



# SCJ News

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



## “Welcome brothers!”

On August 15, Jonathan Nguyen-Vuong, Jacob Smith and Michael Wodarczyk professed their first vows and become members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart

**E**xactly 25 years after he made his own profession, Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ, accepted the first vows of Joseph Vuong-Nguyen, Jacob Smith and Michael Wodarczyk. “This is a special moment for me as a new provincial superior, but also on the anniversary of my own profession,” said Fr. Vien. “Twenty-five years ago I was in your shoes. And now I welcome you into the Priests of the Sacred Heart. **Welcome brothers!**”

### *Meet our new SCJs*

#### **Frater Jonathan Nguyen-Vuong, SCJ**

Born in Riverside, CA, and raised in Broussard, LA, at 21, Fra. Jonathan becomes the youngest member of the US Province. Before entering the novitiate last year, Fra. Jonathan was a student at Cardinal Stritch University in

suburban Milwaukee.

“I learned about the SCJs through Fr. Quang Nguyen, SCJ, vocation director, who came all the way from Milwaukee, WI, to celebrate Mass with the Vietnamese community in my hometown parish called St. Jules Catholic Church in Lafayette, LA. Fr. Quang is good friends with the pastor of the Vietnamese community there. I had never heard of religious congregations until Fr. Quang told me about the SCJs...”

“The SCJ hospitality, charisma, and community life in the spirit of Fr. Dehon, and the devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus attracted me to the Priests of the Sacred Heart.”

When asked what his favorite part of the novitiate year was, Fra. Jonathan simply said “EVERYTHING!”

“I loved the community life with the other two novices and the two novice directors, the 13-acres of plants and trees, the house and the location of where it



Michael receives the SCJ Rule of Life from Fr. Vien; Jonathan and Michael look on.

resides in Franksville, WI, the beautiful chapel, the bonfire pit, the labyrinth and walking pathways, Amy our chef, Jarle the novitiate dog, the garden, and the chickens and other animals that wander by the novitiate house every day.

“Most important was the fun, happiness, and humor that was a part of the novitiate year.”

Fra. Jonathan looks forward to his future with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. “We SCJs are able to spread the love from our hearts to the people we see in the world and make an impact on their lives each day so that they can continue the cycle of passing love to others too, love without judgment, bias, harassment, harm, violence, injustice or prejudice, but instead with peace, care, kindness, generosity, joy, happiness, equality, justice, unity, and friendship.”

He returns to his studies at Cardinal Stritch this fall.

### Frater Jacob Smith, SCJ

Originally from Houston, Fra. Jacob, 22, is a convert to Catholicism. He felt called to both the Catholic

faith and to a priestly vocation. Soon that call led to the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

Fra. Jacob said that he “was attracted to the SCJ community initially because of the many opportunities to work overseas, as well as the vibrant ECS community I met during my Come and See vocation weekend. [“ECS” is the English and Cultural Studies program at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.] This attraction has deepened as a result of the many Dehonians I’ve met who have had significant positive impacts on my life and who have shown me what the Sacred Heart looks like and can look like in how I live my life. I want to make that joy my own.”

He credits SCJs such as Fr. Bob Tucker, Fr. John Czyzynski and Fr. Ed Killianski as being significant influences not only on his vocation, but on his life.

The meetings with the Intercommunity Novitiate Program were among Fra. Jacob’s favorite part of the novitiate year. “It was so refreshing to meet other novices my age and to discuss with them the important commitments we were all working toward,” he said. “It’s good to be able to have

camaraderie and a larger support network and I think ICN not only gave us that, but also taught us instrumental lessons for future ministry through its lectures and retreats.”

One of the most challenging parts of the year for Fra. Jacob was being so far from family. During the novitiate year Jacob’s mother was diagnosed with breast cancer that has since metastasized. “I often wish I could be there with her,” said Fra. Jacob, “but I know she’s proud of what I’m doing.” Jacob’s mother was able to be present for the Professions.

