



SCJ News

A newsletter of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians)

“Pray! My advice is to stay rooted in prayer and respond with your heart.”

Newly ordained priest, Fr. Henry Nguyen, SCJ, echoing the words of his father

On Saturday, December 17th, Henry Bùi Nguyen, SCJ, was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Thomas Thái Thành Nguyen, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Orange. The ordination took place at St. Columban Catholic Church in Garden Grove, CA, just a few miles away from Fr. Henry’s home parish of St. Polycarp, where he celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving on December 18.

Fr. Henry is 34 and professed his first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) in 2018. He has an undergraduate degree in Psychology from California State University in Monterey Bay, and an M.Div from Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Wisconsin.

“I first considered a vocation to the priesthood in my early teens,” said Fr. Henry. “I wanted to be a missionary, although at the time I didn’t really know what that meant, I just felt called to do it.”

But fear of what pursuing a vocation might really ask of him, and concern for his widowed father caused Fr. Henry to set aside his initial call. “I didn’t want to leave my single dad at home.”

In 2013 Fr. Henry began to more seriously listen to that initial call. Four years earlier, he had met Fr. Francis Vu Tran, SCJ, at a leadership conference hosted at St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, WI. “That was my first encounter with an SCJ parish,” he said. It later became the first parish at which Fr. Henry would serve as an ordained minister; he did his diaconate internship at St. Martin of Tours and will continue to assist there as a priest.

Fr. Henry became a candidate with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in August, 2015. “The Dehonians stood out



Fr. Henry Nguyen, SCJ, speaking to parishioners at St. Martin of Tours

to me because of their response to and for the Eucharist. In formation, my religious vocation grew hand-in-hand with my priestly vocation.”

His vocation to religious life and the priesthood has always been rooted in what he says is “a call to serve, to accompany others. Formation solidified my desire to be with and help others. I am called to community life; with the support of my community, I know that I will prosper in responding to the Heart of Christ.”

Sacramental ministry

“I felt the call to bring the sacramental love of Christ to others, to share the fact that our God is a loving and



Above: A group photo with Bishop Thomas Thái Thành Nguyễn right after the Fr. Henry's ordination at St. Columban Catholic Church in Garden Grove, CA. Below: Fr. Henry shares flowers with his parents at the end the ordination ceremony; Fr. Henry credits his father with nurturing his vocation.



compassionate God," said Fr. Henry. "We SCJs are called to be servants of reconciliation."

Fr. Henry credits his father, Douglas Nguyen, for nurturing his faith and his vocation. "My father, since as far back as I can remember, has reminded me of the importance of prayer," said Fr. Henry. "Even when I went to the seminary, was ordained to the diaconate, my dad has continued to remind me to pray. PRAY EVERY DAY!"

His father was active as a Vietnamese language teacher and later as the principal of the Vietnamese Language Program at St. Polycarp church in Stanton. Fr. Henry spent many

years in a youth ministry program called the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement (VEYM); it is what led to the leadership conference that placed him in contact with the SCJs many years ago. As a seminarian, Fr. Henry continued to be active with the VEYM at St. Martin of Tours, serving as assistant chaplain and VP of Academic Affairs. At the national level, Fr. Henry is a youth leader trainer and was a Sub-Committee Lead of Vocations.

As a part of his preparation for final vows and priesthood, Fr. Henry also did a year of pastoral ministry split between Sacred Heart Southern Missions in Mississippi and with the SCJ community in Ecuador.

He was on the SHSST Student Council, volunteered at St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee, and assisted with the residential needs of students in SHSST's English and Cultural Studies program. For the past year Fr. Henry has also served as a member of the communications team that is responsible for the Dehonians' general website and social media.

Fr. Henry's first assignment will

be to help other young men with their vocational discernment; as of January 1, Fr. Henry is the vocation director for the US Province. He will do this with the support of a team of SCJs and lay staff who serve on the Province Vocation Committee. Fr. Henry will also continue to minister at St. Martin of Tours.

"I am excited for this new position," said Fr. Henry. "In the past year I have taken part in the National Religious Vocation Conference's workshop (Summer Institute) in preparation for vocation ministry. I have begun networking with vocation directors from other religious communities."

