

SCJ NEWS

a newsletter of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart

August 2014

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7 represent US Province at SCJ educators conference

Dehonian educators from around the world, both professed SCJs and lay collaborators, met July 21-25 in Valencia, Spain. Representing schools from primary to university levels, participants focused on how they can network together to create more opportunities for education — on all levels — based in the Dehonian charism.

Each of the schools in the U.S. Province was represented at the gathering. Participants included Kathleen Whitebird (St. Joseph's Indian School, Chamberlain, SD), Jeanne Johnson (St. Martin of Tours, Franklin, WI), Adam Farnie (Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston, TX), Bridget Martin (Sacred Heart School, Southaven, MS), Msgr. Ross Shecterle (Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, Hales Corners, WI), Clara Isom (Holy

Family School, Holly Springs, MS), and Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ (OLG Houston, and vice-provincial superior).

The Valencia conference was a continuation of similar meetings in 2001 and 2008, both in Salamanca, Spain. These meetings lead to the education-based theme of the 2012 General Conference in Neustadt, Germany.

"Catholic education is one of the most important but also one of the most challenging means of disseminating the Gospel," said Fr. José Luis Munilla Martínez, SCJ, in his welcome to conference participants. Newly appointed as provincial superior of the Spanish Province, Fr. José Luis has



Participants from the U.S. Province in front of ESIC: Fr. Ed Kilianski (vice-provincial), Kathleen Whitebird (St. Joseph's Indian School, Chamberlain, SD), Jeanne Johnson (St. Martin of Tours, Franklin, WI), Adam Farnie (Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston, TX), Bridget Martin (Sacred Heart School, Southaven, MS), Msgr. Ross Shecterle (Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, Hales Corners, WI), and Clara Isom (Holy Family School, Holly Springs, MS)

more than a passing interest in education. Until his appointment as provincial, he was director of ESIC – Valencia, the host of the education gathering. ESIC is a multi-campus business school operated by the Spanish Province.

Education has been a priority of the congregation since its first apostolate: the Collège of Saint-Jean in Saint-Quentin, France. For Fr. Leo John Dehon, education played a key role in affecting social and political change.

Today, Dehonian educators wrestle with how they can continue the founder's hope: to have an impact on people and society through education.

In the palm of our hands...

"We live in an interconnected world," said Br. Roberto Garcia, SCJ,



Fr. Manuel Briñon Domínguez leads participants in a few ice-breaker sessions on the first night.



Music played a strong role at the conference from the first night's icebreaker, to morning prayer and daily liturgy, and finally the last evening where delegates from each area had to lead the rest of the group in a song from their country.

vice general secretary and the primary organizer of the education conference. He reminded educators that a colleague or fellow SCJ across the world "is really only a few clicks away on the smartphone in your hand."

The primary goal of the Valencia gathering was to determine "how we

choose to live that interconnectedness" he said. "Do we want to create a Dehonian education network?"

Before they brainstormed on creating their own network, participants heard from several presenters, learning how networks are implemented in other religious communities, as well as the tools available for networking.

Fr. José Ignacio Rodríguez Álvarez, a Jesuit, spoke about the use of educational networks in his community. The Jesuits are well-known and well-regarded for their work in education. Although creating schools was not the goal of St. Ignatius when he founded the community, just as with Fr. Dehon, he

soon realized that education is key to spreading not just the faith, but the values that faith embodies.

Both St. Ignatius and Fr. Leo John Dehon viewed education as something greater than the sharing of knowledge. It is a holistic way to affect people and create a more socially just society.

The first steps

After two days of presentations, participants began to brainstorm in small groups — both linguistic and continental — about possibilities for their own network and identified the nuts and bolts needed to create it.

They defined three objectives for the network: to help educators and those they serve get to know one another, to enhance formation in the Dehonian identity at all levels, and to share resources.

Although structures must be flexi-



Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America were represented at the educators conference



Fr. Ed, Kathryn Whitebird, Jeanne Johnson, Clara Isom, Adam Farnie & Msgr. Ross. **More conference photos at www.generalate.smugmug.com**

ble enough to adapt to the realities of each area, in general, the network will have three levels: international, continental and local.

