



# SCJ News

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



Fr. Hendrik (first row, left) with members of the Dehon Formation Community

## The key to being a missionary

“I never think of myself as a missionary,” said Fr. Christianus Hendrik, SCJ. “I just came here to help.”

Fr. Hendrik was the October First Friday presenter at the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago. Originally from Indonesia, he was asked by the community to share what it means to him to be a missionary.

His first mission assignment was in West Papua but it was an assignment cut short when he came down with a difficult case of malaria that

led to a stroke which paralyzed much of his body. After eight months of recovery his provincial superior suggested that he take a sabbatical in the United States to learn English and then go to a new assignment in the Philippines.

He was preparing to be a missionary, but instead of going to the Philippines he was asked to serve on the Lower Brule Pastoral Team in rural South Dakota. It was one of the congregation’s original missions in the United States; its first missionaries

were from Germany.

“And so I am a missionary here, but again, what does that mean?” said Fr. Hendrik. “We are all preparing to be missionaries, wherever we go we are doing mission.”

He said that his own preparation began at home where learned from his mother’s generosity to others what it means to serve. “Our house was always open to people and I asked my mother, ‘Why, when we have so many needs ourselves, do we give to others?’” said Fr. Hendrik.

“We give to the poor so that one day we may all harvest,” is what his mother told her son. The family often suffered challenges and hardship, but the generosity of Fr Hendrik’s mother never wavered.

From his family he also learned how to live in diversity, in plural cultures. Like many Indonesians, Fr. Hendrik’s family is a blend of several faiths, both Christian and Muslim. In a family picture that he showed to students, two of his sisters’ wear headscarves, following the tradition of their faith. “Most of my friends growing up were Muslim,” he said.

His parents’ separation when he was eight was also preparation to be a missionary. “My mother worked to support us,” he said. “Before she went to work at 6:00 in the morning she left a list of chores for us kids to do. Because of that I learned to cook. This too was preparation; I can feed myself, but I can also feed others.”

However, the most important preparation, the most important thing that Fr. Hendrik said that he learned



Fr. Hendrik

from his family was forgiveness and love. Yet it was a difficult lesson to learn.

For many years Fr. Hendrik was angry at his father for leaving the family; they

didn't speak to each other.

In the seminary one of Fr. Hendrik's formation directors — Fr. Paulus Sugino, SCJ (now a general councilor) — knew of his anger and encouraged Fr. Hendrik to write to his father. Unknown to Fr. Hendrik, his father had reached out to the rest of his family while he was in the seminary.

"My family didn't tell me," he said. "They didn't want to upset me while I was away at the seminary."

Fr. Hendrik's formation director continued to ask him, "Did you write to your father?" One day, he told Fr. Hendrik that his father wanted to visit, that he was traveling in the area and hoped to stay with the community briefly.

It was then that father and son finally spoke with each other. "We sat down together, we talked," said Fr. Hendrik. "Something had changed. I had no hatred; I had no anger. It was gone."

**"Giving up anger and hate changed my life. Love is so good. As Dehonians we are called to live our life with love. With love we can be open to everything."**

And that, said Fr. Hendrik, is the most important preparation for becoming a missionary. "Wherever your mission is," he said, "to be a missionary you must have an open heart. You must love."



Fr. Bob instructs Frater Juancho on celebration of the Mass. Frater Juancho is preparing for final vows and ordination to the diaconate.

## Hello my name is...

**T**he Dehon Formation Community in Chicago is home to an international, intergenerational community of professed SCJs and those discerning religious life with the congregation. The community not only houses the initial formation programs (candidacy, philosophy and theology) of the province but also welcomes SCJs from around the world on sabbatical or in graduate programs. Attached to the Dehon Formation Community is the Novitiate, located just 15 minutes south of Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners, Wis.

Next year, the entire formation community will be in Wisconsin. The Chicago programs will move to Sacred Heart Monastery at the start of the 2018 academic year. Theology students will attend Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and undergraduates will go to Milwaukee area universities.

