

SCJ NEWS

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



“Called to be one in a transforming world”

XXV General Chapter looks to the past to respond to the future

Called to be one in a transforming world” was the theme of the XXV General Chapter, June 16 through July 5, at the Generalate in Rome. Held every six years, a General Chapter is a time to review the state of the congregation and identify priorities for the future. It is also when the Superior General and his five-member council are elected.

This year’s General Chapter included 77 members, plus support staff. The SCJs representing North America were Frs. Vien Nguyen, Jack Kurps and Francis Vu Tran from the US and Frs. Gustave Lulendo and Willyans Prado Rapozo from

Canada. Fr. Willyans was a member of the Planning Committee and served as spokesperson for the Chapter. And just a little over a week into the gathering, he found himself with a new Rome address: he was elected as the fifth member of the General Council.

Writing about the Chapter, Fr. Willyans noted that the delegates “identified several challenges, such as the lack of internalization of a spirituality of economy and the vow of poverty. It seems that we need to deepen our sense of belonging to a common family where we are responsible for each other. This consciousness must be fostered during the for-

mation process and promoted among all members of the Congregation.”

But while challenges were identified, so too was hope. “We all share a common feeling of hope and joy,” wrote Fr. Willyans. “This has been a true moment of fraternity, learning, sharing, and celebrating the richness of our Congregation. We return to our countries with a deep sense of gratitude. May the Sacred Heart be praised for this *Kairos* in the life of the Congregation!”

Following the election of the new administration (see next page), the Chapter focused on mission – how to create common guidelines for mission and internationality, as well as



Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, Fr. Vien Nguyen and Fr. Francis Vu Tran during the ice-breaker activities that were a part of the Opening Social at the start of the General Chapter.

encourage availability and partnerships. There were reports on the newest mission communities (Nijmegen in the Netherlands and Trondheim in Norway), the Dehonian Family – how to better support and connect lay Dehonian groups as well as make the charism of Fr. Dehon better known (see page 4 about the new Director of Dehonian Associates), and discussion of the celebration of the centenary of Fr. Dehon’s death (2025) along with the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the congregation (2028).

Re-elected!

On June 21, Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú, SCJ, was elected to a second six-year term as Superior General. The election took place during the first week of the General Chapter.

Fr. Carlos was born on September 2, 1965 in Las Palmas (Spain). He joined the Dehonians in 1984 and was ordained in 1990. He studied philosophy and theology in Salamanca (Spain) and in Caracas (Venezuela). Fr. Carlos Luis has a license in Biblical Sciences from the Pontifical Biblical

Institute (Rome) and a doctorate from the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome, 2002). He served briefly in India, but for most of his religious life, Venezuela was his home.

Prior to his election to his first term in 2018, he served in Caracas (Venezuela), where he taught Sacred Scripture. He was also Rector of the Institute of Theology for Religious (ITER) and Dean of the Faculty of Theology of the Catholic University Andrés Bello (UCAB), as well as a mem-



Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú

ber of the Regional Council of Venezuela. Last year, Fr. Carlos was the featured speaker at the annual Dehon Lecture at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. His theme was “Moved by the Word.” He talked about how he has not only been moved by the words found on the pages of the Bible, but by the wisdom and theology shared with him in the words that come from the lived experiences of others.

A new General Council!

On June 24, delegates elected all five members of the new General Council. They are:

Fr. Levi dos Anjos Ferreira (52) was born in Brazil on May 8, 1972. He professed first vows on February 25, 1994, final vows on February 23, 2002, and was ordained to the priesthood on December 14, 2002. Before being elected to the General Council in 2018 he served in Germany. He is an alumnus of our ECS (ESL) program at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

Fr. Charles Aime Koudjou (48) was born in Cameroun on July 5, 1975. He professed first vows on August 12, 2000, final vows on August 12, 2005, and was ordained to the priesthood on March 29, 2008. In his home country, Fr. Charles worked as a formator before being called to Rome four years ago to serve as a General Councillor.



