

# SCJ NEWS

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

February 2015

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## Lived and shared

Contemporary expressions of Dehonian spirituality in everyday lives

**I**t has been almost a year since the US Province began "Dehonian Spirituality," a weekly posting of reflections and prayers based in the Dehonian charism. Produced by David Schimmel, province director of Dehonian Associates, it is published on Fridays on the province website and also sent as an email to subscribers (subscription information follows this article). One of the components of Dehonian Spirituality is "Lived and Shared," where SCJs and those with whom they collaborate, reflect on how they experience the Dehonian charism in their lives. The following are a few samples from the past year:

### "Faith in action" nurtured by SCJs

**M**y work with the SCJ community has spanned almost two decades. I always felt that teaching is a ministry. It is an outreach to the mind, heart, and spirit of our children. The call to ministry in my case was very literal. My journey to Sacred Heart Southern Missions and then St. Joseph's Indian School was set in motion by a single phone call to which I answered yes. This answer has been supported with a great deal of prayer and reflection through the years.



Kathleen Whitebird

What drew me in was witnessing the "faith in action" that is nurtured by the SCJ community. The educational outreach encompasses the whole community. The inclusive spirit of Fr. Dehon invites everyone to be prophets of love and servants of reconciliation. This active ministry network allows youth opportunities of generosity as daily practice. Just recently, our students made special treats in class. They served them to men working on the construc-

tion of a playground on campus. Generosity and gratitude flourish in even the smallest of interactions from daily greetings to helping with homework.

Through the years, the SCJ schools in the US have formed a collaboration sharing resources, cultural practice, and faith encounters. Our students have had the opportunity to travel to other schools and build connections rooted in Dehonian charism, a Heart of Love, a People of Hope, and a Mission of Service. Watching our children as they learn about one another and share experiences, whether it is making dream catchers, dancing on a Mississippi River Boat, splashing at the lakeshore, visiting NASA, or heads bowed in prayer, gives one hope: hope that our work will nurture these children and help them grow into warm, caring, faith-filled individuals.

At the Educare Conference in Valencia, Spain [*an international meeting of representatives from SCJ sponsored schools*], another opportunity to strengthen the network of Dehonian Schools was discussed using technology. Taking advantage of these global connections will both enrich and expand the horizons of our students. I am grateful to be a part of the SCJ mission and encourage our children to share their blessings worldwide.

*Kathleen Whitebird, Principal of St. Joseph's Indian School*

### What the Eucharist means to me

**W**hen I reflect about what the Eucharist means in my life, three moments come to my mind and heart immediately. First, as I gather with my community or any community for Eucharist, I unite myself (and I ask that we unite ourselves) with Jesus and offer ourselves with Him to our loving *Abba* who first loves us. When the author of the letter to the Hebrews tried to capture Jesus' disposition on coming into the world, he quotes the words



Fr. John Czyzynski

of Psalm 40: "Behold I come to do your will" (words so precious to Fr. Dehon, our founder). Jesus came into the world to show us how much we are loved and He died being faithful to that mis-

sion, which He received from the Father. His whole life was dedicated to helping us become aware of God's great love for us, but the supreme moment of that mission of Jesus was his death on the cross for us. His death was the result of his fidelity to that mission and He asks us to continue that mission. He said, "As the Father sent me so I send you." So as we begin the Eucharistic celebration, I unite myself with Jesus to be open to what continuing the mission of Jesus will require of me that day.

Second, when the presider concludes the words of consecration, "This is my body...This is my blood" with the mandate, "Do this in memory of me," that is another significant moment for me. I unite with Jesus and say in my heart, "Jesus when you say: do this in memory of me, you are not just asking me to repeat a ritual in memory of you. You are saying that as your body was broken and your blood was shared in carrying out the mission of letting people know how much we are loved by God, so I must be ready to let my body be broken and my blood be shed in continuing your mission. Since I/we cannot do this on our own, you give us yourself in communion so that nourished by Eucharist we are strengthened to do what we cannot do on our own."

Third, Eucharist is so broad a mystery. It is not limited to the sacramental presence of Jesus at Mass and adoration. We, all of us, are the Body of Christ. When the priest, deacon, or Eucharistic minister offers us the consecrated bread, that person says, "The Body of Christ" and we say "Amen," we welcome Christ into our hearts.

That "Amen" we say at the Eucharistic celebration is a mockery if we do not say "Amen" to and welcome our brothers and sisters, whom we encounter outside the space of where we gathered for Mass. As someone once said, "We are no closer to Christ than we are to the person we love the least."

