



# Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

April 4, 2023

Dear Brothers,

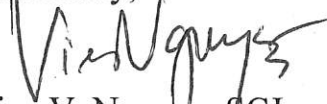
The North American Councils received a request from the North American Migration Committee (NAMC) to be dissolved, effective April 30, 2023. Several reasons are given for the dissolution of the Committee: other pressing issues (e.g., climate change) that need our equal attention, the creation of the Migration, Justice and Peace Committee in Canada, and the possible restructuring of the US JPR Commission.

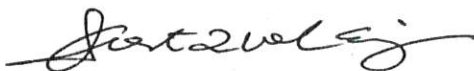
The NAMC was established in 2017 by the two North American Councils to "respond to the global migration crisis and to accompany and respond to the needs of migrants in Canada and the United States of America." The entrusted objectives include (1) encouraging SCJs, individually and communally, to become involved with migrants and refugees in places where we live, (2) developing action programs for SCJ communities in North America to assist and accompany migrants and refugees at the local level, and (3) communicating issues on migrants, migrant workers, refugees via our communications media.

Members of the NAMC have taken these objectives to heart and diligently fulfilled them. The Committee organized listening sessions with local communities in both Canada and the United States, published a North American Dehonian story of immigration, and collaborated with Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology to host Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ, as the keynote speaker at a Dehon Lecture. These are just a few examples. We've attached a list of their accomplishments.

We are grateful for the committee members who with great dedication served on the NAMC: Peter McKenna (co-chair), Richard MacDonald (co-chair), Lily Ooi, Tony Russo, Jan de Jong, Diego Diaz, Henry Nguyen, Ushindi Kambale Sahani, Louis-Marie Kayamba Butari, Mark Peters, and Karen Mahoney. Many others have contributed to the mission of the NAMC. The North American Councils will discern ways to continue the work that the Committee started.

Fraternally,

  
Vien V. Nguyen, SCJ  
Provincial Superior - USA



Gustave Lulendo N'dotony, SCJ  
Regional Superior - Canada

## **NAMC ACCOMPLISHMENTS** *(as submitted by the Committee)*

Since its inception, the NAMC has worked diligently to fulfill its mandate. Ongoing communication and engagement with SCJ members has kept migration issues at the forefront. Highlights of activities led by the NAMC and/or in partnership with the US Justice, Peace and Reconciliation (JPR) and the Region of Canada Migration, Justice and Peace (RCMJPC) include:

- Listening sessions with local communities in both Canada and the United States;
- Encouraging and supporting local communities in their sponsorship of refugees, including Syrian families;
- Publishing of the North American Dehonian Story of Immigration;
- Lobbying and engaging local officials in the United States;
- Collaborating with Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology to host Norma Pimentel, MJ as the key note speaker at the 2019 Dehon Lecture;
- Developing and publishing the “*Restoring Human Dignity*” and “*Look at My Shoes*” brochures created in all the languages of our ministries in North America and shared internationally;
- Engaging in evenings of Recollection with the Formation Community and other local communities;
- Supporting Canadian and US Assemblies by providing input and information on migration as well as arranging the input of Barbara Graham, Joe Gunn, members of DACA, members of Voces De La Frontera, Aurélie Kawayá Kavira and of confreres with certain expertise and/or experience;
- Engaging in joint planning sessions with the JPR committee;
- Viewing session of *The Letter* followed by a discussion at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake;
- Offering information sessions on Human Trafficking at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake;
- Establishing local community liaisons;
- Preparing and presenting multi-year Work Plans, minutes and reports to Councils;
- Conducting NAMC In-person and Zoom meetings;
- Developing a ten-page paper to explore how migrants had been affected by COVID at the request of the North American Theological Commission; and
- Offering numerous articles and prayer services in the United States Fridge Notes and Canadian SCJ Dialogue Newsletter. Special thanks to Mary Gorski for her collaboration.