



**Dehonians USA**

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

November 7, 2024

Dear Brothers,

The Cor Unum MA program is one of the offerings for lay students at SHSST. The Provincial Council has expressed a desire for the school to expand its outreach to lay students, forming them for church leadership with a strong understanding of and commitment to Catholic social teaching. Bill Lipscomb, a lawyer and graduate of the Cor Unum MA program, reflected on the impact of his formation at SHSST with the following words. With his permission, I would like to share his thoughts with you.

I was formed here through the Cor Unum program. I took a deep dive into Catholic Social Teaching through my two semesters of teaching in the Cor Unum program. My continuing work with Cor Unum students in their application of theology to the problems of the poor and marginalized in the [St. Josephat] Basilica neighborhood has been energizing. This semester I have felt the Spirit moving in the hearts of our students as we listened to stories of the struggles faced by migrants to Milwaukee's south side. I am devoted to the spirituality passed down to us by Fr. Dehon. I bring the charism of the SCJs into my work as a spiritual director, bringing a heart that burns for social justice into my giving the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. I believe in the necessity of the work of Sacred Heart [SHSST], especially in fulfilling Pope Francis' dream for synodality as a way of proceeding, bringing lay people, especially women, into seminary formation and leadership.



**according to the Heart of Christ**

One of the Cor Unum program's requirements is the monthly apostolic Saturday, in which students learn about the realities of the people in the archdiocese. The program takes place at St. Josephat Basilica in Milwaukee's southside, where they can learn more about the area's growing challenging realities. Last month, I was invited to be part of their apostolic Saturday. The topic was migration. Several migrants were asked to share their migration experiences with the help of an interpreter. They expressed a deep desire for belonging and accompaniment from the church, recognizing them as valuable

and equal members who could make a difference. Due to their immigration status, one painful reality is that they cannot travel home to visit their loved ones, particularly their aging parents.

You may be wondering why I was at their apostolic Saturday. I wanted to see how the Cor Unum program applies theology in a social justice-oriented way. Recently, the leadership at St. Josephat Basilica expressed interest in forming a collaborative partnership with the Dehonians and SHSST to support their outreach projects. These initiatives include teaching English and assisting individuals transitioning to life in the United States.

Their leadership has met with me to discuss collaboration. I am an advocate for creativity and partnership. We can be involved through our JPR Ministry. I will bring these discussions to the Provincial Council.

The Provincial Council has emphasized the need for SHSST and ECS programs to identify opportunities to support refugees and migrants in our community. I am aware they are working towards fulfilling this need. Additionally, the Provincial Council has highlighted the importance of SHSST in forming lay leaders committed to the social teachings of the Church, akin to Mr. Bill Lipscomb, in the spirit of our Founder, Fr. Leo John Dehon.

Fraternally,

