A Guided Reading of the Social Works of Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ

Compiled by David F. Schimmel

*Note*: There are two page numbers for every entry of the English translation of the *Social Works*, Volumes I, II, and III. The first page number refers to the print edition; the second, **bolded** page number in brackets, refers to the digital edition. There is no print edition of the *Social Works*, Volume IV. Thus, the single **bolded** page number in brackets refers to the digital edition.

**Unit 1: Preliminaries**

“Biographical Sketch,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p (3) [10]


**Unit 2: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart**


“Social Homage and Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,”

*Social Works*, Volume I, p 9 [42]


*Note*: On p 27 [55], there is a reference to “The Song of the Shirt.” A portion of the text of this song is given in this volume on p 83-84 [99-100].


**Unit 3: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart**


“Social Duties of Employers Devoted to the Sacred Heart,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 88 [103]

“Religious Liberty, Yes; But Economic Liberation Also,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 303 [265]

*Note*: For a parallel though as that expressed on p 305 [266] in the second last paragraph of the article, see “The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response,” NCCB: 1983, #355.


Note: Read the following meditations, in Units 4-6, in light of Dehon’s work and writing, which promoted the social reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and which were the “principal actions of his day,” most intensely from 1888-1903.

Unit 4: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart

*The Life of Love toward the Sacred Heart of Jesus* is a collection of meditations that Fr. Dehon first wrote serially for his magazine, “The Reign of the Sacred Heart in Souls and In Societies” from July 1897 until June 1901. During this time, the bishop of Soissons and some diocesan priests criticized Dehon for his work, and this led to his resignation as rector of St. John’s Institute. It was also at this time that Dehon grew frustrated with the lethargy of the clergy to get involved in social issues.

Third Meditation, “The Desire of Our Lord: I Have Come to Cast Fire on the Earth,” p 15
Twenty-Third Meditation, “The Oblation of Oneself to the Heart of Our Lord Out of Love for Him,” p 157
Twenty-Fourth Meditation, “The Life of Oblation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,” p 165
Twenty-Sixth Meditation, “The Practice of the Love of Our Lord in Our Daily Actions,” p 179
Thirty-Third Meditation, “Perseverance in Love,” p 223

Unit 5: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart

*Note: Crowns of Love for the Sacred Heart* [English title is The Love of the Sacred Heart] is a three-volume collection of meditations first published in 1905. In the immediately preceding years, the French government was expelling the Priests of the Sacred Heart from France and was about to liquidate the Congregation’s houses and goods. In Rome, the difficulties connected with obtaining papal approval seemed insurmountable.


*Note: In the “Resolution” of this meditation, Dehon admits that he is “stripped of everything.” Read this meditation on the Sacred Heart in light of Dehon’s “temporal evils” precipitated by the French government.*

Volume II, “Insults to the Sacred Heart Continued in the Church,” p 32
Volume II, “Insults Will Be Borne Easily If We Love the Sacred Heart,” p 43
Volume III, “What the Life of a Friend of the Sacred Heart Should Be on Earth and What It Will Be in Heaven,” p 122
Unit 6: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart

*The Priestly Heart of Jesus* is a book of meditations first published in 1907, two years after publishing *Crows of Love for the Sacred Heart*. In between publications, Dehon had been in Rome several times working towards the approbation of the Congregation and working for the Index. He had also travelled to South America, Finland, and Russia.

Tenth Meditation, “The Priestly Heart of Jesus and Preaching,” p 73
Twelfth Meditation, “The Priestly Heart of Jesus and Sinners: The Parables,” p 85
Thirteenth Meditation, “The Priestly Heart of Jesus and Sinners: Jesus at Work,” p 91
Fourteenth Meditation, “The Priestly Heart of Jesus and the Suffering,” p 97
Twenty-Sixth Meditation, “The Priestly Heart of Jesus and the Duties of Social Life and Popular Action,” p 171

Unit 7: The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart


*SCJ Rule of Life* [2011]

4 “restoring His Reign in individuals and in society.”
10-15 “Witnesses to the primacy of the Kingdom”
29 “...purified and transfigured...to arrive at the fullness of the Kingdom.”
32 “...establishing the reign of justice and Christian charity in the world.”
37 “We share these aspirations of our contemporaries...with the coming of the Kingdom.”
38 “...that it is the Kingdom of God and His justice which should be sought...”
60 “...our profession of the evangelical counsels...announces the coming Reign of God.”