When asked what advice he would give someone considering a vocation to religious life and/or the priesthood, Fr. Henry echoed his father:

"Pray! My advice is to stay rooted in prayer and respond with your heart."

Do you feel called to religious life, the priesthood? Would you like to learn more about the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians). Contact us at:
<https://dehoniansusa.org/vocations>

As a Rule

Continuing the conversation on the Dehonian themes which guide us

For 20 years, beginning in 1992, the US Province published a simple, two-page photocopied newsletter titled *As a Rule*. Starting with No. 1 and concluding with No. 144 (the entirety of the SCJ Constitutions at that time), the publication featured reflections by SCJs on each of the Constitutions.

After a 10-year hiatus, we brought back *As a Rule* in November, 2022. Much of the reboot of *As a Rule* is similar to the first 20 years in that it features a passage from the Rule of Life along with one or more reflections. However, instead of going sequentially, each issue focuses on a topic. Reflections are written by SCJs, but also by employees, Dehonian Associates, and others whose lives intersect with the Dehonian charism and SCJ spirituality.

As with the *Fridge Notes* (weekly news of the US Province), *As a Rule* is an electronic publication sent by email each month and available in an online archive for future reference. You can access previous issues, or add a subscriber at:

<https://dehoniansusa.org/as-a-rule/>

Stories

Our first issue of the *As a Rule* reboot featured Constitution No. 15, with a focus on the theme of "Beginnings," in particular, how stories convey who we are, our origins. Fr. Byron Haaland, SCJ, wrote the first

reflection:

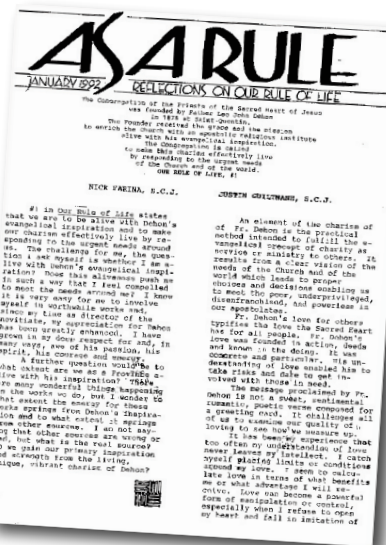
"I remember in Anthropology 101 that we were called 'Animals that tell stories.' It's what defines us. It's what separates us from the rest of the animal kingdom. Each of us has a story to tell. Each of us is a story.

"Stories are amazing things. We gather to hear stories. Stories connect us; they are the glue that keeps us together and helps us to make sense of the world around us. As I tell my story it gives you courage and eagerness to tell yours. It gives us time to compare and contrast. Sometimes it makes me stop dead in my tracks and quiets my spirit to listen deeper to your story and to my own.

"Perhaps that is why we are social creatures. Although we may no longer gather around campfires to tell stories, we still do gather as distinct groups to hear and celebrate these stories. We call these groups 'family' or 'clans.' As the groups grow, we call them 'tribes,' 'states,' and 'nations.' Ultimately, we call it the 'world.' As SCJs, we call it 'community,' 'province,' or 'congregation.' We call it 'church.'

"If there is one thing that I have learned as a retreat director and formation director is that storytelling is formational. Stories make us who we are and that is exciting. I remember taking another class, 'Theological Anthropology,' where the professor said that we are animals that participate in and direct our own evolution. That's an incredible statement. Stories lead us to our future. We become that future as we tell and listen to stories. Jesus taught with stories. As we ponder those stories and contemplate those stories, they take on a life of their own; they take on MY life as their own. This happens on the community level as well. It can make for good formation through the guidance of others.

"My story only makes sense as it



The first *As a Rule* in 1992

connects to other like stories. When I took time away from community years ago, my story floundered. I learned that my story only made sense to me as I was able to tell it those who knew my language and I knew theirs.

"As I listen to stories and tell my own, I see where the Spirit is a guiding factor. I welcome that Spirit and it helps me to respond to it in love. Because storytelling is the glue that binds us together it ultimately leads me to a deeper union with those other storytellers. It creates a union, a communion, and eventually sends all of us into the greater world to share the story. I then realize there is only one story



Fr. Byron Haaland

The SCJ NEWS is published by the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJs). Articles, photos and suggestions are always welcome. Editorial offices: P.O. Box 289, Hales Corners, WI 53130-0289 (414) 427-4266. Email: comdir@scjcommunications.org Mary Gorski, editor.



