

# **XVII Provincial Chapter Direction Statement**

## **Preface**

“Welcoming the Spirit... preparing for our future” was the theme of the XVII US Provincial Chapter. Two topics of focus were used to address the theme: “Dehonian Spirituality” and “Interculturality.” Four facilitated discussions prompted discussion of the themes. For Dehonian Spirituality the discussion groups were: 1) Representatives from the Dehonian Associates in Mississippi, and 2) Long-time employees of the province. For Interculturality, the groups were 1) four SCJs originally from entities outside of the US Province who then came to the United States for long-term ministry, and 2) four SCJs who have spent their entire vowed lives as members of the US Province.

The Dehonian Associates and province employees talked about their understanding of Dehonian Spirituality and its impact on their work as well as their everyday lives. The two SCJ panels reflected on the experience of international SCJs making the transition to community and ministry in the United States, as well the blessings and challenges of multicultural living.

## **Actions**

Delegates of the XVII Provincial Chapter ask provincial leadership, in dialogue with membership, to implement the following actions:

### **Dehonian Spirituality**

1. Establish Dehonian Associate programs in all ministerial locations of the US Province.
2. Develop a standardized introduction to Dehonian Spirituality and the Priests of the Sacred Heart for new employees and those with whom we partner.
3. Commit to explicit promotion of the Priests of the Sacred Heart visually in our ministries, and overtly through homilies, references to Dehonian moments of significance, and in other ministerial communication (including enhanced use of social media).
4. Commit to a sense of hospitality and welcoming not only to those outside of our communities but also with each other.
5. Make Dehonian Spirituality more accessible; this includes the translation of Dehonian themes into everyday language, and a renewed use of the Dehon Study Center in North America. Also, develop Dehonian Spirituality curricula for our schools at all levels.
6. Seek ways to share Dehonian Spirituality with children by creating age-appropriate resources and seek opportunities to implement them (for example: a day of recollection for children and/or teens). Find ways to include parents in activities.
7. Have a province discussion on how to identify ourselves (example: Priests of the Sacred Heart, Dehonians).

## **Interculturality**

1. Regular conversations and commitment on the local level to determine how each community lives together with intentionality. Define means of accountability locally and at provincial level.
2. At the local level, address the critical questions of what interculturality means.
3. Develop a toolbox for incoming international SCJs to prepare for community and ministry in the United States, as well as a general toolbox on intercultural life and ministry for all SCJs.
4. Provide resources to support the ongoing challenges and needs of intercultural living.
5. Provide mentors for newly ministering international SCJs.
6. Ensure that incoming international SCJs are adequately screened and have appropriate time for preparation for ministry in the US Province, including training for a particular ministry. Ensure that expectations of the province and international SCJ are established.
7. Enhance interaction of SCJ participants in ECS program with wider province, while continuing such interaction between ECS and formation communities.