**Historical information about the Centennial in varying lengths**

The following write-ups about the Centennial can be used in websites, parish bulletins, worship aids, ministry newsletters, posted on bulletin boards or wherever else you share communications in your ministry.

LONG VERSION:

**100 Years of Dehonian Ministry in the United States!**

On Palm Sunday, 1923, Fr. Mathias Fohrman, SCJ, celebrated Mass at St. Mary’s Church in Lower Brule, SD. This marked the start of what is now 100 years of ministry by the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) in the United States. In 2023 that ministry extends from South Dakota to Wisconsin, Mississippi, Texas and Florida, reaching across ethnic, social, and economic lines.

In Houston, the Priests of the Sacred Heart are in the central city parish of [**Our Lady of Guadalupe**](https://www.olghouston.org), one of the oldest Hispanic parishes in Texas.

In Mississippi, Dehonians are responsible for the Church’s ministry in the five northwestern counties of the state. Through [**Sacred Heart Southern Missions**](https://secure.shsm.org/site/SPageServer/), Dehonians offer social services and emergency aid, advocacy, housing, education, job training and counseling. The Sacred Heart Auto League, which promotes safe, prayerful driving, is also a part of SHSM’s ministry.

[**Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology**](https://www.shsst.edu) in Hales Corners, Wis., prepares men from around the country – and the world – for ordained ministry. It also offers master’s programs for lay students, and an internationally regarded ECS (English and Cultural Studies) program specifically designed for those in or preparing for ministry in the Church.

The Priests of the Sacred Heart minister at [**St. Martin of Tours parish**](https://www.stmoftours.org) in Franklin, Wis., where they also serve the Vietnamese Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Just a few miles away, Dehonians operate [**Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake**](https://www.apartments.com/sacred-heart-at-monastery-lake-franklin-wi/22ypdqb/), a senior apartment community with several units reserved for those who are economically challenged.

One of our oldest ministries in the United States is [**St. Joseph’s Indian School**](https://www.stjo.org) in Chamberlain, SD. Since it first opened its doors in 1927, the school has expanded its outreach well beyond the classroom with family counseling, healthcare, social programs, and education in Lakota traditions. Dehonians also continue to minister in reservation parishes on the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Reservations.

And just as the Dehonian presence in the United States was begun by missionary outreach, the US Province is committed to building the Church by supporting missions throughout the world including Vietnam, India, the Philippines, South Africa, DR Congo and Indonesia.

Dehonians, Priests of the Sacred Heart, SCJs – several names for a religious community of priests and brothers with a single mission: bringing the love of the Sacred Heart to those in the greatest of need.

The Priests of the Sacred Heart is an international religious community of priests and brothers located in over 40 countries on five continents. Founded in France by Fr. Leo John Dehon, the order is now based in Rome.

During this Centennial Year let us continue to keep each other in prayer.

MEDIUM LENGTH:

**100 Years of Dehonian Ministry in the United States**

On Palm Sunday, 1923, Fr. Mathias Fohrman, SCJ, celebrated Mass at St. Mary’s Church in Lower Brule, SD. This marked the start of what is now 100 years of ministry by the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) in the United States. In 2023 that ministry extends from South Dakota to Wisconsin, Mississippi, Texas and Florida, reaching across ethnic, social, and economic lines.

We serve parishes and operate schools. We support social service ministries and family outreach programs. One of our oldest ministries in the United States is [**St. Joseph’s Indian School**](https://www.stjo.org) in Chamberlain, SD., just a short drive from the location of that first Mass. Through Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, WI (suburban Milwaukee) we prepare men from around the world for ordained ministry and serve lay students through our master’s program.

And just as the Dehonian presence in the United States was begun by missionary outreach, the US Province is committed to building the Church by supporting missions throughout the world including Vietnam, India, the Philippines, South Africa, DR Congo and Indonesia.

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SHORT VERSION:

**100 Years of Dehonian Ministry in the United States**

This year the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) celebrate their 100th year of ministry in the United States. Beginning with a Palm Sunday Mass in 1923 at St. Mary’s Church in Lower Brule, SD, the ministries of the US Province now extend from South Dakota to Wisconsin, Mississippi, Texas and Florida, reaching across ethnic, social, and economic lines.

Dehonians, Priests of the Sacred Heart, SCJs – several names for a religious community of priests and brothers with a single mission: bringing the love of the Sacred Heart to those in the greatest of need.

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