That is what Eucharist means for me as a Priest of the Sacred Heart.

*Fr. John Czyzynski, SCJ,  
retired novice master*

## Inspired by SD farmers

**I**n terms of spiritual growth, which is the goal of every human being and of those who are being reshaped by the Holy Spirit, I am often inspired by farmers, especially here in South Dakota. If the crop doesn't grow, the farmer is concerned about what's wrong. Experts study the crops in the fields and run tests. When a Christian stops growing, spiritual help is needed.

One of the missionary activities is to grow spiritually in order to meet the spiritual needs of the people I serve.

Having been in religious life for 26 years, I still have to learn constantly about spiritual and pastoral aspects that in turn will broaden my perspective of thinking and develop my pastoral ministry in the future. Instead of letting my energy be absorbed by any activity around me, I let myself be enlightened by the Holy Spirit so that I will be able to see clearly what I have been doing in the mission field.

Reflecting on mission activities on the prairie, I come to realize that I am called to serve people with an open heart and mind. At the same time, I need to strengthen my inner spirit and

keep my life on track. When trials come, there is no better way to endure them but by praying patiently and attentively in the presence of God. A simple prayer helps us, not only to deepen our spiritual life, but also to stay connected with God, other people, and other creatures around us.

To be aware of God's presence is one of the few valuable efforts that cannot be neglected regarding spiritual growth. In my opinion, no one can stray from God and remain healthy. Through the celebration of the Eucharist and adoration of the Eucharist, our life is nourished and transformed into a better quality of life. In turn, community life becomes stronger and healthier. As a result, community life bears abundant fruit that is revealed through our life and ministry.

*Fr. Vincent Suparman, SCJ,  
ministers among Native Americans  
on the plains of South Dakota*



Fr. Vincent Suparman

## Sharing the SCJ mission

**F**or the past 15 years I have been a part of the ministry of the Priests of the Sacred Heart through my role as Planned Giving Director. Sharing the devotion to the Sacred Heart and the charisma of Fr. Dehon has evolved over the years and has recently included travel to some of our missions.

My experiences interacting with the SCJs, the people they serve, and their devoted benefactors, help me to see and share our common goal. My recent travels to India opened my eyes to the love our SCJ priests and brothers share with those in need. On the day of the dedication of the new Sacred Heart Shrine Church we served 10,000 people from all walks of life and many faiths. Meeting and seeing so many people and hearing how the church has changed their lives has moved me to raise additional funds for the education of children in India.



Pam Milczarski

Through work in our Development Office and at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, including the English as a Second Language program, I can bring the call to action to those who are so very generous. It is the good work of the Priests of the Sacred Heart following Fr. Dehon's lead that inspires people to support these worthy causes. Interacting with these devoted people, listening to their stories and hearing of their deep love of God energizes my desire to share the mission and ministry of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in a variety of ways.

*Pam Milczarski, Planned Giving Director, Priests of the Sacred Heart*

## Helping students build a foundation for their lives

This is my seventh year working at Our Lady of Guadalupe School in which I have served the community as a teacher, assistant principal and now as principal.

I grew up fortunate enough to have parents who made providing me and my brothers with a Catholic education their top priority. My calling to education came from this realization of how much of a gift this was. Consequently, I have chosen to work at under-resourced schools to ensure that students who couldn't necessarily afford the most expensive schools received an education that they deserved, rather than the one that they



Matt Garcia-Prats

could afford.

On a daily basis, our faculty is tasked with forming students of academic strength, of faith and of character. The faculty members feed off the dedication that we see in each other. This is a commitment that is deeply rooted in a faith in God and in a realization that ministering to His youngest disciples is not only worthwhile, but essential. The faculty meets each morning to begin the day in prayer. It would be impossible to separate the spirituality and service of the work we do at Our Lady of Guadalupe School. Our service to the community helps to form our spirituality while our faith, in turn, gives us the strength to serve through what can be tireless work.

I have come to see the work that I do as a service to God. I see many students and families struggle on a daily basis, yet this reminds me that the work we do is valuable. Despite the cost of sending students to Our Lady of Guadalupe School, families selflessly sacrifice for their children's education. The value of our work is manifested as these students graduate, move on to high school and subsequently to college. We serve to set a foundation for students who can move on from our school to do great things.

