



Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

March 14, 2022

Dear Brothers,

On the 179th birthday of Fr. Leo John Dehon, we reflect on what is transpiring in the world today, especially in Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, and Ethiopia. We are troubled as we watch with horrors the destructions being inflicted on innocent people. Again and again, Pope Francis has appealed to those in power for peace: “War is madness;” “Let the guns be silenced;” “Put down your weapons;” “God is with those who work for peace, not with those who use violence.”

We, Dehonians and servants of reconciliation, affirm and share the Holy Father’s call for peace through prayer and fasting. We support Pope Francis’s call to open humanitarian corridors. We work closely with our donors to respond to the paramount humanitarian needs of the Ukrainians through the SCJ Polish Province. We will monitor the situation and respond accordingly.

Fr. Dehon himself witnessed the horrors of the First World War: young SCJ seminarians and religious got drafted to war; schools became field hospitals; cannons rumbled the city; provisions became scarce and expensive. He said the following about war:

War bears a great resemblance to hell. It is a daily outburst of anger, hatred, and rage. They want to see their enemies killed or wounded, their cities and towns laid waste by war. They do not have enough terms to describe their enemies. They are barbarians, wild beasts, monsters. They commit all kinds of savagery. They express the most hateful sentiments... The hospitals are filled with the wounded and the sick, who are suffering and moaning and crying out like the damned. [War] gives us an idea of hell.

On the birthday of Fr. Leo John Dehon, we pray for an end to war. We call on the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of leaders and lead them to the path of peace and reconciliation. And through the intercession of Fr. Leo John Dehon, may all the people in troubled parts of the world—Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia and many other places which escape our news cycles—rise like a phoenix from the ashes.

Yours in the Sacred Heart,

Provincial Offices, United States Province | Mailing address: P.O. Box 289, Hales Corners, WI 53130-0289

Street: 7373 S. Lovers Lane Rd, Franklin, WI 53132 | P: 414-425-6910 | F: 414-425-2938 | www.dehoniansusa.org