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We continue to search and to pray...

Fr. Anthony Kluckman, SCJ, has been missing since July 21, 2022. He was last seen on security footage, leaving Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake in Franklin, WI, pre-dawn. He suffers from dementia.

If you have any information that you think may be relevant in the search for Fr. Anthony please contact the Franklin Police Department at: 414-425-2522.

told a billion different ways and that makes me listen even more deeply.”

Solidarity

In January, the theme was “Solidarity,” with No. 29 as the starting point for reflection. Fr. Christianus Hendrik, SCJ, wrote about an experience that he had during Advent:

“It was during the first weekend of Advent, one of the coldest and windiest days in our area. I and my Deacon were about ready for lunch when the phone rang. On the other end was a woman with a shaky voice.

“‘Father, I’m in dire need of your help,’ she said. ‘I have no place to go, I just ran from my boyfriend’s house because they’re all drunk and I’m afraid. Can I come to your house?’

“When she mentioned her name, I realized that I knew her and her family. She used to be one of our altar servers. She is now 18 and has had struggles; she was a missing person a couple months ago. She should have been in school when she called.

“I’m pregnant, my family kicked me out; they burned all of my clothing

and other possessions,’ she said. ‘I have no place to stay.’

“I told her that she could come. We gave her something to eat, and while she ate, I called a local law enforcement agency for emergency help. I was looking for a local women’s shelter, or some other type of shelter for people in crisis, a shelter for the abused. But none of the phone numbers I dialed brought us any closer to helping this person. They all came with the same words: ‘We don’t have a room available for the emergency, but we recommend that you call this number...’

“I went around and around until I ended up back at the first number that I called. I felt like a ping-pong ball being bounced from one place to the next.

“We drove her to the store to get some inexpensive clothes, food, and other basic needs. At the end of the day there was still no place for her to go safely. We cleaned a small room in our old office in the other building and gave her a blanket and pillow on the couch. I told her that she could stay there until the next day, and we would start again, trying to find her help.

“I kept thinking of this during Advent and it troubled me. It still troubles me. I have a big empty house; but the laws, the rules, and the sense of ‘what is appropriate’ forced me to also say, ‘You cannot stay in my house.’ I felt like the innkeeper who told Mary and Joseph: ‘We don’t have a room available for you...’ (Luke 2:7)

“I felt like I had failed. I failed to recognize Him in the greatest mystery of His solidarity with others in the form of this 18-year-old girl with a baby in her womb.

“I ended up with my knees on the floor in the middle of the night: ‘Lord, I did the best that I could do. She is Yours. I know that there are many jackals and predators out there. Please protect her and guide her as you did Mary and Joseph.’

“That night, I decided to approach her family and talked with her grandfather about what was going on. Thankfully, we were eventually able to reconcile her with the family. It was almost midnight when I and Deacon drove her back to her family’s house. There was a good atmosphere when I talked face-to-face with the family.

“As Advent is a time for reflection, Christmas is a time for redemption, and a New Year’s is a time for a renewal; it is perfectly fitting to reflect on our life in the light of this greatest mystery of Solidarity. The Word became flesh to be with us, sinners. When we go deeper into our heart, do we have a small room for Him who comes in the form of our brothers and sisters who are in dire need of our help?

“Once God sent his Son to be in solidarity with us, the Liberating One now dwells among us, calling upon hearts from all walks of life to open, to take courage, to soften, to release. God takes on flesh and joins life in the struggle – this is what radical solidarity feels like. Lives and souls and bodies entangled. Risks and possibilities shared.

“There is no real solidarity until we turn ourselves into ‘a shepherd that smells like the sheep’ (Pope Francis). We are challenged to be ‘one of them’ in their struggles, feeding them, guiding them, protecting them from dangerous predators, and sometimes from their own stupidity. We must be there when they are injured; and when they are sick, nursing them back to health.”



Fr. Christianus Hendrik

View all issues of *As a Rule* at:
<https://dehoniansusa.org/as-a-rule/>

Artist asks viewer “What is it?”