### Frater Michael Wodarczyk, SCJ

Fra. Michael, 34, grew up just a few miles from Sacred Heart Monastery, in Brookfield, WI (suburban Milwaukee). Before entering the SCJ formation program he earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a major in accounting. Michael worked for Asenzya in Oak Creek, WI, as an inventory control clerk and was active in his home parish, serving as a lector and as a Eucharistic minister, as well as with RCIA.

“I came to know about the Priests of the Sacred Heart when I did preliminary research on religious orders in Milwaukee,” said Fra. Michael. “I found the SCJs on a website for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. I was drawn to the community because of its members’ daily Eucharistic Adoration and parish ministry.”

What drew him to the community is what continues to fuel his vocation.

“I want to profess vows with the SCJs because of community life, daily Eucharistic Adoration and prayer,” said Michael. “I have grown in my faith, and it is the structure of religious life that has made that growth possible.”

His favorite parts of novitiate included community moments in prayer and meals. As did Jacob, he also enjoyed the Intercommunity Novitiate Program.

## After years of health struggles, Fr. Ed Kilianski, former provincial superior, dies

**O**n June 26, Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, former provincial superior of the US Province, died during a visit to California. He was 67.

A native of Buffalo, NY, Fr. Ed was elected to his first term as provincial superior in 2015. He professed vows in 1975 and was ordained in 1983.

Fr. Ed said that he felt called to the priesthood for as long as he could remember. There is an often-told story of him as a child when he let his parents know that not only did he want to be a priest, but perhaps he was pope material as well.

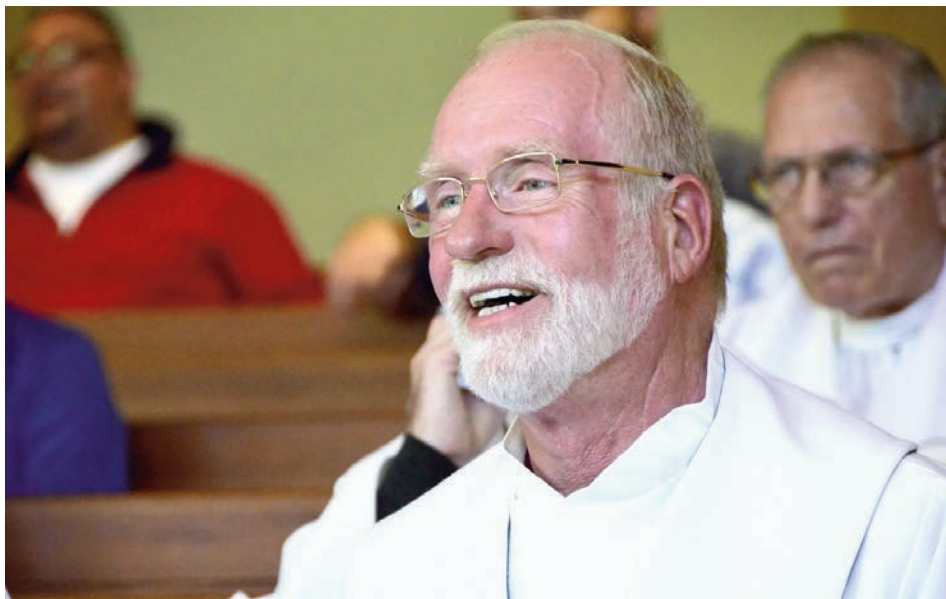
"When I was seven years old Pope John XXIII died and on the radio they said that he wanted to be a priest when he was 11 years old," said Fr. Ed. "I said to my mom and dad that, 'I'm only seven and I want to be a priest, does that mean that someday I'll be the pope?'"

"They laughed as everyone does when I tell the story but somehow I knew that one day I would be a priest."

Fr. Ed went to the SCJs' Immaculate Heart of Mary High School Seminary in Lenox, MA, and then entered the US Province formation program in Chicago. He studied at Northeastern Illinois University and earned a degree in Psychology with a minor in Philosophy.

Midway through his undergraduate studies he entered the novitiate in Victorville, CA.