In their own words, members of the Dehon Formation Community introduce themselves:

### Luis Alonso Barrantes candidate

My name is Luis Alonso Barrantes, age 47. I have been at the SCJ formation house in Chicago since January 7, 2015. I am now finishing my third year of Philosophy at Saint Xavier University and I am blessed to continue to see God's Will unfold.



Alonso

I was born in San Jose, Costa Rica and raised in Los Angeles, Calif. I have three brothers and two sisters. Among my siblings, I am in the middle child.

As my formation journey continues, I am overwhelmed every day

with an abundance of blessings to be a part of such a dynamic religious order; a very rewarding service to God with so many rapid changes. My first summer in ministry was working in Milwaukee with the ESL program, which was very rewarding. My second year (summer of 2016) was spent in Nesbit, Miss. I still recall in Mississippi how I was captivated to see how hard everyone works in their ministries, with a deep sense of love, hard work and dedication. I see a strong Dehonian spirit there and I continue to pray that God gives all the men and women in Mississippi health and strength as they give back so much of themselves to pastoral services, religious education, and social services.

This past summer was spent in Houston, Texas, at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. My ministries were at various locations within and around OLG. I met some amazing families, and employees of the parish and school. To name a few places, I worked at Martha's Kitchen (food program), Loaves and Fishes (Magnificat House), the Humanitarian Respite Center (run by Sister Norma Pimentel), Casa Juan Diego (outreach to immigrants and the poor), The Big Blue Bus (a mobile clinic for expectant mothers), and much more.

### **Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas, SCJ**

Hola! I am Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas but everybody calls me Juancho (family nickname) I am 35 years old and I am proud to say that I am from the city of everlasting spring: Medellin, Colombia. I am crazy about horses, love cooking, and am now exploring some painting which I love. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

Since I was a kid I felt that I was called to the religious life and decid-

ed that was my vocation. However, I never thought that it was going to be a long distance call and that following my vocation was going to bring me where I am now.

Since January, 2006, I responded to God's call and came to the United States to start my discernment process with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Such an amazing experience learning not just the language and culture, but also about Fr. Dehon. Happily, I became an official member of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in August 2013.

After an amazing pastoral year in Brazil, I am back in Chicago in the house of formation. Currently I am attending Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in my last year of the M.Div. program in Theology. I am very excited for this year because I am doing my final vows program as I continue this journey of my vocation and saying yes to God in this congregation.

After my experience in Brazil, where I was able to participate in many ministries and activities, I can say that I understand the importance and the value of getting out of the sacristy and being among those who need us the most. In addition, I have experienced the missionary character of our congregation and the international perspective of our mission. I feel blessed to be part of this great congregation, of this family. I feel blessed because I have been called to become a prophet of love and a servant of reconciliation.

### **Paul Phong Hoang novice**

My name is Phong Hoang, but I go by Paul in the community. I am 24



Frater Juacho

years old and was born in Hà Tiên, Kiên Giang, Vietnam. My family immigrated to the United States in 2007 and settled in Houston, Texas. I graduated from the University of Houston in 2015 with a B.S. in Biology. I am in my second year of formation and currently in the Novitiate until August, 2018.

My uncle recommended that I reach out to the Priests of the Sacred Heart during my initial discernment. At the Come and See weekends I was attracted to the SCJs' simplicity, diversity, and community life.

In spring 2016, I was involved with the ESL program at the Vietnamese Association in Uptown, Chicago. Last year, I was a member of the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement (TNTT) and also helped with the Vietnamese language program for children at Queenship of Mary parish in Joliet. Last summer, I was very fortunate to work for Sacred Heart Southern Missions (SHSM) in Mississippi as part of my summer ministry. The experience helped strengthen my vocation with the SCJs.

In my spare time, I enjoy playing soccer, billiards, exercising, and watching GOT.



Paul

The SCJ NEWS is published by the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJs). Articles, photos and suggestions are always welcome. Editorial offices are located at P.O. Box 289, Hales Corners, WI 53130-0289 (414) 427-4266. Email: [comdir@scjcommunications.org](mailto:comdir@scjcommunications.org) Mary Gorski, editor. Postage prepaid.