The newly elected General Council (L-R): Fr. Levi dos Anjos Ferreira (re-elected), Fr. Charles Aime Koudjou (re-elected), Fr. Renzo Brena (first term), Fr. Agustinus Guntoro (first term) and Fr. Wilylans Prado Rapozo (first term)

Fr. Renzo Brena (67) was born in Italy on August 28, 1956. He professed first vows on August 29, 1976, final vows on November 24, 1979, and was ordained to the priesthood on August 19, 1981. When elected, he was the provincial superior of the North Italian Province (ITS).

Fr. Agustinus Guntoro (50), was born in Indonesia on August 28, 1973. He professed first vows on August 1, 1996, final vows on August 1, 2001, and was ordained to the priesthood on October 2, 2003. Also an alumnus of our ECS program at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, in recent years, Fr. Guntoro had been a member of the SCJ mission in Asia.

Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo (41), was born in Brazil on July 19, 1982, professed first vows on February 2, 2002, final vows on January 31, 2009, and was ordained to the priesthood on December 5, 2009. He is familiar to SCJs in the US from his many years with the Canadian Region. At the time of his elections, Fr. Willyans was pastor of St. Helen's Parish in Toronto, and a Regional Councilor in Canada. In spring, he became a Canadian citizen.

Pope Francis speaks to Chapter delegates

On June 27, delegates from the General Chapter, had an audience with Pope Francis. Excerpts from the pope's text:

Dear brothers, good morning! I greet Father Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú, your Superior General, confirmed for a second term, and I offer my cordial good wishes for his ministry. I also greet the new Councillors and all of you who are taking part in the XXV General Chapter of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Pope Francis with Chapter Delegates

You have chosen, as a guide for your work, the motto: Called to be one in a changing world. "So that the world may believe" (Jn 17:21). This theme is closely aligned with your charisma, in both its mystical and apostolic dimensions...

In your religious houses, the chapel should be, for each and all, the place most often visited, a place of humble and receptive silence and hidden prayer, enabling the beating of Christ's heart to set the rhythm of your days, to modulate the tone of your conversations, and to sustain the zeal of your charity. Jesus' heart eternally beats with love for us, and its beating can join with ours in restoring our calm, harmony, energy, unity, especially in times of difficulty. Yet for this to happen, we must make room for him, faithfully and perseveringly, silencing vain words and futile thoughts, and bringing everything into his presence. We need to pray!

Let us never forget that without prayer, we neither progress nor stand firm, either in religious life or in the apostolate! Without prayer, nothing will be accomplished...

How do we go about being missionaries today, in an age marked by immense and complex challenges? Venerable Léon Gustave Dehon can help us to answer this question. In one of his letters, meditating on the Lord's passion, he observed that "the scourges, the thorns, the nails" have written a single word in the flesh of

the Savior: love. He then added, "Let us not be satisfied with reading and admiring only the exterior of this divine writing. Let us penetrate to the heart and we shall see a much greater marvel: an inexhaustible and unfailing love that suffers willingly and gives itself without tiring" (*The Love of the Sacred Heart II*, 1905).

Herein lies the secret of a credible and effective proclamation: allowing, like Jesus, the word "love" to be written upon our flesh, that is, in the concreteness of our actions. And to do this with tenacity, steadfast in the face of searing judgments, distressing problems and the malice that pains our hearts; to do so tirelessly, with inexhaustible affection for every brother and sister, in solidarity with Christ the Redeemer in his desire to make reparation for the sins of all humanity...

I thank you for all that you do, the world over. I bless you and all your confreres, I accompany you with my prayers and I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me.

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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Newly named director of Dehonian Associates: Monica Misy

The Dehonian charism is a gift to the Church, not just SCJs

“It has been said that our Dehonian charism is God’s gift to the congregation and the Church, and that it needs to be celebrated and shared not only among members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, but with other clergy, religious and the laity,” said Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ, provincial superior of the US Province.