Coordinators will be named for each level. These can be individuals, or in some cases, a small committee to ensure that the network is active and functional.

And then there was the question of language. In the meeting hall, the international participants had professional translation assistance. Unfortunately, the simultaneous translation booths do not follow people out of the meeting room. Noting that English has become a common language in many other international spheres, participants agreed that — at least at the general level — English will be official language of the network. Local networks will choose languages appropriate to their area.

A five-person committee was chosen to take the first steps in getting the network off the ground. Its members: Fr. John van den Hengel, SCJ (General Council), Br. Roberto Garcia, SCJ (general administration), Franz-Josef Hanneken (Gymnasium Leoninum, Germany), Fr. Valeriano Gómez Reolid, SCJ (Colegio Fray Luis de León, Spain) and Fr. José Ricardo Leandro Diniz, SCJ (Gymnasium Leoninum, but also bringing the perspective of his native Brazil).

Enlightening and affirming

Reflecting on her experience at the conference, Jeanne Johnson, principal of St. Martin of Tours, said that “My association with the Priests of the Sacred Heart has enriched my life. Through their generosity and charism

I have a school to pursue my own vocation of preparing and educating children to be vibrant, generous, productive members of society.

“I found the education conference in Spain to be enlightening and affirming of the work of all educators, not only those attending the conference. The diversity of the work done in our schools was evident; in that diversity I saw strength. Young people all over the world are growing up with the knowledge that they are responsible for treating others with respect and care in order to make a difference.

“This Dehonian network will provide the means for our school community to communicate, share the vision and do our humble best to fulfill the challenge of Fr. Dehon’s example.”

Kathleen Whitebird of St. Joseph’s Indian School echoed much of Jeanne’s response, adding that “I’m very enthused about the opportunities the Dehonian Network will offer. This is an opportunity for our students to connect globally with the Dehonian mission and share a wealth of cultural knowledge and resources.”

Network not just on the net!

Throughout the week participants and speakers emphasized the fact that a “network” is not just websites and online applications. It doesn’t just happen on the internet. The most important component of a network is people. Websites, email lists and other tools are simply that – tools for people to connect with one another.

“Something that we have become aware of in this week is that creating a network takes much energy,” said Fr.

John van den Hengel, SCJ, vicar general. “It takes people who know how and have a deep desire to communicate. It is interesting that we now see the IT person [Information Technology] not just as a technician but as a symbol of how to develop a new kind of humanity that is growing. An international humanity. We Dehonians want to be a part of that.

“May the work that Fr. Dehon started at the College of St. Jean continue with us.”



Br. Roberto Garcia brings the conference to a close with Fr. John van den Hengel looking on.

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 are located at P.O. Box 289, Hales Corners, WI 53130-0289 (414) 427-4266. Email: scjcommunications@gmail.com Mary Gorski, editor. Postage prepaid.



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"Symbols are important!" said those in formation when talking about how to share the Dehonian charism with youth. To prove their point, they wore matching shirts the next day. "And you all noticed, didn't you?" said Frater Joseph Vu (at keyboard). He is surrounded by Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas, Novice Justin Krenke and Frater James Nguyen.

How to be "Dehonians in community and mission"

Chapter focuses on State of the Province

What is a slogan? According to Merriam Webster, a slogan is a "brief, attention-getting phrase."

"Dehonians in community and mission" was the slogan for the 15th Provincial Chapter of the U.S. Province. However, the words — though brief — are meant to be far more than "attention-getting." The five-word phrase embodies who the Priests of the Sacred Heart are: religious priests and brothers, based in community, inspired by the charism of Fr. Leo John Dehon, reaching out to others in service to the world.

More than a slogan, it is a vocation, a way of life.

A chapter is a means of reviewing what those five words mean and establishing priorities for the province as it looks toward the future.

State of the Province

Much of the work of the 2014 Provincial Chapter centered on the "State of the Province" report (prepared by Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ), starting with a reflection on the chapter theme. Discussions took place in small groups.