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## Hubert Senam Kodjovi Liassidji candidate

I'm 36 and originally from Togo in West Africa. I studied at the University of Lome where I got my degree in Chemistry. I have been living in the United States since November 10, 2010. Here in the States I studied at Kirkwood Community College in Iowa where I was in the Chemical Engineering program.

I have been a candidate with the Priests of the Sacred Heart since January 3, 2017. I am studying Philosophy and Religious Studies at Saint Xavier University in Chicago.

On August 28, 2017, I became an American citizen, surrounded by members of the SCJ community.



Hubert

## Henry Nguyen novice

I'm Henry Nguyen and I am in my third year of formation with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. I was born and raised in Orange County, Calif. For the past two years, I was living at the Dehon Formation House in Chicago and studying at Saint Xavier University (Philosophy and Religious Studies) and Catholic Theological Union (Graduate level Theology).

However, this year is different as I am now a novice and am far away from formal academics for the next year while living at the Sacred Heart Novitiate in Raymond, Wis. I hope to discern whether or not I am called to be a religious, a missionary, "a prophet of love and a servant of reconciliation."

In order to help me discern that, I



Henry

must recall why I joined the SCJ formation community in the first place. It was because of the joy, laughter, and hospitality that I found there. Time after time, I see the joy, laughter, and hospitality of the SCJs, from Wisconsin to Texas, to Mississippi, and even to Toronto, Canada.

I have a desire to serve others and I was able to do just that at my latest summer ministry, being a part of the ESL residential staff at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. We had over 40 students from all over the world, which included SCJ seminarians and priests, as well as other religious, seminarians, and priests from different religious orders and dioceses. I also got to learn what an impact the SCJ presence has on other communities outside of the United States.

I have been involved in parish ministries for many years. The last ministry I served in was with the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement (VEYM) at St. Henry's Parish and Queenship of Mary in the Chicago area as a Youth Leader and Youth Leader Trainer to assist youth and young adults with their journey of faith, helping them to grow closer to God.

This year, I hope to discover more of myself, discover God's natural beauty (beautiful Wisconsin), and to enjoy my time during the Novitiate.

Therefore, I have the desire to be Dehonian.

## Hung Pham candidate

Hello. My name is Hung Pham. I was born in Vietnam. I have been living in Houston since 2008. I graduated in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Houston in 2015.

Before entering candidacy I worked at



Hung

the ALS Company as a total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) analyst; I began there in 2015.

I was a member of Dong Hanh group in Houston, also known as the Christian Life Community group (CLC). I also taught Vietnamese and Bible studies at Martyr church in Houston since 2013.

I am excited about joining the SCJs and want to discover more about them. Now that I am living in Chicago as a new candidate I am attending Catholic Theological Union for Philosophy and Theology.

I like playing soccer, biking, gardening, and walking.

## Angel Romero candidate

My name is Angel Romero, I am originally from Chihuahua, Mexico. I am 33 years old and have studied and worked in law. I went to Estate University of Chihuahua, Mexico. Before entering candidacy I worked with the Latino community in the Bay Area of California. I am currently studying for an M.Div. at CTU.

I have served as a scripture reader in the Catholic Church since I was 12 years old. I have always loved being active. In my pilgrimage in the Catholic faith I have had great opportunities and experiences in my spiritual life, including people who told me about the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

What interests me in this religious community is the powerful charism of our founder, Fr. Leo John Dehon who wrote: "Preach therefore the love of God, presenting the Heart of Christ as the symbol and center of this divine reality. To the man torn by so many tribulations and so many questions, show him, in Christ crucified and risen, the supreme certainty of the



Angel

love of God. I am sure that on your part there will always be a renewed commitment of fidelity and vigilance to contribute at all times to the good of souls and to the edification of the Church.”

My studies at CTU have allowed me to know more about the wonderful world of philosophy and theology as well.