Sharing the Dehonian charism can mean everything from formal Dehonian Associate groups whose members meet for prayer and dialogue, to in-service employee gatherings to ensure that Dehonian spirituality infuses all of the ministries of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

In May, Monica Misy took on the position of Province Director of Dehonian Associates. She comes to the Provincial Offices after serving at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology for five years, most recently as Vice President of Institutional Advancement. She is also a graduate of

SHSST’s Cor Unum master’s program. It was through Cor Unum that Monica first learned about Fr. Leo John Dehon.

“On a tour of SHSST, Dr. Julie O’Connor [SHSST registrar at the time] and Dr. John Olesnavage [former Vice President of Formation] shared the story of Fr. Dehon, the Dehonians, their worldwide ministry, and the ideas of oblation and reparation,” said Monica. “Julie and John pointed to the Dehonian cross and asked where I might see Christ’s heart aching in this world, and how could I fill that ache with love? In a world where many people feel helpless to make change, they were offering me a path to find ways that I could contribute to a better world. What a gift!”

Monica continued to receive regular doses of Dehonian spirituality through her Cor Unum studies. “It was woven into our classes and projects,” she said. “Retreats were often

led by Dehonians; Fr. Ziggy Morawiec and Fr. Andrzej Sudol gave the retreats that I took part in. I was very aware during my two years of study of how fortunate I was to have that time to dive deeper into the Catholic faith and to have accompaniment in discerning how I could help heal our fractured world. It left me with a strong desire to expand opportunities like Cor Unum to other lay Catholics.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon

Increasingly, Monica found herself interested not just in Dehonian spirituality, but also the man behind it: Fr. Leo John Dehon.

“Fr. Dehon came from an affluent background; an easier path for him would have been to be a successful attorney, perhaps mayor of his village like his grandfather, father and brother,” said Monica. “Yet he chose to listen to God’s call, and when he found himself in the poor industrial city of Saint-Quentin, he chose to see what was truly before him. He could have stayed inside the beautiful church, but he went out to the messy streets and got to know the people. He cared for people deeply; Fr. Dehon’s writings and work give proof to that. He had curiosity and vision and a very deep faith.”

Monica continued, saying that “I love Fr. Dehon’s understanding of the Sacred Heart! In simplistic terms, it is that God’s great love is poured out through the Sacred Heart of Jesus to us. When we know this great love, we are moved to love God back through others. Fr. Dehon made an incredible difference in the world and healed many fractures. Yet a lot of challenges he faced are still with us today, sometimes in different forms. It is because of this that I find his life and work very relevant and inspiring.”

Priorities

When asked what her priorities are in her new role, Monica said that

"This year, my priority is to listen and learn. In July I visited three Dehonian Associates groups in Mississippi. These associates are all active in Dehonian ministries, improving the lives of numerous people. The groups are a way that the Priests of the Sacred Heart provide spiritual accompaniment and growth for dedicated lay ministers.

"I look forward to finding ways to support these existing groups, and also to begin new ones in Texas, South Dakota and Wisconsin."

Monica plans to create content for province ministries, including general information about the founder and Dehonian spirituality, for employees, especially new hires. She also plans to offer resources to parishes, schools and other outreach. "I am in dialogue with people in our province ministries to better learn what is needed and how we can meet those needs..."

"I believe that many lay people are thirsty for more formation; not just a personal formation that stops with themselves, but a formation like I had in Cor Unum that helps the laity address social questions around them, as Fr. Dehon did. There is so much good that can be done!"

Background

"Only God could weave the varied pieces of my life together so well!" said Monica when asked about her background prior to SHSST. "I am a mother and wife. I previously worked in international marketing [She has degrees in economics and business] and I am now pursuing a Doctor of Ministry, with a focus on leadership, at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL.

"I care deeply about people, am creative and can concretize ideas into ministries, and am passionate about leadership based on God's love. I am very grateful to the Dehonians for their yes to God's call, for their ministries, and for creating paths."

You can contact Monica at: mmisey@dehoniansusa.org



Br. Bernard Taube, SCJ

Br. Bernard Taube, SCJ, died on June 26 in Farmington, MN; he was 91. In recent years he had been under the care of family in Minnesota; he went into hospice just days before he passed. Br. Bernie was born in Cannon Falls, MN and was raised in New Trier. Both he and a sister entered religious life.