After completing his bachelor's degree, he went back to where he started – Immaculate Heart of Mary – to teach, coach basketball and soccer, and serve as assistant dean of



“Often, we face challenges in ministry, in community or in our personal lives. We must thank God for the blessings God has given us. We also must be grateful for the journey God has taken us on during our lives. We must even thank God for the opportunity to suffer. Each moment has led us closer to Jesus and our desire for intimacy with the Heart of Christ. Without gratitude, we will be stuck, unable to move toward the great things God has in store for us. Once we get to a place of thanksgiving we can live enthusiastically in the present and look forward to what is to come in this life and the next.”

-Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ

students. In 1979 he began his theology studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. In 1982 he earned his Master of Divinity.

On January 29, 1983, he was ordained to the priesthood at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary parish (now, St. Martin of Tours) in Franklin, WI.

His first assignment as a priest was at Sacred Hearts, but after six months he was asked to do vocation ministry.

"I drove the entire United States, meeting with and interviewing young men who were interested in the priesthood or religious life," he said. "I did this for seven-and-a-half years, becoming the director in 1985." Although many of the men he met did not pursue a vocation with the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Ed said that he

always felt as though he was doing an important service for the Church. "As an SCJ, I helped others discern their own vocation – wherever it might be – and help them find the path that God was leading them on."

After vocations, Fr. Ed had a number of ministry assignments. In 1996 he

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Priests of the Sacred Heart

moved to northern California, where he served as parochial vicar at St. Philip of Jesus in Occidental and St. Teresa of Avila in Bodega. It was in Bodega that he first felt called to Hispanic ministry. He began yearly visits to Oaxaca, Mexico, to study Spanish.

In 2004 he moved to Houston and ministered at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish. After a six-month study sabbatical in Mexico, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston in 2008. He served as pastor until his election in 2015 as provincial superior.

"Leaving Our Lady of Guadalupe was very hard," said Fr. Ed. "I loved my years there. But I see provincial administration as a ministry of service. Now my call is with our province."

Fr. Ed succeeded Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, in a special election held following Fr. Steve's own election as a member of the General Council in Rome.

During his two terms as provincial superior, Fr. Ed suffered from a number of health complications; in recent years, spinal stenosis forced him to use a wheelchair. At the end of 2021 he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

At the start of the COVID "stay-at-home" guidelines, Fr. Ed said that he was "a little more prepared than most having lived for more than a year with 'stay-at-home' following surgeries on my feet and legs."

Reflecting on the pandemic, he continued: "It seems to me that in this global pandemic of COVID-19, God has mysteriously asked us for this sacrifice so that ultimately it may bring us closer to Him. And in our willingness to put it all on the line, this time will be partially spent being in need of others' help. We may grow weaker so that Christ can grow stronger..."

"I think, in trying to make sense out of this experience, I realize that it's all tied up with *Fiat* and *Ecce Venio*. This is my prayer for you: that you trust deeply in the mercy of our loving Father, just as Jesus did."

## 14 SCJs celebrate their jubilees as Priests of the Sacred Heart

**O**n August 16, the US Province commemorated the 70, 60, 50, 40 and 25-year anniversaries of First Professions of 14 SCJs. Many were in Hales Corners taking part in the Province Assembly. All were remembered and honored by the community for their years of dedication to religious life. What follows are just snippets from their full biographies (with photos). Read more at:

<https://dehoniansusa.info/Jubilee2022>

### Fr. Bernie Rosinski, SCJ (70 years)

Fr. Bernie was ordained in 1959, and except for a brief stint in vocations, most of his ministry has been academic or administrative. In 1990 he was named provincial secretary but stayed with the Provinciate for only a year before being asked to serve on the staff of the Generalate in Rome. He was there from 1992-1998, after which he returned to SHSST. In 2001 he was back to his old job as provincial secretary. He also served on the Provincial Council.

He retired in 2007, but it has been an active retirement. He is a member

of the South Dakota community, where he has assisted with pastoral ministry and held formation workshops for permanent deacons.