My hobbies are walking and listening to music.

## New novice master

New to the formation team this year is **Fr. Byron Haalad, SCJ**. As noted in the last *SCJ News*, Fr. Byron was installed in August as the province novice master.



Fr. Byron

This year Fr. Byron celebrates his 40th anniversary of ordination; ordination came several years after his conversion to Catholicism. He writes about it in his formation introduction:

“I became Roman Catholic in my senior year of high school. It was the mid-1960s and everything had to be radical. So, what could a good Norwegian Lutheran do to be radical? I became a Catholic. A CATHOLIC! Conversion to such a belief left a lot of relatives and friends bewildered. I couldn’t become a hippy. Such a thing was just too unthinkable in my family – it was forbidden.

“I’m not sure which vocation came first. I think priesthood came first and the rest were just hurdles to be jumped along the way. The young priest who walked with me during those days was equally bewildered by what I was searching for in my youth. But he was faithful to giving me instruction along the way.

“I was so new to the faith that I didn’t know the difference between religious and secular priests. I was

told to wait three years by the bishop of San Diego. I was to stay in touch and attend vocation sessions at the seminary. However, one Sunday after Mass I found an SCJ vocation flyer in the back of church. It was sort of like an Uncle Sam poster: “The Sacred Heart Wants You!” I had no idea what it was about but I filled it out and sent it to Trinity College in Redlands, Calif. A week later I got an invitation to come and visit. I went along with the young priest from my parish.

“My interview took 20 minutes but the priest and Fr. Dick Johnston visited for an hour or so. I entered formation that August. I still had to wait three years but at least I was a candidate and my vocation was on its way.

“There’s not much difference between conversion and formation. Both are serious and ongoing. Both turn your heart to God and both involve struggle and determination.

“There has been a lot of water under the bridge in the past 47 years. My vocation has been marked by construction, demolition and rebuilding. Fires and floods have also marked my way. It all adds up to literally building the Kingdom.

“Earlier this year I was living with construction again at the novitiate. Waiting for completion can be a chore. Living under construction is a lot like formation. I watch. I wait. I get impatient. I get excited and I dream. I imagine how things will be when it’s finished.

“It’s never what I expect but I’m always pleased. And it’s a lot of hard work. There is seldom a dull moment. I wake up filled with energy to begin a new day. Like formation I simply welcome the Spirit trying to respond to the love of God while seeking to be united with God and community. And somehow all of this brings about God’s reign. In the end though it doesn’t really matter. What is most important is that I show up and participate in God’s work of redemption.”



## Learn more!

Read more about our formation community in the **vocation section** of the province website at:

[www.sacredheartusa.org](http://www.sacredheartusa.org)

Among those featured on the website are our international SCJ students: Louis Mariano Fernandes, SCJ, from India, who is studying for a Master’s in Psychology for Pastoral Counseling and Fr. Joseph Mukuna, SCJ, of Congo, who is doing doctoral studies in Scripture. Also included are autobiographies from the rest of our formation team: Fr. David Szatkowski, SCJ, Fr. Andrzej Sudol, SCJ and Fr. Bob Tucker, SCJ. Fr. Bob Bossie, a retired SCJ in residence, also introduces himself.

## Are you called?

Dehonians (**Priests of the Sacred Heart**) are priests and brothers called to live, pray and minister together. Do you feel called to a life of community, prayer and service? Contact our vocation director to explore your call to religious life.

Call 800-609-5559 or email: [vocationcentral@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:vocationcentral@wi.twcbc.com)



Mary Balistreri meets with Fr. Bill Pitcavage

## A passion for wellness

**J**ust over a year ago, Mary Balistreri began working at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake serving as a health care resource to the SCJ community. She did so as an employee of St. Camillus Supportive Home Services. A registered nurse, Mary has an extensive background in gerontology, health care assessment and in-place health care assistance.

Her responsibilities at SHML were initially part-time; Mary's primary job was to manage St. Camillus' private duty component, overseeing the work of approximately 75 in-home caregivers, including healthcare aids and private duty nurses.