Br. Bernie professed his first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart nearly 75 years ago (March 19, 1950), with the intent of being a farmer for the community. At that time, the province harvested much of its own food on farms attached to the seminaries.

He worked at Sacred Heart Monastery (which now includes Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology), Sacred Heart Novitiate (St. Marie, IL), St. Joseph's Retreat Center (Baileys Harbor, WI), Kilroe Seminary

(Honesdale, PA) and Divine Heart Seminary (Donaldson, IN).

When the farms were phased out, Br. Bernie continued to attend to the maintenance needs of the province, but his fellow SCJs encouraged him to consider other options.

After taking career counseling tests, he applied to Cardinal Stritch University and studied sociology.

"It was a little intimidating to return to school in my 50s," said Br. Bernie. But he did it, and at the age of 58, earned his bachelor's in sociology. He also earned an associate's degree from Milwaukee Area Technical School.

Following graduation from Stritch, Br. Bernie worked for several years with Milwaukee's SET

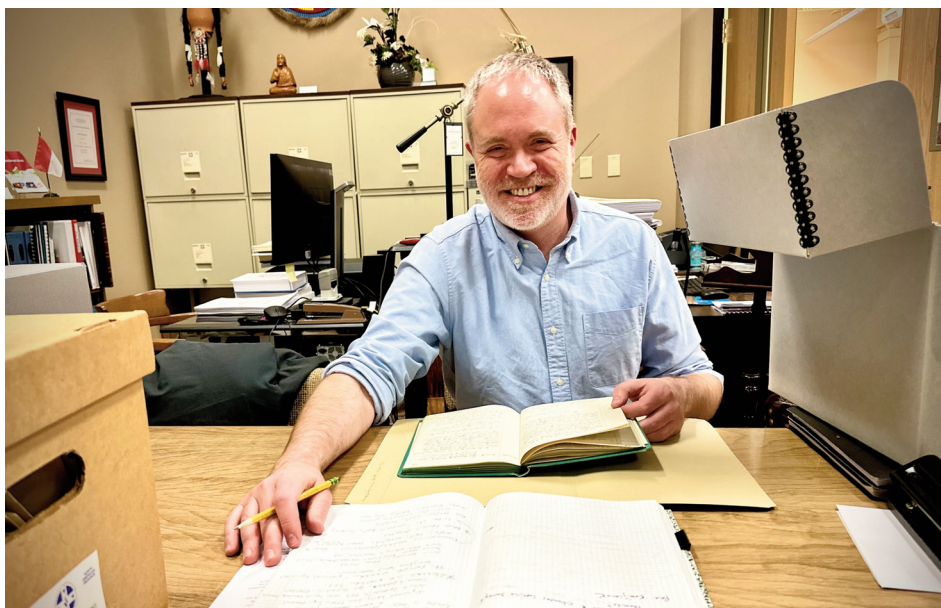
Ministries (Service, Empowerment and Transformation), doing home visits and direct service.

"I will always cherish all the memories with Br. Bernie at Divine Heart Seminary."

"Remembering him and his wry sense of humor and his prayerful kindness and generosity."

"Great guy; one of my favorites from the seminary."

Comments posted on social media about Br. Bernie Taube following the announcement of his death.



Researcher Justin Miller in the Provincial Archives

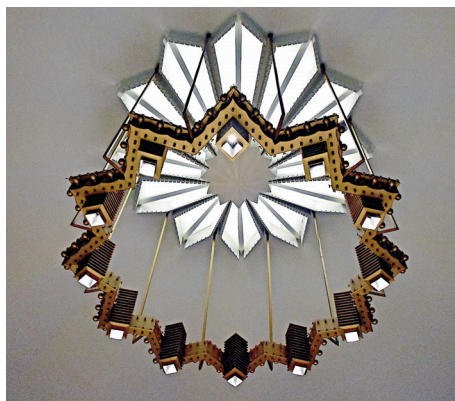
Historian studies unique design of Sacred Heart's architecture