Each year on December 12th, Our Lady's feast day, the spirit, enthusiasm and devotion of the community becomes more evident. The days surrounding the feast day are ones which I can only describe as celebratory humility. Catholics from all over the Houston area flock to Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in order to pray and celebrate. The feeling is simply infectious. The devout bring roses which drape the altar and the grotto. These roses are an outward symbol of an inner devotion. My spirit is reinvigorated and my commitment to serve is renewed on this day. God's love is real, and my service to the students and families at Our Lady of Guadalupe school is my own version of the rose that I leave at the altar. It is

the way that I know best to demonstrate my gratitude for the blessings that God has bestowed upon me.

*Matt Garcia-Prats, Principal at Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Houston*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praying and hoping! I find myself praying and hoping today as the provincial treasurer. The spirituality of the Priests of the Sacred Heart is one of oblation, or offering, of oneself with Christ to the Father. In the morning prayer of oblation I offer myself with Jesus to the Father and along with this offering I give to Christ the worries of my ministry as treasurer.

Any day can present problems so prayer helps. When you stop and look at the cost of operating our various ministries you have to stand in wonder at what the Sacred Heart makes possible through the generosity of our donors. The average donation from a caring donor is \$12. I like to stop and think how many donations of \$12 it will take to operate a seminary at \$2.8 million. The number of donations is 233,333 to make the total of \$2.8 mil-



Dn. David Nagel

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lion. So you get the idea that it takes a lot of generous donors giving frequent gifts to operate the various ministries of the province.

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology is just one of our many ministries, so you need another 233,333 gifts for the overseas missions and another 116,666 donations for the priests and brothers who are retired. Each of those gifts is given by donors who care about the ministries of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. In thanksgiving for the generosity of our donors we remember them at Mass and in our prayers. You will find on the altar in the retirement residence a notebook with the intentions that our donors have asked us to remember for them. Yes, praying for our donors is part of our daily routine.

Whenever I have a discussion about money and how much is needed for various projects I think of the many donors who support the work we do. I also like to ask the person requesting funding to think about how many donations of \$12 will be needed to make their request a reality.

Thanksgiving is at the center of our prayer and that is why Fr. Dehon, our founder, said that our lives should be a never-ending Mass. We offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father and in this offering we include our donors and their special needs. The ministries of the province rely on the generosity of the donors and we pray for them daily. We are called to offer our lives with Jesus to the Father so that the love of the Sacred Heart might be known everywhere.

*Dn. David Nagel, SCJ,  
Provincial Treasurer, US Province*

## Serving senior religious

**O**ur Rule of Life, #68, of the Priests of the Sacred Heart states: "At the heart of the local, district, regional, and provincial community, we surround with special charity our sick and aged brothers.

Particularly through them the Lord inspires us to authentic abandonment, and reminds us of the fragile nature of our condition. He wants to be acknowledged and served in them in a very special way" [Cf. Matthew 25:40].

It has been my privilege to serve our senior brothers for three years at Villa Maria, in Franklin, Wis., and going into my sixth year at Sacred Heart Residence, in Pinellas Park, Fl. These senior brothers were, when I was younger, very active and vital members of our community, and now they are serving the Church and the community in a different way than they did when they were younger and more active. This is a very privileged and humbling ministry for me.

Fr. Dehon grew closer to God by his fidelity and prayer life. When I think about these senior brothers, I see them doing what Fr. Dehon practiced. When they were younger they were often involved in an active ministry and spent time at prayer, both communal and private. Now, when they are no longer assigned a regular ministry, they continue to be faithful to community life and prayer. Time is spent, not only in communal prayer but also in daily private prayer.

Many of our senior members are active not only in prayer but also in some forms of ministry as their abilities allow them. Fr. Ray Vega goes each week to the clinic to pray for those individuals who are having an abortion and the ones performing the abortion. Fr. Frank Burshnick dedicates time to both community ministry as well as helping out in the parishes with confession and celebrating the Eucharist.

Fr. Dehon taught us to be patient and "to let the Lord swing the whip." This is not always easy to do, but I have seen it exemplified through members of my community. Br. Frank



Br. Ben Humpfer

Miller suffered from cancer, and Fr. Jim Alexander was for the most part blind because of macular degeneration. Fr. Frank Hudson was bed-confined in the nursing home for a good period of time up until his death. They accepted their physical condition and offered it to the Lord patiently.

As I begin to come closer to my own senior life, their example gives me the strength to continue to pray when maybe I am least feeling like I need to pray. Their lives also help me to be patient with my limitations and to accept my physical incapability. Their example encourages me to live my religious life in the spirit of Fr. Leo John Dehon, who lived his life in the tone of *Ecce Venio* ["Behold, I come to do your will"], such as the Lord Jesus did. This example and ministry gives me the grace to live like Mary, the Mother of Jesus who said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word".