Br. Duane Lemke is the superior of our retirement community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. He is also a gifted artist who recently created a series of canvas banners for the community chapel that are filled with Lenten themes. He shares a bit about the images pictured here:

“I’ve continually been drawn toward multimedia and discovered that my work is Expressionist. My relationship with the viewer is to use color, media, and symbol to suggest and hint, but deliberately not to lead toward one particular thought or conclusion. The most common question is ‘WHAT IS IT?’

“Lent-themed elements are found on each of the banners. They contain ashes, sand, purple, rose, and broken pottery and glass. [NOTE: the pottery shards are from an archeological dig in the Holy Land sponsored by Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology brought back by one of our seminarians; Br. Duane emphasizes that

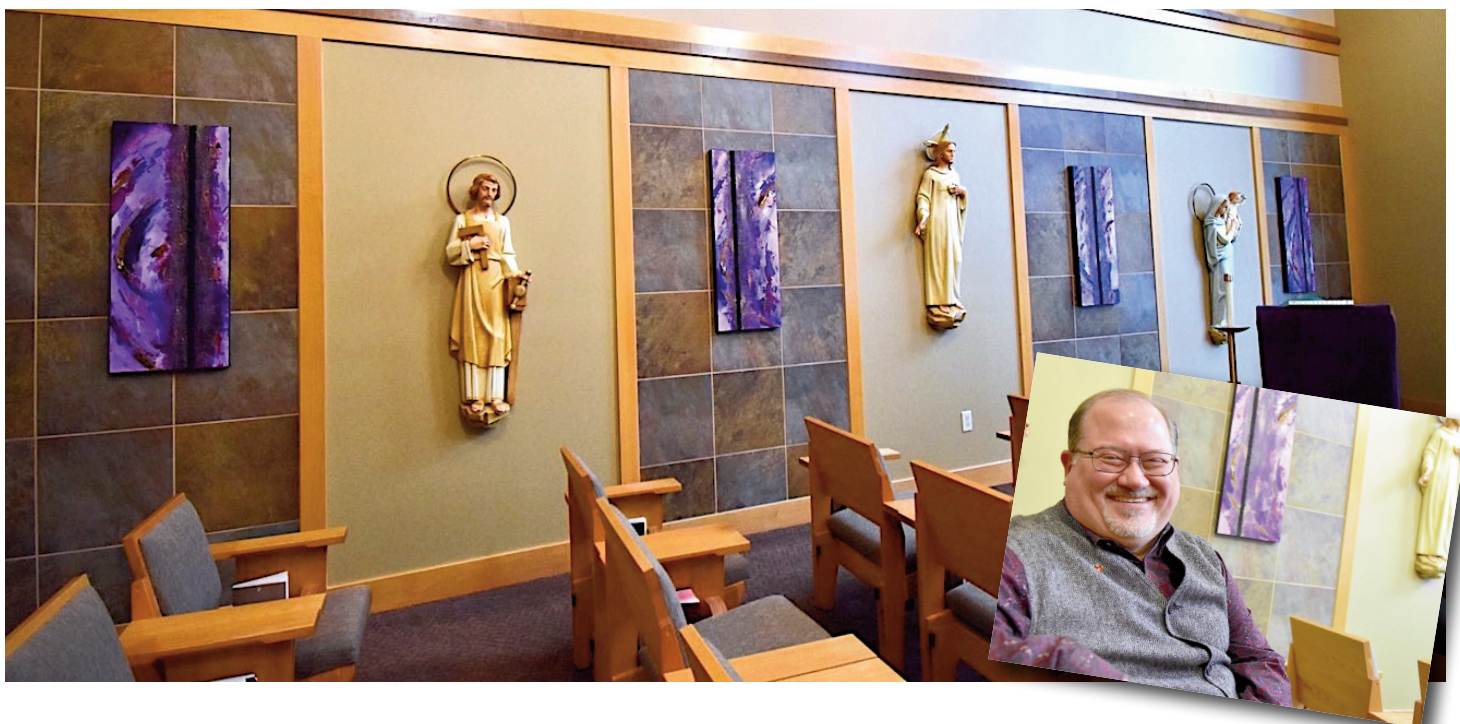


the pieces were legally obtained.]

“There are lines both fluid/organic, and solid/firm. The solid lines themselves are made from ashes. Looking closely, one will notice bits and pieces of the Gospel incorporated into each banner. It is my hope that at different points during the season of Lent, they might inspire each of us in different ways.

