



Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

February 2, 2023

Dear Brothers,

Today marks the first anniversary of the 2022-2025 Provincial Leadership Team. We appreciate the opportunity to serve the province and discern steps to prepare us for the present and the future.

Communication is essential in our ministry. Council meetings and weekly communications between each other are forums for council members to promote transparency and work towards the same goals and vision. In addition to the council minutes and weekly Fridge Notes, regular provincial letters are a means for us to keep you informed.

On this anniversary, let me provide some highlights of the past year and plans for the year ahead.

Looking back. Anthony Kluckman's disappearance remains an unresolved mystery and has caused much uncertainty and grief for his family and us. Now with a private investigator's recent involvement, I pray that her work will lead to his discovery.

In 2022, the following brothers went home to God: Johnny Klingler, Ed Kilianski, James Schifano, and Bernie Rosinski. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Meetings of local superiors and Dehonians in parish ministry were scheduled to provide a platform to reflect and share the challenges and joys of ministry. We plan to hold such meetings yearly.

After many years of talking about campus ministry, we finally entered into an agreement with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Quang Nguyen is now the chaplain-director for the UH Catholic Newman Center.

Formation and vocation committees were established to support the vocation and formation teams and explore systematic and comprehensive approaches to vocation recruitment and formation of men for religious life. Regarding vocation and formation, we had one ordination and three men professed vows but no new candidates or novices last year.

Looking ahead. Spirituality is one of the three pillars of visioning of the Provincial Leadership Team. Hours of recollection will continue to be scheduled during Lent and Advent. Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA, will lead the upcoming Lenten Hour of Recollection for Dehonians on March 13, the date before Fr. Dehon's 180th birthday.

The province will kick off the centennial celebrations this summer at the provincial and local levels. At the provincial level, we have the following celebrations:

- **Sunday, July 16** – Centennial Mass in Hales Corners in which we welcome alumni, former SCJs, benefactors, employees, and friends.
- **Monday, July 17** – Centennial Mass in Hales Corners for SCJs. This is an “SCJ family gathering” to commemorate our shared heritage.
- **Sunday, July 30** – Centennial Mass in Lower Brule, commemorating with others the birthplace of Dehonian ministry in the United States.

More details are to come from the Centennial Planning Committee.

The XVII Provincial Chapter is scheduled for July 18-21, 2023, with the theme “Welcoming the Spirit...preparing for the Future.” The theme and the time together help us reflect on our present and prepare for our future.

During the 2022 Election Assembly, delegates emphasized the significance of internationality, inviting international Dehonians to participate in our ministry and mission. I will share more about new partnerships in the coming months.

The Senior Life Commission will include, in addition to our province nurse, lay professionals experienced in healthcare and eldercare. It is hoped that they can offer critical advice as we continue to seek the best way to minister to our brothers.

On a personal note, staffing is one of our province's more significant challenges. Several positions and ministries need attention. Asking for partnerships from other entities has been my objective since the first month of my installation, beginning at the General Conference in Rome in February 2022. But given the number of noncommittal responses I have received and the complexity and uncertainty of immigration issues, how long do we want to do this?

The Provincial Council and I will continue to work collaboratively to address any challenge—with God's guidance and grace. We ask for your continued prayers as we strive to lead with integrity and zeal. You are in our prayers.

Fraternally,

