



August 23, 2022

Brothers,

August is a transitional month in our seasonal calendar. For teachers and students, August is when they excitedly or nervously get ready for the new school year. Teachers prepare to welcome students back, and students await what lies ahead—new school, new teachers, new classmates, new friends, new classes. One can imagine the excitement and apprehension, orientation and disorientation in the hallways and classrooms at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, Saint Joseph's Indian School, Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Holy Family School, and Sacred Heart School.

Our SCJ students have already returned to the formation community after spending some summer months completing the CPE program, finalizing the pastoral year, and ministering in various ministries in the province. This year we have nine students in formation; seven of them are in temporary vows. Two are still pursuing their undergraduate studies. Fra. Paul Phong Hoang will begin his final vows preparation with Fr. John Czyzynski as his director. Moreover, Dcn. Henry Nguyen will request ordination to the priesthood, tentatively scheduled for December 17, 2022, in Orange County, California. We are grateful to the vocation team (Fr. Quang Nguyen and Fr. Chuck Wonch) for recruiting them and the formation team (Fr. Joseph-Thien Dinh and Fr. Duy Nguyen) for accompanying them. We are indebted to many people involved in the formation of our SCJ students: their spiritual directors, teachers, mentors, and pastoral supervisors.

As our students prepare for the new school year, I think of Fr. Dehon's great passions and preoccupation with educating youth. When he was a parochial vicar in St. Quentin, he accepted his bishop's invitation to establish a Catholic high school. He believed that Catholic education would help students—future leaders—to be solidly grounded in Christian principles and to live out the church's cause for justice and morality (McGuire, "Fr Dehon: The Educator," 7). Reflecting on the goal of Christian education, Fr. Dehon wrote:

Educating a Christian does not mean only giving him the ideas of human science that may be useful to him in gaining a position in life; it also and above all means forming in the pupil a noble and great character, honest behavior, and solid virtues. It means cultivating in his soul the faith that

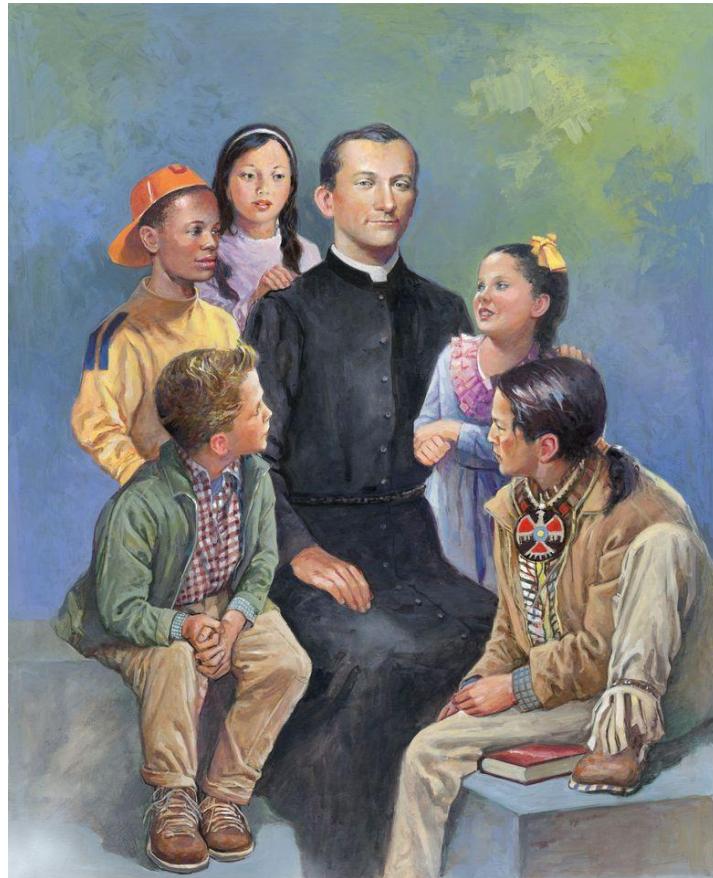
will open doors to the understanding of the invisible world, the hope that fortifies the heart with the prospect of the happiness we long for, and the love that makes God perceivable [even] in the cold shadows of life (cf. McGuire, “Fr. Dehon: The Educator,” 12).

For Fr. Dehon, the goal of Christian education is to provide students the foundation to make moral choices in life, develop their talents to full potential, and “bring out the goodness in themselves and others” (McGuire, “Fr. Dehon: The Educator,” 28).

We thank God for our educators and students and wish them all the best. May this new academic year give them new energies, new hopes, new possibilities, and new memories. May we keep them in our prayers.

In solidarity,

V. Lee



*Photo taken from Holy Family School's
Facebook account.*