*Br. Ben Humpfer, SCJ, superior of the  
Sacred Heart Retirement Community,  
Pinellas Park, Fl.*

## Inspired by founder's dedication to youth

**T**he first time I came across the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement was when I was in the refugee camp. [Fr. Franics was in the camp after fleeing Vietnam] My mom took me to the church and signed me up with a group of strangers who were glad that I was part of their clan. It was the very first time that I knew what it meant to kneel for a half-hour in front of Jesus. It was the longest kneeling of a seven-year-old boy who had no concept of adoring Jesus or worshipping the Lord. Yet, from that moment on, the idea of service, dedication and priesthood began with that kneeling.

After high school I joined the



Fr. Francis Vu Tran

Priests of the Sacred Heart and began my formation study in San Antonio, Texas. During my novitiate year, I read about and contemplated Fr. Dehon's dream of forming a

religious congregation. I always remember the man with much dedication to the Heart of Jesus and the willingness to go the extra mile to educate and guide young men to live a holy life, acceptable to the Lord. Fr. Dehon's concern for youth was evident in the forming of the St. Joseph's Youth Center. I always admired his dedication to youth. His dedication to young people has inspired me during my four years away for graduate school in Rome

In May 2014, Fr. Binh Nguyen, SVD, general chaplain for the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement, invited me to join the team of chaplains as assistant general chaplain of academic affairs. I hesitated at first because it meant that if I accepted the invitation, it would mean that I must put aside a chunk of my time for the youth group. As I contemplated the invitation, I recalled the time and effort that Fr. Dehon put into the youth group because he believed in youth. He wanted them to know Jesus and have a personal relationship with him. From that moment on, I knew what I had to do in order to be called a son of Fr. Dehon.

In August of last year I had a chance to be the chaplain to more than 80 young people who were about to enter the life of a servant leader — the model of service for young people. As I shared with them about the life of a servant leader, one of the persons whom I highlighted during my talk was Fr. Dehon. I told them about his life, his love for the Eucharist, and his dedication to the service of the Kingdom of God. I

shared with them that the life of a servant leader is a life of love and service. Fr. Dehon would have said to them today that one cannot be a servant leader if one does not know Jesus. One cannot be a servant leader unless one cannot live without the love of the Eucharist and of service for God's Kingdom in the life of the kids at their parish.

As I begin with my new role as assistant general chaplain of academic affairs with the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement, Fr. Dehon's ideals and dream are still part of my dream. I want young people to know Jesus, to love him, and to serve him. I want young people to come to Jesus when life turns upside-down. I want young people to live a life of the Eucharist, as an offering acceptable to the Lord.

*Fr. Francis Vu Tran, SCJ,  
doctoral student in scripture and  
chaplain with the National Vietnamese  
Eucharistic Youth Movement*



**Y**ou can find more personal testimonies, as well as reflections and prayers based in the Dehonian charism, on the "Dehonian Spirituality" page of the US Province website at: [www.sacredheartusa.org](http://www.sacredheartusa.org) If you would like to be added to the e-mail subscription list for the weekly "Dehonian Spirituality" please send an email to [scjcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:scjcommunications@gmail.com) with "Dehonian Spirituality" in the subject heading.

## ESL alumna helps lead international Dehonian Family

**O**n May, 2014, approximately 35 members of the Dehonian Family — SCJ and lay from around the world — came together to discuss ways in which the Dehonian charism and can be lived and shared beyond professed members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

Among those who took part in the meeting was Ida Coelho, a lay Dehonian from Brazil. And by the end of the gathering, she found herself serving on an organizing committee charged with moving forward the proposals that came out of the conference.

"Being asked by the others to serve on the committee was a surprise!" said Ida. "It is certainly something that I did not expect." She added that while it was an honor to have her name put forward, it is also "a responsibility as a lay person that is important to assume. A mission has been entrusted to us; we are called to share the Dehonian charism. It is a way in which we give personal witness to our baptismal vocation."



Ida Coelho

### In the footsteps of her parents

It is easy to trace the roots of Ida's passion for her faith. "My mother was devoted to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St. Anthony," said Ida. "She would invite friends and neighbors to our house to attend novenas in honor of the saints."

Ida's father was a man who frequently put his faith in action. Besides parish ministry, he often sought ways to help the poor, especially in education. He established a school for illiterate fisherman where he provided not only basic school supplies "but even eyeglasses if they needed them," said Ida.

"As a kid I used to accompany him when he went out to help poor families," said Ida. "My job was to teach the children in these families. It was children teaching children."

