



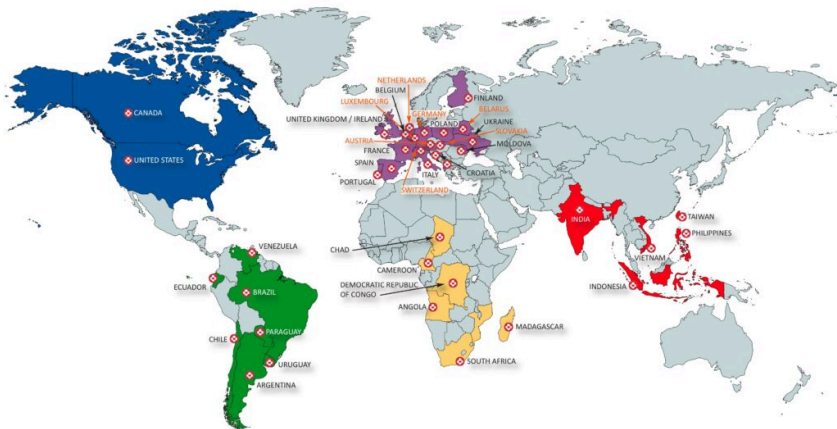
Questions?
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Welcome

Welcome to the Dehonian family of collaborators! We are grateful you are joining us. This booklet provides some background information on the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians). The Priests of the Sacred Heart is a Roman Catholic religious congregation established in 1878 by Venerable Fr. Leo John Dehon. The Priests of the Sacred Heart are also called Dehonians, after our founder, or SCJs per the initials of our Latin name "Sacerdotum a Corde Jesu." We are grateful for those who collaborate with us: laity, religious sisters, priests, brothers, deacons, and bishops. Dehonians minister in over 40 countries. We are committed to continuing Christ's work of repairing and rebuilding our world into God's kingdom of justice and love. Our ministries include urban and rural parishes, teaching, counseling, chaplaincies, and works of social justice. Dehonians seek to serve people from all facets of society, yet always with a preferential option for the poor. If you are interested in learning more about the Dehonian mission in the United States, contact the Office of Dehonian Associates.



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Prayer

God, holy Father,
 may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Strengthen in us the priestly attitude of your Son:
 "Behold I come to do your will, O God."
 May we sense your will through one another,
 through the various situations we encounter,
 and through all your children.
 Accept us as your collaborators
 for the building of your reign in this world.
 Enable us to abandon ourselves to your care.
 In this way,
 may we live as Jesus did
 when he offered you his spirit on the cross.
 Amen.



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“Go to the people!”

This was a frequent challenge Fr. Dehon gave to the SCJs working with him. As a young priest, he was assigned to a large urban parish in the industrial city of Saint-Quentin. Most of its 35,000 people were barely able to earn their daily bread. The majority were nominally Catholic, but few went to church. Father Dehon saw that the Church had abandoned the poor laborers. He realized that it was not enough to simply celebrate Mass and administer the sacraments; the priest had to go to the people to understand their lives and needs, and work with them and factory owners to change their lives.



Mission: to be Prophets of Love and Servants of Reconciliation

It is not what the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) do that defines who we are but how we live and what we believe in: the love of the Heart of Jesus. Nourished by the Eucharist, we live, pray and minister together, seeking to bring reconciliation to a world that hungers for the love found in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our ministries are diverse, as are our members. We serve in many languages and come from many countries and cultures. Dehonians seek to serve people from all facets of society, yet always with a preferential option for the poor. Our goal is to work with a common heart in service to God's people, reflecting the love of Christ as experienced by our founder.

Dehonian Cross

The Dehonian cross has an open heart in the middle reminding us that Jesus, in his great love, is always ready to welcome us, and that Jesus is always ready to pour out love from his pierced heart for others. “There is no greater love than this: to give one's life for one's friends” (Jn 15:13); we too empty ourselves to love others. When we look at the Dehonian cross, we see the heart. So it is when we look at a crucifix and see Christ's suffering, but also His great love for us. As Dehonians, we are invited to fill this empty space with our lives. We must be close to people, especially in situations of suffering, violence and injustice, so that charity, mercy and justice can also find space in their lives and in society.



Significant Dehonian Mottos

Ecce Ancilla is Mary's response to the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation: “Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to God's will” (Luke 1:38). This reflects Mary's openness to receive Jesus into her life.