Fr. Bernie has degrees from the Gregorian University in Rome, Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

"I am happy to be an SCJ because I am surrounded by saints," said Fr. Bernie. "There are so many of them, both deceased and still living. I find that by being with them I discover their saintliness, often hidden, but discoverable through attentiveness and observation. It's not that my SCJ brothers don't have faults. It's that they seek to find them out, work on them, weed them out, and face any fault or weakness that prevents the LOVE and SERVICE to others that Fr. Dehon called for. That takes courage and guts. That SCJ tradition is bonding."

### Fr. Tom Cassidy, SCJ (60 years)

Fr. Tom's name is a familiar one to many. He has served as Provincial Superior of the US Province, as a two-term General Councilor in Rome, as President-Rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, as Superintendent of St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota, and as Principal of Divine Heart Seminary in Donaldson, IN. Retired, he has become a regular visitor to the missions in Asia.

"I can honestly say there are so many things I have done in life that I could not have ever dreamed were possible," wrote Fr. Tom. "The Priests of the Sacred Heart have been very good to me, and I am most grateful. In



Fr. Bernie



Dn. David, one of the 50-year jubilarians, and Frater Michael, before the start of Mass. Dn. David gave the homily; you can read it at: <https://dehoniansusa.info/NagelHomily>

turn, I hope, in some small way, I have contributed to the success of our Dehonian mission in the United States and beyond our borders.

“Things have not always been easy, but the good, exciting, and rewarding far outweigh those down moments we all experience. I would not trade my life or life experiences with anyone.”

Fr. Tom was ordained in 1962; he is 78.

### Fr. Mark Fortner, SCJ (60 years)

Fr. Mark, 82, professed vows as a member of the U.S. Province in 1962 but most of his priesthood was spent in Indonesia. He served there, primarily in parish ministry, from 1969 to 1999.

“I have a college friend, Will Baumker, to thank for showing me an SCJ vocation brochure, and then, for joining me as a seminarian at Dehon Seminary in Great Barrington, MA, when we were both 20 years old,” said Fr. Mark. “What interested me initially were four things: first, the idea of living as a priest in a religious community; secondly, the spirituality centered in the Heart of Christ; third, our founder, Fr. Leo John Dehon, someone passionately committed to social justice issues; and fourth, the possibility of becoming a foreign missionary. Now, I continue to feel the excitement of how the congregation continues to develop and expand around the world.”

After 30 years as a member of the Indonesian Province Fr. Mark returned to the United States permanently in 1999. He was involved in formation from 2000-2002, including a year as novice master. In 2003 he moved to Door County, Wis., where he put his degree in pastoral counseling.

Now retired, Fr. Mark is a member of the Sacred Heart Community in Franklin, WI.

### Fr. Pat Lloyd, SCJ (60 years)

Fr. Pat, 80, was ordained in 1969 at Sacred Heart Monastery.

As was the case for many newly ordained priests at the time, his first



Jubilarians stand at the front of the chapel as Fr. Vien Nguyen, provincial superior and a silver jubilarian, welcomes those gathered. Those present (L-R): Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Vien, Fr. David Szatkowski, Dn. David Nagel, Fr. Mark Fortner, Fr. Jim Schifano, Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Chuck Wonch.

assignment had him back where he started: at the seminary. From 1970-73 he was a teacher and vocation recruiter at Divine Heart in Donaldson, IN. He later served at St. Joseph's Indian School and in pastoral ministry at St. Mary parish in Lower Brule, SD, St. Matthew parish in Houston, and Christ the King parish in Southaven, MS.

Fr. Pat spent two years giving parish missions around the country and then moved to the Green Bay Diocese where he was pastor of Holy Rosary parish in New Holstein, WI. He returned to Christ the King in Southaven to once again serve as its pastor from 1999-2006. There, he saw the rapidly growing parish through the construction of a new church.

His last assignment was as pastor of a four-parish cluster in Door County. He is now retired and is a member of the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, FL.