On the provincial level, there was a call for renewal programs and retreats. Locally, chapter delegates emphasized the need to develop communication

skills as a means of enhancing community life.

Delegates spoke of the changing face of the province; both of the blessings and challenges of becoming more international. They reflected on how the province can not only welcome international SCJs, but welcome internationality itself.

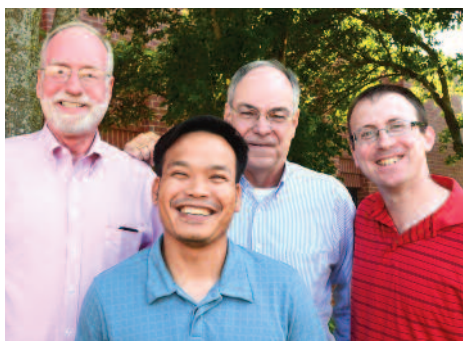
The chapter reiterated that vocational development is the responsibility of all communities and individuals. Several suggestions for youth outreach were surfaced, including national Dehonian youth gatherings, youth mission trips, and a greater use of social media with young people. Also, delegates stressed their desire for a strong Dehonian presence from the United States at the 2016 World Youth Day in Poland.

Finding ways to better share the Dehonian charism was a concern. Suggestions included developing a prayer book for laity based in the charism, homily aids, implementing the Spiritual Path (the Spiritual Path is a four-year guide developed at the general level as a formation tool for lay people seeking to learn about SCJ spirituality), and as with youth outreach — continue to expand the presence of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in social media.

"Just being more visible — our logo, our name — that in itself is a way to open up conversations about our charism," said a delegate.



Provincials past and present: Fr. John Czyzynski, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, Fr. Tom Cassidy, Fr. Michael Burke, Fr. Richard MacDonald and Fr. Johnny Klingler



Fr. Ed Kilianski and Fr. Duy Nguyen were elected as delegates to the 2015 General Chapter; Fr. Charles Brown and Fr. Greg Schill were elected as alternates.

The chapter discussed the province's senior members, affirming the care that they currently receive but noting the need to review options for SCJ seniors in community and ministry. The voice of elder SCJs needs to be heard as the province continues to focus on the chapter theme beyond the actual days of the chapter. How do members of the province continue to be "Dehonians in community and mission" during all phases of their lives?

Having voice

Members of the community in temporary vows do not have vote at a chapter but they certainly had voice! Grouped together at a discussion table, the temporarily professed often came up with the widest variety of ideas for group reflection, with a strong focus on issues with particular relevance to contemporary society. The use of social media and other innovate efforts were often cited by the group as a way to share SCJ spirituality and reach the wider public.

Representing the province

One of the tasks of a Provincial Chapter is to elect delegates to the next General Chapter, which will next take place May 17 – June 6 at the Generalate in Rome.

Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ and Fr. Duy Nguyen, SCJ were elected as delegates and Fr. Charles Brown, SCJ and Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ were elected as alter-

nates.

Fr. Stephen Huffstetter automatically serves as a delegate in his role as provincial superior.

"I am grateful for your trust in me," said Fr. Ed during a homily at one of the chapter liturgies. "I look forward to representing the province and to being part of such an international gathering of SCJs."

The migration of children

The final vote taken during the chapter concerned an issue that has been on the minds of many: the rapidly growing number of child migrants on the U.S. – Mexican border.

"We ask that the Provincial Superior and Council issue a scripture-based statement in the name of the chapter regarding the migration of children," was the text of the final proposal.

Not only did the proposal come out of concerns that have captured headlines in recent months, but also out of one of the key issues identified at the North American Continental Conference last September. It was there that SCJs from the U.S. and Canada surfaced immigration as an "urgent reality" that needs to be addressed by the congregation in North America.

See more

Photos from the chapter can be found on the province photo site at: www.scjusa.smugmug.com



Fr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, received a star quilt in appreciation for her work as chapter facilitator.

Chapter begins with celebration of Fr. Tady's 70th jubilee of vows

Members of the U.S. Province kicked off the start of their Provincial Chapter with a celebration: Fr. Leonard Tadzyszak's 70th year in vows. The SCJ is 92.

