is a member of the South Dakota community and Fr. Paul is a member of the SHML community in Franklin.

United States, as well as the pain and frustration that they continue to face once they cross the border.

Barbara Graham, director of Legal Services for Immigrants for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, identified the many legal challenges migrants — many of whom have valid reasons for seeking asylum — face as they try to legally pursue residence in the United States.

"We are asking people with limited educations to go through an impossible system," she said. Since they are not citizens of the United States, the migrants have no right to legal council. Generally, they have no money to hire representation. "Even children are expected to represent themselves," said Ms. Graham.

"What can we do?" asked one of the SCJs.

"Get out and talk about Catholic social teaching," she said. "Do bulletin inserts, talk about treating people with justice and mercy, that we must love our neighbor as ourselves. Educate the community but do it in a non-confrontational way so that you are heard. Most migrants are good people impacted by crazy laws. Catholic social teaching is so appropriate to this."

### Community is organic

Returning from last year's assembly to speak again this year was Grant Silva, PhD, an assistant professor of

Philosophy at Marquette University. He talked about the role of community in the immigration debate.

"What are the factors that alienate us from community, stop us from making communal ties with each other?" said Dr. Silva. "We need an understanding of community as a dynamic, ongoing, living thing."

A community changes when the people in it change; the culture of the community changes. "Culture is an important thing, and there are elements of a culture that are substantive. But as we think of the material foundations of a culture we must ask ourselves, 'What unites people, what creates culture?' Political membership is important [being a legal citizen] but something more important is the day-to-day lived experience..."

"We have to learn to build ties that bring people together in the community."

### Conclusion

On Friday morning SCJs entered the assembly room and found the tables that they had been sitting around replaced with a circle of chairs. After morning prayer, Fr. Thi Pham, SCJ, planning committee chairperson, thanked the SCJs for being a part of the week. "I am thankful for this SCJ family, especially the hospitality that I received from you. I am grateful to be an SCJ."

He joined SCJs in the circle and invited others to share their thoughts with the community.

"It is wonderful to see so many young people here, so many people



The closing session led by Fr. Thi Pham, planning committee chairperson.

from different countries," said Fr. Johnny Klingler, SCJ. "They give me hope for our province."

"I was so powerfully touched by listening to our youngest members and candidates talk about their experience of us and their joy to be a part of us," said Fr. John Czynyski, SCJ. "I am grateful to see that the SCJ message is alive in them."

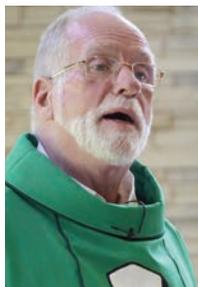
"Hope is alive," said Fr. Zibigniew Morawiec, SCJ. "There is energy here. I am grateful to the leadership of the province for making this possible, to help us see that our charism is alive."

"All week I kept hearing and seeing how our province is much richer and stronger because of our growing multiculturalism," said Fr. Richard MacDonald, SCJ. "I remember at previous assemblies talking about the challenge of cultural diversity. But now, we are speaking more about the joy of it. There are still challenges, but there are always challenges in living together. I am grateful for the people of many countries and cultures who are a part of us now."

"When I am in South Dakota, I don't always think about the rest of the province, I get busy with what is going on there," said Fr. Vincent Supparman, SCJ. "But here, I am filled with enthusiasm as I see the face of Jesus in others, knowing that we are a part of the same community."

"I was moved and touched by the presentations this week," said Fr. Richard Johnston, SCJ. "What I noticed most was that I always heard people refer to 'OUR' province, not 'MINE' or 'YOURS.' This touched me, hearing even our youngest talk about 'OUR' province."

"I looked at the logo a lot this week [a collage of the province's membership within the SCJ heart and cross logo], said Fr. Bob Tucker, SCJ. "I was awed as I looked at the faces, looked at all the people who are a part of the province, who are a part of me. Something pulled us together this week and the logo represented that."