### Fr. Steve Pujdak, SCJ (60 years)

Like other members of his profession class, Fr. Steve, 79, studied at Kilroe and Sacred Heart but later went on to the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, where he earned a Ph.D. and an STD in theology.

Originally from Brooklyn, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1969.

Fr. Steve's first full-time assignments were in academics, initial-

ly serving as a professor at SHSST (1975-77) and at Marquette University in Milwaukee (1977-82). In 1983 he moved into provincial administration as planning director and then as provincial secretary.

In 1988 he moved to the Rio Grande Valley, where he ministered at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Raymondville, TX. He is now a retired member of the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, though continues to serve as the local treasurer. Skilled in sign language, Fr. Steve has also done ministry with the deaf.

### Fr. Jim Brackin, SCJ (50 years)

Originally from Hankinson, ND, Fr. Jim is 76 and was ordained in 1975. Before entering religious life he served in the US Army, including a year in Vietnam (1967-68).

“My life with the Priests of the Sacred Heart has been a time of blessing filled with more surprises than I dare try to remember,” wrote Fr. Jim, reflecting on his anniversary. “I have lived as possible what others might say is impossible. I have been gifted with educational opportunities that few others experience. I have traveled to places that others have only seen in photographs. In walking my life's journey, I have tried to generously embrace the scripture – to whom much is given, much is expected.”

That motto led Fr. Jim to serve as

a prison chaplain, and later, to earn a degree in civil law from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. As a priest-lawyer, Fr. Jim worked with Cabrini-Green Legal Aid in Chicago and was a staff attorney for the Border Association for Refugees from Central America (BARCA). He also served the province as a formation director, as president-rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, as the Province Director of Senior Life and as local superior of the province's senior community in Hales Corners.

#### **Fr. Jack Kurps, SCJ (50 years)**

Originally from Chicago, IL, Fr. Jack, was ordained in 1977.

"It is hard to believe that this year marks 50 years since I first professed vows, 62 years since I first went to Donaldson [Divine Heart Seminary] at the age of 9," wrote Fr. Jack. "No, I was not some prodigy starting high school early. One of my brothers, Jim (Tom was his religious name), entered Divine Heart Seminary five years before me. I was nine years old when I first met priests like Paul Casper and Dominic Wessel. Although I was just a kid, they and other SCJ priests and brothers always seemed to welcome and have a kind word for us. I looked forward to our monthly visits and when, in 8th grade, I decided that I wanted to go to the seminary, it was a no-brainer that I'd go to Donaldson."

Fr. Jack's first assignment landed him at a place that he still enjoys calling home: Mississippi. Starting in 1980 at Queen of Peace parish in Olive Branch, Miss., he is now executive director of Sacred Heart Southern Missions. However, he also served for many years as vocation director, on a variety of committees and commissions, and was a delegate to the 1997 and 2018 General Chapters (he was liturgist at the 2015 General Chapter). He has served several terms on the Provincial Council and is currently vice provincial of the US Province.

"I try hard to be a faithful son of



Our video team for the First Professions and the Jubilee Mass: Fraters Truc Tran and Paul Phong Hoang

Fr. Dehon. When I look to see where we minister – not just here in the US but also in some of the most difficult places in the world – and what God has accomplished through us, I am proud and happy to be part of this."

#### **Dn. David Nagel, SCJ (50 years)**

As Provincial Treasurer, Dn. David, 71, lives and ministers only a few miles from where he grew up in Milwaukee, WI.

"When I was in seventh grade two SCJs, Frs. Kurlic and Jackson, came to our school — St. Gregory — to talk about vocations," said Dn. David. "Sacred Heart Monastery was close, so I came for a few vocation club gatherings. We swam in the lake in the summer, ice skated in the winter and prayed in the chapel."

He learned about a vocation camp at Divine Heart Seminary and decided to go for a few days. "The SCJ spirituality of the Heart of Jesus was attractive to me. The love of Christ for all people and the service that the SCJs did with the poor in the United States and overseas."