“So: ‘WHAT IS IT?’ Is the pottery reminiscent of the vessel used by the woman at the well, or the fragility of life? Do the pieces of broken glass reflect our own brokenness, or sparkle with the sunlight we hope for at Easter? Is the sand the road we are walking this Lent, or suggest desert thirst? Do ashes represent mortality, or a link between Ash Wednesday and the pillar of smoke and fire of Exodus? Do the dynamic lines represent God stirring within us, or Easter radiating outward through Lent? My only attempt was to use the sacramentals present to us during Lent, put them together on canvas, add artistic license, and let them speak to each of us in our own way.”

Image left: one of the four Lenten panels. Below: all four panels in the community chapel. Inset: Br. Duane Lemke



New pastor continues Dehonian tradition at St. Martin of Tours

Six months after Fr. Andrzej Sudol, SCJ, began ministry at St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, WI, Bishop James T. Schuerman, auxiliary bishop of Milwaukee, officially installed him as pastor on November 26.

"Although I have been serving as pastor for the past few months, I am happy to share in this moment with fellow members of my religious community, seminarians from Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, guests from the Diocese of Joliet – where I previously ministered – and the parish community of St. Martin of Tours," said Fr. Andrzej. "Thank you for being with me during this special day. I am blessed to begin this completely new chapter in my life as a Dehonian."

Dehonians have pastoral responsibility for St. Martin of Tours, including the Vietnamese Catholic community of Milwaukee, which is a part of the parish family. Close to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, the parish has become an informal training hub for Dehonian students, as well as seminarians from other communities and dioceses.

Originally from Poland, Fr. Andrzej, 52, professed his first vows in 1990, and was ordained in 1996. He served as a missionary in India and the Philippines before coming to the United States in 2014 for a sabbatical. At the end of his sabbatical studies at Catholic Theological Union and SHSST, he was asked to stay and serve on the formation team for the US Province.

Before being named pastor of St. Martin of Tours, Fr. Andrzej was postulancy director and associate novice master. He was also a formation director at SHSST; he continues serve on its Board of Directors. On the weekends, Fr. Andrzej often ministered with the Polish community of St. Mary Immaculate parish in the Diocese of Joliet. And in-between these ministries, Fr. Andrzej completed doctoral studies at Catholic Theological Union, and last year successfully defended his doctoral thesis on interculturality and formation.

Besides Fr. Andrzej, the parish team includes Fr. Son Nguyen, SCJ (associate pastor), Dcn. Charles Schneider, Fr. Henry Nguyen, SCJ, and Dcn. Linh Bruno Nguyen.



SCJ shares the lives of the homeless through art

"Homeless in San Antonio" by Fr. Guy Blair, SCJ, is on exhibit at the Kelso Art Center / Semmes Gallery on the campus of the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio from February 17 – March 17.

Fr. Guy is a self-taught artist in the mediums of pastels and watercolors. He says that he always wanted "to do" art but let it take a back seat to his ministry as a religious priest. It has only been in the past eight years or so that he has regularly been active in creating art.

"Homeless in San Antonio" is a blending of Fr. Guy's service to the homeless as well as his interest in art. Each homeless person featured in one of Fr. Guy's paintings was interviewed and gave permission before his/her portrait was painted.

"As we walk by homeless people on the streets of San Antonio, most people tend to look through them or judge them as perhaps deserving of the situation they are in," said Fr. Guy. "This attitude allows people to build an emotional barrier, giving them permission not to connect with the homeless as destitute people



Fr. Guy Blair



Fr. Andrzej with SCJs, Bishop Schuerman, and others who joined in the installation ceremony

whose suffering and tears are as real as our own."

Fr. Guy's art work is represented by Art Gallery Prudencia, San Antonio.

"Painting is, for me, quite an adventure of self-expression," said Fr. Guy. "That anyone else can hear the voices in my paintings and appreciate them for the story they tell is an uplifting experience for me."

Preparing for novitiate

Congratulations to Alfonso Pizano, who was welcomed into postulancy in February. Originally from California, Alfonso has an MA in education from Loyola Marymount University and another MA in philosophy from Fordham University. He is currently in his second year of studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

"Overall, I'm just an ordinary guy with a disciple's heart," said Alfonso in describing himself. "I'm grateful and eager to see what God has in store for me as I am available to do his will."