Fr. Ed Kilianski

"We have become more diverse as a province and I am happy about that," said Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, in his closing homily. "We come from different backgrounds but God called us all to be sons of Fr. Dehon, to spread the love of Christ in souls and society wherever we can. It doesn't matter what we call ourselves — Dehonians, SCJs, Priests of the Sacred Heart — what is important is what is in our hearts."

**"Thank you for being my brothers."**

**View them all!**



Online photo albums from the assembly are available at:  
[www.scjusa.smugmug.com/2017-US-Province-Assembly](http://www.scjusa.smugmug.com/2017-US-Province-Assembly)

## Becoming a Dehonian Associate

**A**fter a year of study and prayer together, nine members of the Sacred Heart Southern Missions staff and board made their first commitment as Dehonian Associates during a ceremony on June 15.

"Giving staff members the opportunity to share faith and learn more about the spirituality of Fr. Dehon will have positive effects in our workplace which will affect our relationships with each other and the people we serve," said Fr. Jack Kurps, who led the sessions; he is SHSM executive director. "The more that we can help people experience the love and mercy of Christ, the more Dehonian we will be."

The group utilized the Spiritual Path, a 10-session introduction to the spirituality of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Developed by David Schimmel, director of the Dehonian Associates Office for the US Province, it is based on the congregation's formative program on the Dehonian charism.

Barbara Caldwell, Chris Greer, Laura Grisham, Lois Harrison, Clara

Isom, Steve Koepke, Bridget Martin, Joyce Moore and Kelly Tartt made their one-year commitment as Dehonian Associates during the June 15 ceremony.

Sadly, Karen Jeltz, one of the participants, died before she could make her commitment. However, she was buried with the Dehonian cross.

Plans are underway to begin the Spiritual Path with staff at St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, SD, and with parishioners at St. Thomas More Parish in Toronto, Ontario.



The Dehonian Associates with SCJs who joined in the commitment celebration.



The jubilarians with Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior. Fr. Ed was the main celebrant and Fr. Bill Pitcavage gave the homily.

## 690 years of SCJ religious life

**O**n June 5, the US Province celebrated the profession anniversaries of 18 SCJ priests and brothers. In total, the 2017 jubilarians represent 690 years of religious life as members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

Jubilarians included four SCJs celebrating 60 years (Fr. Jan de Jong, Fr. Richard MacDonald, Fr. Tony Russo and Fr. Frank Wittouck), six commemorating 50 (Fr. Nick Brown, Fr. Leonard Elder, Fr. Tim Gray, Fr. Paul Grizzelle-Reid, Fr. Wayne Jenkins and Fr. Dominic Peluse), one noting 40 (Fr. Robert Naglich), four celebrating 20 (Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. Vien Nguyen, Fr. David Szatkowski and Fr. Charles Wonch) and three ten-year jubilarians (Br. Clay Diaz, Br. Long Nguyen and Br. Brian Tompkins).

We share with you here brief biographies of our golden jubilarians. You can read about **ALL** of our jubilarians at: [www.scjusa.net/feature-stories/18-jubilarians](http://www.scjusa.net/feature-stories/18-jubilarians)

Photos from the celebration are at: [www.scjusa.smugmug.com](http://www.scjusa.smugmug.com)

**FR. NICK BROWN**, 74, was working high up on an electrical pole in Wyoming when he first gave serious thought to a religious vocation. He said that he put his tools in his belt and started to reflect on the question: "What happens after this life?"

In 1964 he entered the seminary, continued to question and learn about that "something" he felt believed in, and professed his vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 1967. Last year he celebrated his 40th anniversary of priesthood.

His first assignment as a priest was at St. Lawrence parish in San Antonio where he ministered for four years. It was while he was there that he learned of the need for a "street minister." The ministry was a part of a downtown outreach program.