The building which houses Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and Sacred Heart Monastery is an iconic landmark in the Hales Corners / Franklin area. Its unique design is the work of Henry Slaby (1906-1995), an architect who specialized in designing buildings for religious communities. Recently, it has become the focus of study of an Architectural Historian and Cultural Resource Manager from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

"Henry Slaby worked exclusively with Catholic parishes and religious orders," said Justin Miller. "He designed about three dozen buildings over the course of his 40-year career." The majority of Slaby's commissions are in Wisconsin, but he also designed a nursing home in Louisiana, two hospitals in Illinois (all for the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis), as well as Kilroe Seminary in Honesdale, PA, once operated by the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Kilroe was built about a dozen years before Sacred Heart in Hales

Corners.

Miller became interested in Henry Slaby while working with the City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission to document "every house of worship in the city built after 1920," he said. The purpose was to identify structures that should be recommended for historical designation. "As a part of that, we started to build connections between individual congregations and the Commission to share information about preservation



The top of the main chapel at Sacred Heart

resources and funding opportunities."

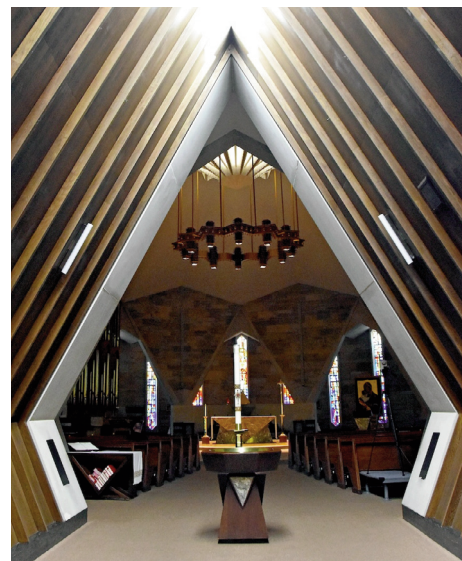
"While I was working on that project, I became interested in the work of Henry Slaby because of its distinctive style," said Miller. "I was able to get in contact with Slaby's daughter, who has her father's architectural drawings and records. She speaks very passionately about Slaby's work, and her conversations inspired me to explore it further.

"Around the same time, I was approached by Docomomo Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization dedicated to modern architecture and design. Docomomo Wisconsin is planning a book called *Milwaukee Moderns* that will feature two dozen Modernist buildings, each focused on a distinct architectural style or historical event.

"I was asked to contribute a chapter and immediately suggested Sacred Heart because it's such an amazing building and because, honestly, I wanted an excuse to research more about it!"

In addition to the Docomomo book, Miller is also in conversation with Slaby's family about possible projects in the future, such as an exhibit of Slaby's drawings or a book dedicated to his work.

Miller is grateful for the help of Fr. Wayne Jenkins, SCJ, province archivist. "He was able to locate some



Triangular images at the chapel entrance

incredible source materials relating to the design and construction of Sacred Heart," he said.

Slaby often included recurring elements in his designs. "He loved to use brick patterns to produce textures in a solid wall," said Miller. "The perfect example of this is the projecting crosses on the exterior walls of the gymnasium, or the 'polka dot' texture on the exterior walls of the bridge between the main building and the library. Inside the bridge hallway, the pattern is reversed, with the short bricks [called headers] recessed and the long bricks [called stretchers] projecting. This is actually a sneaky visual trick because those aren't the same bricks on the inside and outside; there's a layer of concrete blocks in between the interior and exterior walls. He does it inside the gym, too, with the projecting square blocks on the wall opposite the stage.

"Another Slaby hallmark that shows up on almost all of his buildings is lines of repeating squares. At Sacred Heart, it is in the borders around the windows, on the roof overhang of the dining hall, on the corona above the altar in the main chapel, on the datestone next to the front doors, even on the backside of the railing balusters in the library. Slaby loved to use this element; his office letterhead even had a row of tiny alternating red and black squares across the top."