Dn. David served for many years as a religious brother. He earned degrees in Food Management and Business from Cardinal Stritch College (Milwaukee), and an MA in Theology from Catholic Theological Union (Chicago). He served the province in many roles, including Food Service Director at SHSST and at St. Joseph's Indian School, and as Director of Operations and Executive Director of Development at St. Joseph's. It was while he was with the Development Office that he was ordained to the

permanent diaconate. He became Provincial Treasurer in 2004, and serves on the General Finance Commission as well as the Provincial Council.

#### **Fr. Jim Schifano, SCJ (50 years)**

Originally from Colorado Springs, CO, Fr. Jim is 77, and was ordained in 1975. Before pursuing his vocation, Fr. Jim served in the US Army; he was at the rank of sergeant when he was discharged in 1967.

Fr. Jim did his theological studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and later served at the seminary from 1978-1990.

Besides his many years serving at the seminaries and in the monastery community, Fr. Jim also did pastoral ministry, first at St. Matthew parish in Houston (1977-78). After over 20 years at SHSST, Fr. Jim returned to Houston, where he briefly served at Christ the Redeemer parish (1990-91) and then back at St. Matthew's for five years.

In 1997, Fr. Jim joined the Dehonian community in Mississippi, where he ministered for three years at St. Gregory parish in Senatobia and Sacred Heart parish in Walls. From 2004-07 he served at St. Joseph's parish in Holly Springs.

Fr. Jim's final assignment before retirement was with our retired priests and brothers at the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, FL. He is now at SHML.

#### **Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ (40 years)**

Currently Vicar General of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Steve was elected to his first term on the General Council in Rome in 2015. Prior to his election, Fr. Steve, 63, was Provincial Superior of the US Province.

Ordained in 1989, Fr. Steve studied at and earned degrees from Loyola University and Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At CTU, he received a Doctor of Ministry in Theology and one in Cross Cultural Ministry.

"I attended high school at Divine

Heart as a day student," said Fr. Steve, who grew up in nearby South Bend. "I didn't go there with the idea of becoming a religious priest or brother, but rather to get a good Catholic education. It was the witness of the brothers and priests there who were involved in our lives that inspired me consider a vocation. They taught, coached, cooked, led us in prayer and retreats, worked on the farm to feed us and showed care in many daily ways. By my senior year, when deciding what would come next, I wanted to work in a way that helped others. I wanted to be like the SCJs who did just that."

Although he did serve several years in formation, much of Fr. Steve's ministry prior to administration was in South Dakota. He ministered with the Cheyenne River Pastoral Team, the Lower Brule Pastoral Team and as executive director of St. Joseph's Indian School.

"I believe our charism is a gift to the Church that is well worth being a part of."

#### **Br. Duane Lemke, SCJ (25 years)**

Br. Duane, 50, is a "home-grown" SCJ. He grew up in an SCJ parish in South Dakota and as a teen, worked for the local SCJ community when it had a pastoral team in Eagle Butte, SD.

His first ten years of ministry were in and around Lower Brule, S.D. "As a member of the Catholic Pastoral Team, I ministered to youth and elders, taught religious education to youth and adults, and was a pastoral associate to St. Michael's Parish in Kennebec," he said. "Memories of the people, events and experiences I had there will always be with me and continue to influence my ministry."

Br. Duane has served in formation and in parish ministry. He is currently a member of the Provincial Council, superior of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML, and province director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation.

"The Priests of the Sacred Heart married my parents, baptized me, ministered to me in my youth, and first



taught me about the love found in Christ's Heart. Without them, I wouldn't have seen Lower Brule nor Chicago, nor the place that I now call home."

#### **Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ (25 years)**

On February 2, 2022, Fr. Vien was installed as the 16th provincial superior of the US Province.

Originally from Vietnam, Fr. Vien, now 49, arrived in the United States when he was a teen.

During much of Fr. Vien's religious life he has been involved in academics as a student, teacher, and administrator. At the time of his election as provincial, Fr. Vien was vice rector and assistant professor of Scripture Studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, WI.