But quickly her time at SHML expanded from being present two days a week with the SCJ community to five days split between the lay residents and the religious.

Although there was some overlap, with the lay residents her role was primarily advisory. "A wellness nurse," she said. Instead of hands-on

nursing, Mary answered basic health-care questions and helped residents find and utilize community resources for things such as in-home therapy and transportation. She answered questions about medications and helped residents determine when they needed to see their doctor.

With the SCJ community, much of her focus was on aging in-place; "determining what is needed to allow a person to be comfortable at home," she said. With her help, the community brought one of its members back home after an extended period in nursing care. "I provided support that helped make that transition possible; making sure that we had right staff and training in place to manage his medical needs."

A few months later, Fr. Charles Yost, SCJ, who had been struggling with significant health issues, made the decision to go into hospice care. With the help of Mary Balistreri, he received that care at home, where

members of the community could be with him and support him in his final days.

It was the first time that a member of the community received hospice care at home.

"Journeying with people at the end of life is unlike any journey you will ever have," said Mary. "It is an intimate journey, and each is unique. It is serious, but it can also be filled with humor. It can be a journey of great joy; people realize that they are going home. It is a gift and a privilege to be with someone during this journey."

Her responsibilities at SHML continued to increase and so she gave up her management duties with St. Camillus. Her primary focus would be at SHML, along with a few field projects from her St. Camillus supervisor.

At about this time Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, provincial superior, attended a conference where he learned about the Jesuits' approach to healthcare. The order's Midwest Province has a healthcare director — Jane Glynn-Nass — to assist members of all ages, not just the retired. She meets with members regularly to answer questions and help each person assess his individual healthcare needs. For some, it is a matter of reminding the person of routine medical exams and tests. For others, it could involve education on management of a newly diagnosed condition, such as diabetes or high blood pressure, or adaptations needed to work with a body that might not be as mobile as it once was.

Fr. Ed asked Mary if she was aware of the program. Not only did she know of it, she also knew Jane. They had worked together at St. Camillus for many years; the Jesuits partner with St. Camillus for the healthcare needs of their elderly members. And before Fr. Ed spoke of

the Jesuits' healthcare program, Mary had already been thinking that the SCJs could benefit from something similar.

Fr. Ed asked Mary if St. Camillus might be open to having her travel throughout the province to meet with SCJs individually to help them assess their healthcare needs, much as Jane Glynn-Nass does with members of the Jesuits' Midwest Province. Camillus was open to the option, but then Fr. Ed proposed that instead of working for St. Camillus, Mary would work fulltime as healthcare director for the US Province. He asked her to develop a proposal and speak to the council. Drawing on several resources she created a job description of what she envisioned the role to look like. The council discussed the proposal with her in July; she was offered the job soon after and became the province healthcare director in early August.

"Things have moved fast, but I feel that everything that has happened has been for a reason," she said. "I have a very strong faith. I believe that I have been called into different things in my life for a reason. Many people asked why I stayed at St. Camillus for so many years. I can only say that it was where I felt that should have been, where I was called to be. And now, that call is different. This is what I am supposed to be doing right now; this is how I am called to serve at this time."

So far, much of her work continues to be at SHML. She, other members of the SHML staff and communi-

ty members share in assisting senior SCJs, being with them at medical appointments and ensuring that they have the help they need to continue to live comfortably at home in community. She is often an advocate when an SCJ is in the hospital, and like a family member, assists in the transition process when he returns home. A surrogate daughter-in-law.

"One of the toughest things for any of us to lose is independence," said Mary. "I respect the independence of the members and know that

for some, acknowledging and allowing for assistance is very difficult. But when they realize that they need help I let them know that I am here for them."

Mary describes herself as a "cheerleader for aging in place." After reviewing the results of a survey done by the Province Senior Life Commission she believes that most members of the province resonate with this. "Most of us want to be at home."

In the months ahead she will be working with province leadership to develop her role beyond SHML. Fr. Ed will speak about it during the upcoming visitations.