One of Miller's favorite features in Sacred Heart's design "is the use of repeated angles and triangular forms in the chapel," he said. "They keep recurring on the exterior and interior, and they're arranged in such precise and satisfying ways from the obvious, like the shape of the angled arches and the 'folded plate' ceiling, to the subtle, like the uprights in the chapel and the chevron-patterned diamonds around the base of the crown on the roof..."

"Stewarding historic buildings can be tough sometimes, and I'm so happy to see that Sacred Heart is well loved and cared for," he said.

SCJ NEWS

Dehonian Jubilee begins

August 12 marked the opening of the Jubilee Year in recognition of the centenary of Fr. Leo John Dehon's death in 2025, as well as the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 2028.

Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú, SCJ, superior general, officially opened the Jubilee in Brussels: "May these years of preparation, formation and celebration renew our response to the vocation of love and reparation that we have received, increase our missionary zeal, strengthen our unity and our passion for justice and peace, for the care of our common home, so that we may always and everywhere be 'prophets of love and servants of the reconciliation of people and the

world in Christ' (Cst 7)."

During the four years leading to the sesquicentennial there will be congregational celebrations in Saint-Quentin and Brussels (France and Belgium), Quito (Ecuador), Kisangani (Congo), and Yogyakarta (Indonesia).

Vow renewals

Congratulations to Frater Jonathan Vuong Nguyen, SCJ, Frater Thuan Nguyen, SCJ, Frater Hung Pham, SCJ, Frater Jacob Smith, SCJ, Frater Truc Tran, SCJ, and Frater Michael Wodarczyk, SCJ, who renewed their vows in August.

Three of the students are now beginning their pastoral year: Frater Truc in South Dakota, Frater Thuan in Mississippi and Frater Michael in Houston. Frater Jonathan will continue his studies in Mississippi, and Fraters Jacob and Hung are on-campus at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology for the academic year.

Attentive to the appeals of the world

The July issue of *As a Rule* focused on No. 35, with the theme of living a life of oblation, attentive to the



Frater Truc signs his vow renewal on August 12, while Fra. Thuan, Fra. Hung, and Fr. Vien, look on

appeals made to us. In reflecting on the passage, Fr. Floribert Bulo Dhelo, SCJ, shared his story of being a refugee, and how Dehonians responded to the appeals of he and his fellow villagers.

“In 2002, my uncle’s family and I fled the ethnic war in Bunia, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Without forgetting the dramatic and arduous six-day walk on foot, days and nights through the forest, risking encounters with dangerous wild animals and rebels, I will focus on the time we arrived at Mambasa.

“Although we escaped, the suffering wasn’t over. We had no place to stay, no food, no money to survive, not even clothes except what we wore when we fled...

“Our Dehonians looked after the refugees. While some found housing and mattresses, others took care of food, clothing and medicine. And when classes started, they purchased uniforms and paid the school fees for all the refugee children for a year.

“I was touched by this gesture and felt indebted...

“We are surrounded by people in need, calling to be rescued, needing an open and compassionate heart to hear them and provide an answer or solution to their calls. Fr. Dehon founded the congregation to fight against social injustice. We as well, on his path, are called to find a way to

pursue the same spirit of love given freely through social services.”

Scan the QR code below to read the rest of Fr. Floribert’s story and access previous issues of *As a Rule*. There is a subscription link at the site.



Eucharistic Pilgrimage visits SHSST

On June 24, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology hosted a visit of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. Pilgrims arrived at midday, spent time in Adoration (the benediction was done by Fr. Henry Nguyen, SCJ) and then processed through the seminary property and on to St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin.

“It was a humbling experience to walk with others in this capacity,” said Fr. Henry. “I remembered our Rule of Life that states that ‘In Eucharistic Adoration we want to deepen our union with the sacrifice of Christ for the reconciliation of all with God’ (CST 83).”

Fr. Henry is pictured at right carrying the monstrance out of the chapel.



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!**

800-609-5559

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