After training with a person who did such ministry in Chicago, Fr. Nick headed out the door to his new "street church." That was in September, 1981. It was a ministry of presence, sometimes simply offering a listening ear to those who needed it, and letting

people on the fringes of society know that someone cared about them. He continued to do street ministry until 2001.

Fr. Nick has also served as a chaplain at San Antonio State Hospital (previously the Fort Sam Army Hospital), and the Audie Murphy VA. Since 1993 he has been chaplain at the San Antonio University Hospital and at St. Luke's Baptist.

**FR. LEONARD ELDER**, 75, served as missionary brother in Zaire (now, the Democratic Republic of Congo) for nine years before entering the seminary.

"God, through the voices of many people [in Africa], called me to pursue studies for the priesthood," said Fr. Leonard.

He first came to the Priests of the Sacred Heart with the desire for ordained ministry. After graduation from the minor seminary (Divine Heart in Donaldson, Ind.) he entered the novitiate.

"But I then I decided that I didn't want to be a priest," he said. Instead of professing his first vows, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. In some ways, his time of military service was an extended period of discernment. After four years with the Air Force "I asked to return to the community as a religious brother."

Fr. Leonard said that what he enjoyed most about his years in Africa "were the challenges; learning new cultures, languages, and the daily struggles to overcome the lack of almost everything I was accustomed to using. However, joined with those challenges was discovering a people eager to celebrate God's love and to share in their lives and struggles."

Following ordination, the Kentucky native served in pastoral ministry in Mississippi, where he continues to live in retirement while doing part-time parish ministry.

**FR. TIM GRAY**, 68, said that his "un-eventful boyhood life in the Detroit suburbs was jolted loose in 1961 by an

SCJ named Fr. Justin Guiltnane. He came to our grade school to give a vocation talk and filled me with the desire to become a missionary.”

Fr. Tim never became a foreign missionary but he said that he still “travelled far, not only in miles, but in culture and spirituality.” Following his ordination in 1978, he began parish ministry.

“I had the chance to spend four years in an SCJ parish in Toronto, which opened me up to the experience of living in other countries, and other SCJ provinces,” he said.

For nearly 30 years Fr. Tim ministered among Hispanic Catholics in Texas. “My experience among the Hispanic people has truly been a conversion experience for me and has deeply affected my spirituality and my pastoral action,” he said.

For several years Fr. Tim served in formation but last year returned to Texas to serve as associate pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston.

**FR. PAUL GRIZZELLE-REID**, 75, was born in Jamaica. When he was 17, Fr. Paul’s father died; his mother moved him and his eight siblings to New York City in search for a better life.

In his early 20s Fr. Paul pursued his vocation to the priesthood. He was ordained in 1972 and his first assignment was at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Brownsville, Texas.

In 1977, he joined the US Army as a military chaplain serving first at Fort Hood (Texas) and later Bamberg (Germany), Fort Monmouth (New Jersey) and Fort Buchanan (Puerto Rico).

In 1984 he returned to parish ministry at St. Cecilia in San Antonio and St. Matthew’s in Houston.

In 1993 he became director of the ESL (English as a Second Language) program at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. He came to know many SCJs from throughout the world during his six years with ESL.

Since 2015 Fr. Paul has been in Florida, first in parish ministry, and now as a member of the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park.

**FR. WAYNE JENKINS**, 70, has been “on-loan” to the US Province from Canada for over 25 years. Born and raised in Chatham, Ontario, he credits an aunt, who was an Ursuline Sister, for nurturing his vocation. He learned of the SCJs through their minor seminary in Delaware, Ontario, and studied philosophy at Kilroe Seminary in Honesdale, where he was a member of the school’s first graduating class.

From philosophy studies in Pennsylvania Fr. Wayne flew across the world to begin theology in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He was there from 1973-76 and was ordained a priest in 1977.

Fr. Wayne’s first assignment was at St. Joan of Arc parish in Toronto. While there, he founded Umat Katolik Indonesia, a worship community for Indonesian Catholics in the archdiocese. The Indonesian Province continues to send SCJs to Toronto to minister to the community.