Ecce Venio is Jesus's words in the Letter to the Hebrews, 10:7: “Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.” This is Jesus' oblation (offering) of availability to do God's will.

Sint Unum means “May they be one” - Jesus' prayer the night before he died. Fr. Dehon yearned to repair the divisions of people from God and from one another.

Adveniat Regnum Tuum means “Your kingdom come” and refers to the prayer of Jesus in the Our Father. We strive to work together to bring about God's reign of justice and love in individuals and in all societies or groups.



The US Province

The US Provincial Office is located in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. The province is governed by a Provincial Superior and Provincial Council. The US Province reports to the General Administration of the SCJs, located in Rome, Italy. The US apostolates/entities/communities and parishes include:

Wisconsin:

- Provincial Office
- Province Development Office
- Province Vocations Office
- Sacred Heart Seminary
- Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake
- Sacred Heart Monastery
- St. Joseph Community at SHML
- Dehon House
- St. Francis Residence
- Sacred Heart Novitiate
- St. Martin of Tours Parish

Mississippi:

- Sacred Heart Southern Missions
- Holy Family School
- Sacred Heart School
- St. Michael Community
- Christ the King Parish
- Good Shepherd Parish
- St. Gregory the Great Parish
- St. Joseph Parish
- Holy Spirit Parish
- Queen of Peace Parish

South Dakota:

- St. Joseph's Indian School
- St. Joseph's Mission Advocacy Center
- Sacred Heart Center
- Lower Brule Ministries
- SCJ Community House – Chamberlain
- SCJ Community House – Lower Brule
- St. Catherine Parish
- Immaculate Conception Parish
- St. Joseph Parish
- St. Mary Parish
- St. Mary Mission Parish
- St. Michael Parish

Texas:

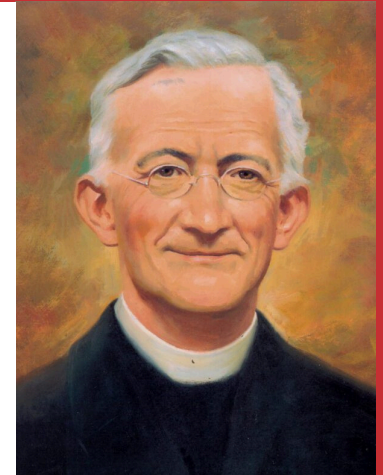
- SCJ Community House – Houston
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
- Auxiliary Community House

Florida:

- Sacred Heart Community

Our Founder

Born in 1843 to a French aristocratic family, Leo Dehon earned a doctorate in law before entering the seminary in Rome. There he earned three more doctorates in philosophy, theology and canon law and served as a stenographer at the First Vatican Council soon after his ordination in 1868. His first priestly assignment was as the seventh associate pastor in the blue-collar industrial city of Saint-Quentin, France. Most of the town's 35,000 people worked long hours in factories for minimal pay.



They were Catholic, but generally in name only, choosing not to go to a church that seemed out of touch with their lives. It was there that Fr. Dehon realized that it wasn't enough for the church to simply offer Mass and administer the sacraments. Priests needed to get out of the sacristy and go to the people. And so he did. He created a boys' club, an orphanage, a school and a daily newspaper. He brought factory owners, workers and public officials together to jointly create positive change for the working class. He developed a diocesan bureau of social service ministers, a forerunner of today's Catholic Charities. He organized conferences to share the social teachings of the Church. In addition to all these activities, Fr. Dehon carried on the normal activities of his parish ministry. Somewhere, he also found time to serve as chaplain to a religious sisters community.

But he still desired more. He wanted to become a member of a religious community. Yet, he felt a commitment to the many projects he had begun. His bishop offered him a proposal. He would support Fr. Dehon in the founding of a religious community if the community would open a Catholic high school. In 1878, Fr. Dehon established the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Their first apostolate was the high school that the bishop requested. However, Fr. Dehon's dream was to have a religious community devoted to spreading the love of the Sacred Heart, and through that love, reach out to the most desperate and needy. Soon, men joined Fr. Dehon and his ministries expanded throughout Europe and beyond. During his lifetime Fr. Dehon saw his congregation begin works in Belgium, Holland, Germany, Scandinavia, Italy, Africa, North and South America, and Indonesia. Fr. Dehon died on August 12, 1925 in Brussels, Belgium. The cause for Fr. Dehon's beatification and canonization began in 1952. In 1997, the Church declared that he was "Venerable."