Br. Ray Kozuch, SCJ, is Alfonso's postulancy director. Postulancy is one of the final steps along the path to novitiate.

A new podcast season at St. Joseph's Indian School

On January 23, St. Joseph's Indian School launched Season 3 of "Hóčhoka," a video podcast that showcases the people and ideas behind the school's approach to Native American education.

In the first episode, school President Mike Tyrell introduces his newly published book *Detour Home*. The novel is a series of fictional stories loosely based on his experience as a young man moving with his wife to St. Joseph's Indian School to become a houseparent.

Other episodes this season include



Fr. Vien, Alfonso and Br. Ray following Alfonso's Entrance to Postulancy Ceremony.

two podcasts hosted by high school senior Basil Eagle Star who interviews experts on residential life: Sean Milner of Baptist Children's Village and Mark Freado, author of *Kid Whispering – Reaching the Inside Kid*.

Host Scott Woster "talks thiyóšpaye" (extended family) with a former staff person and former student to learn what St. Joseph's was like nearly a half decade ago. Scott also interviews two donors to hear why they give to St. Joe's thiyóšpaye.

Dr. Paul Monson, associate professor of Church History and academic dean at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, gives a fresh perspective on Catholicism through an indigenous lens as he talks about the conversations between Bishop Martin Marty and Sitting Bull.

You can find the podcasts at:

<https://dehoniansusa.info/hochoka>

Former missionary returns to Indonesia

Fr. Mark Fortner, SCJ, spent most of December and January in Indonesia, assisting with pastoral ministry. It was a homecoming of sorts for Fr. Mark, who served as a missionary in Indonesia from 1969-1999.

"I enjoyed life in the very welcoming SCJ community and vibrant parish of St. Therese of Lisieux in Jambi, Sumatra," wrote Fr. Mark. "I found myself on the go from morning until sometimes late in the evening engaged in various parish activities."

Among the photos he shared of his time there was this one with Archbishop Aloysius Sudarso, SCJ, taken at the celebration of the archbishop's golden jubilee of priesthood. "There were 500 guests, including nine other bishops, numerous SCJs, diocesan priests, sisters, and leaders of other faith traditions," wrote Fr. Mark.

Archbishop Sudarso retired in 2021 as archbishop of Palembang, Indonesia.



Fr. Mark Fortner and Bishop Sudarso

We remember Br. Peter Mankins

Br. Peter Mankins, SCJ, died Saturday, March 4, at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake in Franklin, WI. He had been anointed shortly before his death. Br. Peter was 93, professed his first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) in 1963 and made his perpetual profession in 1967.

As soon as news of Br. Peter's death became public, dozens of people shared memories of his impact on their lives.

"I was saddened to hear of Br. Peter's passing. We became friends with Br. Peter while he was at Immaculate Heart Seminary in Lenox, MA," wrote Marie Gormalley of Pittsfield, MA. "My dad, Mario Tristany, worked as a chef one day a week at the seminary. This enabled the sisters there to have a day off. Quite often Br. Peter and others would visit our home. They were like extended family. No matter when we saw Br. Peter he was always smiling. He was a kind and humble person with an inviting, memorable smile."

A Chicago native, Br. Peter's first

assignment was at Divine Heart Seminary in Donaldson, IN. It became a stepping stone to a lifetime devoted to formation ministry. Br. Peter served at the province's seminaries in Massachusetts and was on the formation team with the province's undergraduate program when it was located in San Antonio. His last full-time assignment was with the combined formation program in his hometown of Chicago where he worked with candidates and as assistant novice

master. He was also responsible for the community's bookkeeping. He was a retired member of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML at the time of his death.

"Br. Pete was my hero and friend in Lanesboro," wrote Ronnie Farmer, an alumnus of Lanesboro. "Heaven gained a good man!"

"He was my first formation director and always a model for religious life," wrote Fr. David Szatkowski, SCJ, who now serves on the pastoral team in northern Mississippi.



Br. Peter Mankins, SCJ



DEHONIANS Priests of the Sacred Heart

Our ministries are diverse, as are our members. Yet our goal is the same: to work with a common heart in service to God's people, reflecting the love of Christ as experienced by our founder, Fr. Leo John Dehon

**Find out how
you can join us!**

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