"Preventative medicine, staying active, making sure that baseline check-ups are done as needed, ensuring that each of the members has established a relationship with a doctor, has filled out and/or updated necessary documents, these are some of the things that I expect to focus on in the months ahead," she said. "I look forward to meeting more members of the community and am grateful to be a resource to them."

**"I feel that everything that has happened has been for a reason. I have a very strong faith... This is what I am supposed to be doing right now; this is how I am called to serve at this time."**

*-Mary Balistreri*



## Migration continues to be priority in North America

Twice a year representatives of the administrations of the US Province and Canadian Region meet to discuss common concerns, areas of collaboration, and update each other on the people and ministries of each entity. The autumn meeting took place October 16-17 in Montréal.

A continuing priority for SCJs in North America is migration. The councils affirmed the work of the North American Migration Commission, noting the presentations that the commission facilitated at both the US and Canadian Assemblies. Members of the Ottawa community spoke about their past year with a Syrian family sponsored by the community. In the Canadian Region SCJs have made a commitment to sponsor refugees.

"It is important that this work [addressing migration and immigration] isn't just a task that we give to a committee," said a councilor. "Migration is a priority issue for Dehonians in



Fr. Richard Woodbury and Fr. Quang Nguyen during the NORAM meeting in Montréal.

North America. It should be a part of our ministry, the focus of our pastoral work. How do we, as entities in North America and in local communities concretely address this issue?"

Seeking ways to have a Dehonian response to migration and immigration concerns will continue to be a priority for SCJs in North America.

### Happy anniversary!

On September 21, the Sacred Heart Community at SHML honored Fr. Paul Casper, SCJ (60 years), Fr. Ed Griesemer, SCJ (60 years) and Fr. Johnny Klingler, SCJ (50 years) for their anniversaries of priesthood ordination.

Originally from St. Paul, MN, Fr. Paul, 87, was professed in 1949. During his years of ministry he served in a variety of locations including South Dakota, Mississippi and Wisconsin. He was a teacher, a parish minister, and among his ministries in the Milwaukee area, he served as a chaplain to incarcerated youth.

Raised just a dozen miles from Sacred Heart Monastery, Fr. Ed, 87, was born in West Allis, WI. As did Fr. Paul, Fr. Ed studied at Sacred Heart Monastery and was ordained with him in 1957. Similar to his classmate, he also spent time ministering in South Dakota. For many years Fr. Ed



Fr. Ed Griesemer receives congratulations at the jubilee celebration at SHML.

was active in Hispanic ministry; among the places he served: Texas and Wisconsin. He continues to study Spanish and hopes to one day return to Mexico.

Fr. Johnny, 82, is from Paterson, NJ, and was professed in 1963. He has served in formation and parish ministry, but also for many years in administration, first as province director of Justice and Peace. In 1977 Fr. Johnny was named provincial superior of the US Province and served two terms; in 1985 he was elected to a six-year term on the General Council. Fr. Johnny was also active in social justice issues; this year, an award was created in his name to honor his work in social justice.

A photo album from the celebration is posted at:

[www.scjusa.smugmug.com](http://www.scjusa.smugmug.com)

### Transform the world with the gospel message

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology began the 2017-18 school year with a significant new program in its course offerings: "Cor Unum." Using a cohort model of education, where students work together as an educational community, participants will earn a Master of Arts degree through a hybrid instructional model consisting of classroom and online components. One of the program's primary goals is to help students learn to respond to God's call to transform a fractured world through the gospel's message of healing, justice, and mercy.

Students take six credits a semester, completing their MA in 22 months; the inaugural cohort class quickly filled to its capacity of 14.

"I had been a federal prosecutor for almost 30 years," said Bill, a member of the first class. "Now I want to do something in reentry or prison ministry. How can I heal a fractured world? That is where my spiritual journey is taking me. It is the path that I have been on all these years, seeing where that hurt and woundedness is of the world, particularly in the prisons, and then doing something about it. This [Cor Unum] will give me the theological background to make that dream actionable."

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