



Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

May 6, 2024

Dear Brothers,

Last Friday, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology awarded degrees and certificates to 25 men and women. One of the graduates was our own Paul Phong Hoang, SCJ. The English and Culture Studies Program also had its certificate



ceremony for those completing the program at SHSST the day before. These accomplishments are a testament to the commitment and mission of our faculty, staff, and volunteers, both religious and lay, who tirelessly dedicate themselves to the Dehonian mission of “preparing evangelizing disciples...to conform our world to the Heart of Christ” (SHSST Mission Statement). Their commitment is appreciated by us and our sponsors.

Fr. Mark Mastin, SCJ and Dn. Steve Kremer

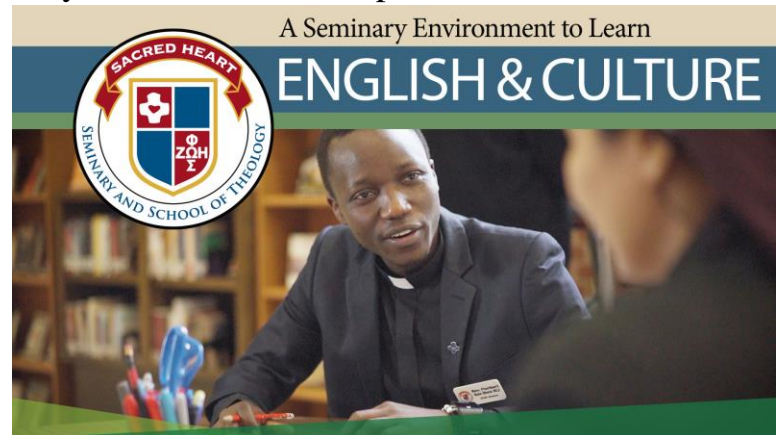
When announcing the leadership change at SHSST to our sponsors, I received several notes of gratitude. One of these notes was from Auxiliary Bishop Wayne Lobsinger of Hamilton (Ontario), which perfectly reflects what SHSST faculty and staff strive to achieve. I have already shared the note with the SHSST community. With Bishop Lobsinger’s permission, I also wanted to share it with you.

Since we started sending men to Sacred Heart, I have been very impressed with the calibre of your seminary. Our men are happy, and your faculty and staff are not only well skilled in the respective fields but also kind and helpful. This is not something I have found at every seminary.

I have told the SHSST faculty and staff that I am very pleased with the depth of excellence and professionalism found among them. I hope that they continue to embody the Dehonian spirit and that their passion and mission flourish at SHSST.

I also wanted to let you know about a recently adopted tradition among faculty and staff that involves paying tribute to deceased SCJs. Following the graduation reception, they gather in the parking lot near the cafeteria and walk toward the mausoleum to share stories about the SCJs whom they know or have heard about and pray for all deceased SCJs. They also thank all the SCJs, living and dead, for our vocations. This tradition was started by a lay faculty member four years ago!

Each year, SHSST bestows the Sacred Heart Award to an individual who embodies and exemplifies the Sacred Heart spirit. This year, the award was presented to Dr. Barbara Anne Cusack, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In her speech during the graduation reception, she spoke about her first encounter with SHSST and how it has become her second home. She expressed her gratitude to SHSST and said that it will always hold a special place in her heart. Personally, I find Dr. Cusack very supportive of the SCJs. She is always available to assist whenever I have questions or issues related to the province or SHSST.



Fr. Floribert Bulo Dhelo, SCJ

The success of SHSST depends on the unwavering commitment and dedication of many people. As Dehonians, we hold the responsibility of providing our collaborators with enriching Dehonian spiritual resources and guidance to enable them to partner with us and carry on ministries that we cannot accomplish alone. We must ensure a working environment that recognizes and values their contributions to our Dehonian mission and vision.

I am grateful to the Dehonians currently ministering at SHSST: Mark Mastin, Francis-Vu Tran, Zbigniew Morawiec, Yvon Sheehy (residential ECS Program coordinator), and James Walters (professor and spiritual director). John Czyzynski and Frank Wittouck serve as spiritual directors. We rely on them to help us infuse our Dehonian identity and values into our faculty, staff, and students. I am also grateful to those SCJs who are not directly involved at SHSST but continue to support it through their prayers and, when possible, presence. Thank you for your continued commitment to our apostolate.

Fraternally,