A Milwaukee native, Fr. "Tady," as he is often called, learned of the Priests of the Sacred Heart through an advertisement in a religious magazine. "It was so small I could barely see it," he said of the ad. "But I felt like I was called to serve the Sacred Heart so I contacted them."



Fr. Leonard Tadzyszak

It was while he was chopping logs with the CCCs (Civilian Conservation Corps — a program that put young men to work during the Depression) that he started to think about a vocation.

"After seeing that ad I just wrote to them [the Priests of the Sacred Heart] and told them I wanted to join," he said. Soon after, he received a letter from Fr. John Emonts, SCJ, saying that the priest he had written to, Fr. Henry Hogeback, SCJ, had just died in a car accident.

"But he added that I was still welcome to come to Hales Corners — I guess they didn't have much of an admissions process then," said Fr. Tady, laughing.

At 19 he was considered a "PG" or "post-graduate" student, so he was placed in an intensive two-year Latin program at the minor seminary



Fr. Mark Mastin congratulates Fr. Tady on his 70th jubilee of religious life.

in Donaldson, Ind.

He completed his seminary studies at Sacred Heart Monastery and was ordained to the priesthood in 1952. Like many newly ordained priests at the time, his first assignment was back at the seminary.

"They needed teachers, so that's where we went," said Fr. Tady. He became a Latin teacher at Divine Heart Seminary.

"I didn't know Latin all that well," he said, looking back on that first year. "All I had were those two years at Donaldson and a little more later on. But I stayed about two days ahead of the class so I could figure out what they were going to ask. After seven years I actually got to know the language pretty well!"

In 1961, he took on a totally new assignment — he left for De Aar, South Africa. Fr. Tady enjoyed being a missionary and stayed for four years before returning to the U.S. Province. Then, it was back to school. He served at Trinity College in Redlands, Calif., Sacred Heart Seminary in Victorville, Calif., the novitiate programs in both Ste. Marie, Ill. and in Baileys Harbor, Wis., and at Kilroe

Seminary in Honesdale, Penn.

After many years in education, Fr. Tady became a "pinch-hitter" of sorts, filling in at parishes when others were on vacation, or serving as a fill-in until a permanent SCJ was assigned to a location.

In 1992 he retired and for several years split his time between the province retirement communities in Pinellas Park, Fl. and Franklin, Wis. He is now a member of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML, with residence at the Congregational Home in suburban Milwaukee.



SCJs celebrate Fr. Tady's anniversary during the opening luncheon of the chapter.

Br. Clay Diaz makes final profession

Br. Clay Diaz, SCJ, started candidacy with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 2003. On July 8, on the second day of the Provincial Chapter, he made his perpetual profession of vows with the community.

"I came to know the SCJ community while living in Puerto Rico through *Vision Magazine*," he said. "I truly appreciate the SCJ charism and the ministries of the community: working with the poor and serving those who have needs, be it through parish ministries, social outreach, schools and many other ministries."

Born in Massachusetts, Br. Clay, 49, grew up on the East Coast but moved to Puerto Rico as a young adult. Much of his family also lives there, including his mother. "I come from a BIG family," said Br. Clay. And that's no exaggeration; he has 10 sisters and four brothers.

"Being a religious brother, an SCJ brother, is a blessing and a great joy," he said. "One of the reasons why I joined the SCJs was because of the charism, the love that we have for the Sacred Heart of Jesus, but also because Fr. Dehon, our founder, worked with the poor. When I visit our ministries I realize that I want to continue to follow in his footsteps."

Br. Clay had been out of school for 19 years when he became a candi-



Br. Clay Diaz

date. He admitted that the return to academics was a challenge, but one that he enjoyed. He did his undergraduate studies at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, and this past May, he earned a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) from Catholic Theological Union, also in Chicago.

Bilingual, Br. Clay is fluent in English and Spanish, including sign language in both languages. Hearing impaired, Br. Clay said that his disability gives him an advantage in reaching out to people with special needs, "I have an understanding of the challenges they face."