Fr. Vien was ordained to the priesthood in 2004. In 2018 he earned a doctorate from the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, CA. He also earned a Th.M. and S.T.L. from Santa Clara University, and an M.Div. from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Before pursuing post-graduate studies, Fr. Vien served in parish ministry (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes in Houston) and in formation, as well as on the Provincial Council.

#### **Fr. David Szatkowski, SCJ (25 years)**

Born in Pueblo, CO, and baptized in Alexandria, VA, as a child of a military family, Fr. David, 48, has lived in many parts of the world "but I consider Lawton, OK, to be my hometown," he said.

He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology in 1995, an M.Div. from Catholic Theological Union in 2002, and was ordained to the priesthood shortly after.

"I spent three years at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Houston, TX, before returning to school," said Fr. David. This time, school was the Angelicum in Rome, where he earned a JCL and a JCD (canon law degrees). After graduation he served in provincial administration, in formation, and on the pastoral team in northern Mississippi. He is currently local superior of the SCJ community there.

Reflecting on his years as an SCJ, Fr. David said that "I like living in community, working on a team, and being surprised by seeing God act. "I simply cannot imagine living any other way."

#### **Fr. Charles Wonch, SCJ (25 years)**

Originally from Coleville, WA, Fr. Chuck, now 75, was 50 years old when he made his first profession.

He had served in the US Air Force and earned degrees in Industrial Management from Jackson State University (Mississippi) and Theological Studies from Spring Hill College (Mobile, AL) before pursuing his religious vocation. Initially, he planned to serve the Church as a lay minister.

"After earning a master's in Theological Studies I worked with many parish priests and churches around central Mississippi," he said. At the same time, he held a full-time job for 15 years as a purchasing supervisor at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. But increasingly "God seemed to be calling me to come and follow Him and be of service to His people."

He was ordained to the priesthood in 2002. For many years he served on the pastoral team that serves the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Reservations in South Dakota. In 2009, he moved to Hales Corners where he assists the vocation office.

"I thank God for our religious community and my experiences with it; I have been blessed by them all."

# Keeping Fr. Anthony in our prayers



One of the last photos taken of Fr. Anthony before his disappearance. Fr. Jim Schifano (right) is assisting him prior to the Funeral Mass for Fr. Ed Kilianski.

**A**t the time that this issue of the *SCJ News* went to press, Fr. Anthony Kluckman, SCJ, had been missing for just over a month. He is 75 and suffers from significant memory loss. The last image of him is seen on security footage at 1:35 a.m., July 21, leaving Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake in Franklin, WI. A Silver Alert was issued for him soon after it was discovered that he was missing.

The Franklin Police Department, in collaboration with a variety of investigative organizations, has done an in-depth search of not only Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake and the sur-

rounding property, but the wider area as well. Trained dog teams, scuba divers, drones and sonar have been used.

On August 16, members of Fr. Anthony's religious community did a "Spiritual Walk" dedicated to him. For some, this involved an actual walk in which SCJs divided into small groups to search the area for clues regarding Fr. Anthony's disappearance. Others remained together in prayer while the search took place.

"Daily, we are asked for updates about Fr. Anthony," said Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ, provincial superior. "I wish there was something to share, some new discovery. It is hard to continue to live with the unknown.

"Yet we take genuine comfort in knowing that Fr. Anthony, and we, his religious brothers, as well as his family and friends, are in the thoughts and prayers of so many. It gives us strength. We are not alone in our pain, and no matter what Fr. Anthony's situation is, he is not alone either. He is constantly with us in our hearts, in our prayers."

**If you have any information that you think may be relevant in the search for Fr. Anthony please contact the Franklin Police Department at: 414-425-2522.**



## DEHONIANS Priests of the Sacred Heart

Our ministries are diverse, as are our members. Yet our goal is the same: to work with a common heart in service to God's people, reflecting the love of Christ as experienced by our founder, Fr. Leo John Dehon

**Find out how  
you can join us!**

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