In 1990, Fr. Wayne came to the US Province, where he has primarily served as province archivist. He has also assisted several other entities, such as the Philippines, Indonesia and India, in developing their own archives, and taught archive management skills in various locations. Fr. Wayne has also assisted the general administration in Rome.

**FR. DOMINIC PELUSE**, 70, has been spiritual director of the Province Development Office for many years. Originally from Poughkeepsie, NY, it was a missing year of Latin that prompted Fr. Dominic to pursue his vocation with the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

As a young man he applied to the Blessed Sacrament Fathers. However, he learned that he would have to repeat his senior year of high school before fully entering the seminary because he only had three years of Latin instead of the usual four. But then he found out about a seminary for people like him, students who had a little catch-up to do in prepara-

tion for priesthood studies. It was operated by the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

He entered the program, professed his first vows in 1967 and was ordained in 1974.

“Each year it seems that I learn more about the community and our founder,” he said. “Every time I learn more I feel a greater commitment to the Priests of the Sacred Heart and our ministry.”

Except for a few years in vocations, and now as spiritual director of the Province Development Office, most of Fr. Dominic’s years of ministry has been in parishes. “That’s really a ministry that I have loved, being in a parish, making friendships, being a part of people’s lives in both good times and bad,” he said. “It is a way that we can be Eucharist to others.”



TOP: Br. Duane Lemke with his mom; CENTER: Fr. Nick Brown at the reception; BOTTOM: Fr. Richard MacDonald and his brother and sister-in-law.

# SCJ NEWS

## Fr. Vince McDonald has died

Just as we were going to press we learned that Fr. Vincent McDonald, SCJ, died. He was 85, professed his first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 1951 and was ordained in 1958.



Fr. Vince

“Variety” is an easy word to apply to Fr. Vince. He served as a prison chaplain, as a chaplain to the armed services, in hospital ministry and in parish ministry.

His assignments took him to Wisconsin, Mississippi, South Dakota, Texas, Florida and even Manchester, England (Sacred Heart Church) and Banbenhausen, Germany (chaplain with the US Air Force).

Originally from Jersey City, NJ, Fr. Vince earned a master’s degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University in Chicago.

His last ministry assignments were in Houston at Holy Name and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes. Do to health concerns, Fr. Vince retired from public ministry in 1998.

Since 2008 he had been a member of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML with residence at a suburban Milwaukee nursing facility.

## The “Johnny Klingler Award”

Recently, the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission lost its longest-serving member. “We finally allowed Fr. Johnny Klingler, SCJ, to retire!” said Mark Peters, province JPR director.

“The history of the province’s involvement in justice and peace ministry is pretty much the history of Fr. Johnny Klingler,” continued Mark. “He was the very first director of what was then called the Office of Peace and Social Justice for the US Province, appointed to that position in 1974.”

To acknowledge his years of work for social justice, the province established an annual “Johnny Klingler Justice and Peace Award to acknowledge an SCJ or someone nominated by members of the province who, like Fr. Johnny, has worked tirelessly for

social transformation,” said Mark.

The first recipient of the \$1,000 award was Fr. Johnny himself. He was surprised with it, and the creation of the award, during the Province Assembly.

## Welcome!

In May, Hung Pham, 30, was accepted as a candidate for the Priests of the Sacred Heart. He is from Houston, has a degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Houston, and currently works as an analyst. He will enter the formation program in August and begin his studies in philosophy.

## New MA program at SHSST

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology was awarded a \$48,500 innovation grant from the Association of Theological Schools to implement its new “Cor Unum Initiative.” Using a cohort model of education where students work together as an educational community, participants will earn a Master of Arts degree by attending classes one evening a week and engaging in on-line activities. “The primary goal of the program is to create leaders who can evangelize and heal a fractured world,” say organizers. For more information go to: [www.shsst.edu](http://www.shsst.edu).

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