



Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

July 10, 2023

Dear Brothers,

“What would the church be without religious sisters and consecrated laywomen?” asked Pope Francis in a February 1, 2022 video. He went on to say, “The church cannot be understood without them.” Despite their significant contributions in education, healthcare, catechism, and social outreach ministry to some of society’s most vulnerable groups of people, women religious are often overlooked and underappreciated. Pope Francis has recognized their efforts and has appointed religious sisters to some key positions in the Vatican.



St. Joseph's Indian School

As we mark the 100th Anniversary of our presence in the United States, it is important that we also recognize and appreciate the incredible contributions made by religious sisters to the mission and growth of the US Province. From the very beginning, when St. Joseph's Indian School was established in 1927, Fr. Henry Hogeback recognized the need for partnerships with women's religious communities to create a nurturing and home-like environment for our Native American children. For example, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia served as teachers and caretakers at St. Joseph's. Their motherly presence was a source of comfort and stability for children, and they formed deep bonds with the sisters.



Lenox, Massachusetts

When we began our ministry in northern Mississippi, we were tasked with staffing a Catholic parish in the area and attending to the social service needs of the population. The SCJ leadership at the time believed that education was paramount, and thus Sacred Heart and Holy Family (formerly St. Mary's) schools were established with the help of the School Sisters of Saint Francis (SSSF) and other women's religious communities. These sisters were

instrumental in educating young minds and earning the trust of parents in the community. I am pleased to inform you that the SSSF leadership team has confirmed their attendance at our Centennial celebration on Monday, July 17.

Provincial Offices, United States Province | Mailing address: P.O. Box 289, Hales Corners, WI 53130-0289

Street: 7373 S. Lovers Lane Rd, Franklin, WI 53132 | P: 414-425-6910 | F: 414-425-2938 | www.dehoniansusa.org

Of course, we can never forget the many sisters who have served in our other apostolates throughout the province, both past and present. Fr. Yvon Sheehy helpfully provided me with a list of religious sisters who ministered to us. For example, Sisters Oblates to Divine Love from Central America (Lenox), Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Theresa from Mexico (Honesdale; Donaldson), Yankton Benedictines (Hales Corners; Chamberlain), Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (Eagle Butte; Lower Brule), Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart (Houston), Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (Walls). Their tireless work and unwavering dedication have made a lasting impact on us and others; they truly are our unsung heroes.

Our mission has been and will continue to be closely connected with women's religious communities. The present Provincial Council is always seeking out new opportunities for collaboration and partnership. Together, we can achieve so much more and continue to make a positive impact on people's lives.

In August 2023, two Theresian Missionaries of Mary (TMM) will begin their ministry alongside the SCJ pastoral team in South Dakota, serving the six parishes entrusted to us. Founded in 1985 in the Philippines, the TMM's ministry centers mostly on education. Sr. Yolly Nobabos and Sr. ClaryJoy T. Palasan will be representing the TMM in their ministry here. They are continuing the tradition of SCJs' partnership with women's religious communities. To ensure their successful transition, I'll ask a woman in Lower Brule to be their mentor. The staff at St. Joseph's are also ready to assist them. I look forward to the positive impact the sisters will have on the lives of others in their service of the gospel.

Fraternally,



Sr. Yolly Nobabos, TMM



Sr. ClaryJoy T. Palasan, TMM