



Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

Feast of the Sacred Heart
June 24, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are intricately connected to one another and the earth. No person is an island, as the saying goes. From the moments of birth to death, we depend on each other and the Earth to thrive. And as people of faith, we are called to be a positive influence in the lives of others. Jesus asked us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Mt 5:13-16). Moreover, the teachings of Pope Francis in the encyclical *Laudato Si'* also urge us to care for all people and our common home. Our Christian vision of care should be rooted and grounded in love.

For Fr. Leo John Dehon, the founder of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, his mother was instrumental in his spiritual life. She instilled in him a deep love and devotion to the Sacred Heart. He was attracted to the Sacred Heart because he saw it as a symbol of God's inexhaustible, sacrificial love for us. Throughout his religious and ministerial life, Fr. Dehon strived to respond to God's love through his social engagement, nurtured and transformed by the Eucharist. He encouraged his spiritual sons, the Priests of the Sacred Heart, to do the same. He wrote, "In imitation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus we must take part in the sufferings of our brothers and sisters. And as we are 'one heart and one soul in the Heart of Jesus,' we too ought to be in some small way the heart of all our brothers and sisters." He added this spiritual statement: "I leave you the most wonderful treasures: the Heart of Jesus."

If you are reading this message, you are connected with the Priests of the Sacred Heart through your collaboration and support. We, the Priests of the Sacred Heart, are grateful for your participation in our mission of spreading the devotion and love of the Sacred Heart in souls and societies and of responding to God's infinite love by being attentive – with open hearts – to the pain and sorrow of others. As we celebrate this patronal feast, we are reminded that our love for God in the Sacred Heart unites us with Jesus and one another and enables us to return love with love.

Happy Feast of the Sacred Heart!

Fr. Vien V. Nguyen, SCJ
Provincial Superior