Unit 8: The Social and Political Leadership of the Church

“The Social Question,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 6 [40]
“The Bark of Peter,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 474 [394]
**Unit 9: The Social and Political Leadership of the Church: Pope Leo XIII**

Concerning the encyclical, “The Condition of Labor” [*Rerum Novarum*], May 15, 1891:


“Teachings from Rome, the Proletariat,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 404 [343]

“Ten Years after the Encyclical,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 524 [432]

Concerning the encyclical, “Church-State Relations in France” [*Inter Innumeras Sollicitudines*], February 16, 1892:


Concerning the encyclical, “Christian Democracy” [*Graves De Communi*], January 18, 1901:


“Yellows and Reds,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 482 [400]


Concerning Democratic Associations:


“Youth Divisions,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 548 [452]

Concerning France:


Eulogy:


**Unit 10: The Social and Political Leadership of the Church: Pope Leo XIII**


*Note: In his Preface, Dehon explains this work as “a synthesis of Leo XIII’s teachings.”*


**Unit 11: The Social and Political Leadership of the Church**

Concerning Pope Pius X:


*Note: But recall what happens two months later as described in the “Introduction,” Social Works, Volume I, p (36, paragraph 4) [35, paragraph 3].*


Concerning Pope Benedict XV:


**Unit 12: Social Issues**


**Unit 13: Social Issues**


**Unit 14: Socialism and Capitalism**


“Capitalism in Modern Societies, the Danger and the Solution,” *Social Works*, Volume I, 220 [194]


“Lessons to be Learned from Recent Events,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 344 [297]
Unit 15: Democracy
“Will We Understand?” Social Works, Volume I, p 341 [295]

Unit 16: Social Action
“Monograph: A Union and Allied in a Rural Parish,” Social Works, Volume I, p 166 [162]
“And Us?” Social Works, Volume I, p 381 [326]
“Whatsoever Are We Doing?” Social Works, Volume I, p 412 [349]

Unit 17: Social Action
“Notes from Spain,” Social Works, Volume I, p 421 [355]
“Let Us Throw Our Support to the Barbarians,” Social Works, Volume I, p 427 [359]
Unit 18: Social Action

“As in Belgium,” Social Works, Volume I, p 576 [471]
“Ozanam,” Social Works, Volume I, p 608 [495]
“A Form of Christian Corporation in Brazil,” Social Works, Volume I, p 620 [504]

Unit 19: Social Action and the Clergy

“Assembly on Social Studies for the Clergy,” Social Works, Volume I, p 177 [171]
“On the Preparation of the Clergy for Catholic Social Action,” Social Works, Volume I, p 485 [402] Note: This is a translation of the writing of Canon Pellegrini-Fini.
“Social Action by the Clergy in Rome,” Social Works, Volume I, p 495 [409]
“Social Action by the Clergy,” Social Works, Volume I, p 505 [417]

Unit 20: Ecclesiastical Social Congresses

“An Ecclesiastical Social Congress at St. Quentin,” Social Works, Volume I, p 207 [194] [see article in Dehoniana 1981/2, pages 85-98]
Christian Democracy, Ecclesiastical Meeting on Social Studies, held in St. Quentin, 1895:
“Modern Usury,” [St. Quentin 1895], Social Works, Volume I, p 188 [180]
“Some Thoughts on Usury,” [St. Quentin 1895], Social Works, Volume I, p 204 [192]
Ignem Veni Mettere in Terram, Ecclesiastical Congress, held in Reims, 1896:
“Closing Address at the National Catholic Congress, Social Works, Volume IV, p [380]
Ecclesiastical Congress, held in Bourges, 1900:
“Duc in Altum,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [368]
“After the Bourges Congress,” Social Works, Volume I, p 446 [374]
**Unit 21: Other Social Congresses**


*National Congress of Christian Democracy*, held in Lyons, 1896:


“After the Congress, Philosophical Meditation,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 332 [287]

*Third Congress of the Third Order of St. Francis*, 1896:


*Fourth Congress of the Third Order of St. Francis*, held in Nimes, 1897:


*Fifth Congress of the Order of St. Francis*, held in Toulouse, 1899:


*International Congress of the Third Order of St. Francis*, held in Rome, 1900:


**Unit 22: Social Action Among Youth**


“To the Young People,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 359 [307]


“Young Guards,” *Social Works*, Volume I, p 582 [476]
Unit 23: Assemblies of the Catholic Workers’ Programs
“Diocesan Assemblies, Their Utility and Mode of Organization, 1875,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [147]
“Report from St. Quentin at the Paris Assembly, 1876,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [152]
“The Utility of Social Studies, 1893,” Social Works, Volume IV, p [175]

Unit 24: Christian Social Manual [see article in Dehoniana 1980/4, pages 190-202]

Unit 25: Social Catechism

Unit 26: Finance
Wealth: Moderate Means or Poverty, Social Works, Volume III, p 155 [115]
Usury Today, Social Works, Volume II, p 281 [222]

Unit 27: Jews and Freemasons
“Romans!” Social Works, Volume I, p 615 [500]
The Scheme of Freemasonry, Social Works, Volume III, p 357 [255]