



A Year with Venerable Father Leo John Dehon

The second in a series of monthly biographical sketches as we prepare to commemorate the centenary of his death on August 12, 2025



Fr. Leo Dehon: The New Priest Fr. Dehon had a distinguished and spiritually enriching seminary experience. Many friends thought his first placement as a priest would be in a seminary or university, but they were all surprised! Fr. Dehon was assigned as the seventh curate in the industrial, crowded, working town of Saint-Quentin, France. During the Industrial Revolution, many people left their ancestral villages and moved to Saint-Quentin in search of jobs. The workers faced long days, hazardous conditions, poor pay, and had little time for family or church. Fr. Dehon made it a priority to go out to the streets to meet

the people, listen to their needs and find pastoral ways to support them. Later in life he would often advise his priests to “Go to the people!” His first assignment might have been a surprise and a challenge, but it shaped Fr. Dehon’s future ministry. Fr. Dehon brought his faith, knowledge, curiosity, and vision to meet the needs of his local church. He became a priest with a strong understanding of mission.

Next month, we will learn how Fr. Dehon’s “Yes” to his ministry led to incredibly good pastoral works.



*Children from St. Joseph's Indian School,
part of Fr. Dehon's lasting legacy*

Quote: “Go to the people!”

**Reflection Question: Who are the people God is calling
you to be present to?**

**Learn more about the Priests of the Sacred Heart
(Dehonians/SCJ) at: www.dehoniansusa.org**

