

February 27, 2024

Dear Brothers,

At the 2022 Election Assembly and the 2023 Provincial Chapter, you made it clear to the Provincial Council and each other that we need someone to study Fr. Dehon's writings and retrieve our charism to assist SCJs, clergy, and the laity to better understand and live it. Studying Fr. Dehon's writings, embodying the Dehonian charism, and enriching ourselves with Dehonian spirituality should be a daily practice for all of us. However, a guide or animator would help us stay focused.



*P.J. McGuire in the Philippines for one of the retreats*

For many years, P.J. McGuire dedicated the latter part of his life to this ministry. He studied Fr. Dehon's writings, translated some of them into English, and published valuable articles that have greatly benefited the province and the congregation. I regularly consult P.J.'s writings for my spiritual reading and research. In this role, he also led classes and retreats on the Dehonian charism and spirituality. I hope that you take advantage of his many writings for

your own study and spiritual reading. Also, you can find more resources on our history, spirituality, community life, and ministry written by SCJs throughout the congregation at <http://www.dehonianadocs.org/>. Many members of our province have contributed, including John Czyzynski, James Schroeder, Bob Bossie, Thomas Cassidy, Thomas Garvey, David Nagel, Rick DiLeo, Duane Lemke, Quang Nguyen, Johnny Klingler, Jack Kurps, Jack Nitzki, James Steffes, Frank Wittouck, Jerome Schaad, and P.J. McGuire, just to name a few.

P.J.'s death left a void. The Dehon Study Center (DSC) has been without a director since 2016. The Provincial Council considered alternative methods for ongoing study and reflection on Fr. Dehon's writings, the Dehonian charism, and Dehonian spirituality until a new director is appointed. We identified a few ways to achieve this goal and approached potential individuals. One option explored was to invite

professors at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology to study Fr. Dehon's writings and offer their perspectives or interpretations of them. The goal was to publish short articles or pamphlets on Dehonian themes for SCJs, parishioners, employees, and collaborators in our various apostolates. This has not yet come together as we hoped. We have also been searching for a director of the Dehonian Associates program to help us communicate or share the Dehonian charism and spirituality with others. We have been in dialogue with a potential candidate and hope to name that person soon.

Fr. Dehon's writings and the Dehonian charism are gifts to the Church and, as such, should be disseminated widely. To achieve this, we need a capable, committed director to lead the DSC. I am pleased to announce that Joseph Mukuna, who recently completed his doctorate in biblical studies at Loyola University Chicago, will become the DSC director effective April 2, 2024. With French as one of his native languages and with his proficient research skills, I am confident that he will serve us well in this ministry. The decision was made in collaboration with the Congolese Province, Joseph's home province. Once he is settled in this role, I am also open to him teaching part-time at SHSST. I am grateful to Joseph for accepting this ministry and kindly ask for your support to ensure his success.



*Joseph Mukuna and members of the Formation Community  
in 2017*

Also, for your information, the DSC is presently located in an apartment on the third floor of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML. However, it will soon be moved to the conference room in the Vocation Office. This move will make its resources easier to access and connect it with the Archives for research purposes.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.