Before completing his studies, Br. Clay did a ministry year at St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota.

"I enjoyed working at St. Joe's because of the great people both at the homes and in the different academic departments," he said. "The atmosphere on the campus is such a unique experience. I learned a lot about the Native American culture."

Br. Clay moves from Chicago to Mississippi where he will work with Sacred Heart Southern Missions.

Remembering Fr. Larry Rucker

SCJ served over 30 years in South Dakota

Fr. Larry Rucker, 80, died Sunday, July 13, in Brookfield, Wis. (suburban Milwaukee). In the weeks before his death the SCJ had been hospitalized for internal bleeding and related complications, which led to his death.

Born in New York State, Fr. Larry professed first vows in 1953 and was ordained in 1966.

Fr. Larry's first assignment after ordination was at St. Joseph's parish in Cherry, Creek, SD; he continued ministry in South Dakota for almost 30 years.

Following that first year at Cherry Creek, Fr. Larry did ministry at All Saints Church in Eagle Butte, St. Martin in Murdo and Sacred Heart in Dupree.

In 1983 he moved to Sioux Falls and began a 12-year commitment to the Kateri Indian Center, where he ministered not only to the area's Native American community but also to the nearby hospital and prison.

In 1996 he headed south to serve at St. Joseph parish in Holly Springs, Miss., until his retirement in 2001.

Fr. Larry was a member of the Sacred Heart

Community at SHML with residence at the Congregational Home.

Besides his fellow SCJs, Fr. Larry is survived by his sister Ann Hopkins of Beacon Falls CT, and his brother, Gerald Rucker, of Orchard Park, NY.

Funeral services were at Good Shepherd Chapel at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, Franklin, Wis.



Fr. Larry Rucker



Fr. Stephen Huffstetter blesses Br. Clay's profession cross; members of the formation team look on.



The Litany of Saints during Br. Clay's ceremony.

SCJ NEWS

Inspired by Fr. Dehon

Each year St. Martin of Tours parish school (Franklin, WI) holds an essay contest in which teachers challenge eighth graders to write about Fr. Leo Dehon, founder of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Contest winners earn a modest scholarship.

Lindsey Ferr was this year's winner. The following is from her entry:

"Fr. Dehon had many great qualities. He never gave up and didn't take no for an answer. There is one quality, however, that he and I share. We are both very strong and won't stop until we reach the end of our quests. One example of this is when I fractured my lower spine. I don't like to discuss this topic because I do not like the thought that this little accident had so much impact on my life, but it did. It really changed the way I look at

things...

"This mishap had so much influence on me... it motivated me to start to enjoy things more and not to take so many every day things for granted. I will always pull through and will never let anything defeat me, just like how Fr. Dehon did, and I will encourage others to do the same...

"Fr. Dehon believed that God has a different path for all of us. He believed that God will put you to the test and see how you handle the situation. Over my time at St. Martin's, I have had a lot of time to think, and some time to question why God does all the things he does. This thought crossed my mind over a thousand times, but I think I finally found an answer thanks to Fr. Dehon: to open your eyes and see who you were meant to be. God's path for you is like a race; you can't stop running until you cross the finish line.

"Like Fr. Dehon, I will speak up for what I think is right and I will make sure that my voice is heard. I will work to continue to be a light for the world and for all the people surrounding me."

New name, logo and seal

On August 15, Sacred Heart School of Theology officially became Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. With the new name comes



a new seal and logo (pictured above and below). Jonathan Drayna, director of communications for Sacred Heart, explains the new designs:

"The mark has a shield that features alternating blue and red quadrants, with the well-known Dehonian heart and cross symbol in the upper left quadrant, reflecting our heritage and future as an SCJ institution. The lower right quadrant features the 'Greek crossword' that has been in use in symbols associated with the school and monastery for nearly 100 years. The vertical word is Phos, meaning 'light.' The horizontal word is Zoe, meaning 'life.' An early motto for the seminary was 'to spread light and give life.' It also reflects the idea that Jesus Christ is the light and life of the world."



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Priests of the Sacred Heart

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