Growing up in the footsteps of her father, Ida is a public school teacher (English studies) in Rio de Janeiro. Her family moved to the city from northern Brazil when she was 13. She and her husband of 31 years, Jose Carlos, raised their two children there.

Following in her father's footsteps, she is also active in her parish where she teaches the sacraments.

## Living the charism

It was through her parish, Sacred Heart of Jesus in Meier (a municipality west of Rio de Janeiro), that she learned about the Dehonian charism. She says that she lived it unknowingly for many years before a fellow parishioner told her what it was.

"Another parishioner, one of the first lay Dehonians in our parish, said that she had been observing me for some time and saw how I lived," said Ida. "She told me that I was living the charism of Fr. Dehon and invited me to participate in a lay Dehonian training program..."

"People would come to me for help, and I helped them. My husband and I did Eucharistic Adoration before Mass. It was just what we did."

She and her husband talked about the invitation and agreed to join eight others from their parish in an initial discernment program. The group met monthly, led primarily by lay Dehonians in collaboration with local SCJs. They learned about the life of Fr. Dehon and his charism, and studied the history of the congregation.



Ida jokes around during a Dehonian Family gathering at the Generalate in Rome.

"The lay Dehonians in the São Paulo Province (Central Brazil, where Rio de Janeiro is located), are well established and well organized," said Ida.

After a year of formation, all 10 members of the group decided to make an initial commitment to the Dehonian charism. Following the traditions set by the São Paulo lay Dehonian group, they did so on August 12, the anniversary of the founder's death. That commitment was renewed yearly for six years. In the seventh year, a perpetual commitment is made.

From that initial 10, the group of lay Dehonians at Ida's parish has grown to 50. They meet monthly for Adoration, Mass, and a reflective or educational component. As with all groups, there is also time for "business," organizing and reporting on projects and activities.

Outside of these gatherings, lay Dehonians also commit to 15 minutes of daily personal Adoration, an Act of Oblation, Eucharistic Adoration and frequent participation in Mass. "Of course, we also commit to living the charism in solidarity."

The lay Dehonian movement in Brazil is very strong. Ida served as a regional coordinator ("sector animator"), uniting the two lay Dehonian groups of Rio de Janeiro; and later as general coordinator of the lay Dehonian groups found in the three provinces of Brazil.

As general coordinator she traveled throughout the country, doing pastoral visits to all of the groups. "I learned about who they are and what they are doing, but too, I stressed to them the need for on-going training and participation in gatherings of the larger Dehonian family.

Ida also visited the congregation's missions in Ecuador. In 2010 she took part in "Missio Cordis," the SCJs' Latin American Seminar in Brusque, Brazil, in which the congregation looked at "how the people of Latin America can contribute to the legacy of Fr. Dehon," she said.

## From Brazilian Portuguese to American English

It was at Missio Cordis that Ida learned about Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology's ESL (English as a Second Language) program. Ida is one of the program's few lay Dehonian alumni.

"My experience was unforgettable," she said. "I was welcomed and treated as a very dear friend of the SCJ family. Moreover, the interaction with the seminary community — including SCJs from other countries — was wonderful. I was also able to visit several of the ministries in the US Province. This was an exceptional period of time that enriched not only my personal life, but my vocation."

When asked what it is that attracts Ida to the Dehonian charism, she said that it is the founder's example, "Fr. Dehon's courage to face society and speak up for the poor. This is what inspires me."

**ENDNOTE:** One of the goals of the international Dehonian Family organizing committee is to enhance communication between and about the Dehonian Family around the world. An initial step toward that is the **International Dehonian Family Facebook page**. Search for it on Facebook, or find a link to it on the province website:

[www.sacredheartusa.org](http://www.sacredheartusa.org)



# SCJ NEWS

## Bamboo Christmas trees and free weddings for the poor

Fr. John Czyzynski, SCJ, retired novice master, spent a month in the Philippines early this year working with the region's formation program. During his time there he was a frequent contributor to the province blog. The following is from one of his posts:

"Tuesday I visited our parish at Kumalarang. This is one of the first places where the SCJs settled when we came to the Philippines. At present two of our men are there: Fr. Showe from India and Fr. Candido, a rather newly ordained Filipino priest...

"It is a very poor area materially speaking but rich in so many other ways. Our guys raise livestock of various kinds as sources of food and as sources for income: pigs, chickens and roosters, fish, rice.

"The Christmas tree was still up on the parish grounds. Unique, the tree is made of what is available. The 'trunk' is a 45-foot tall bamboo tree. Then palm tree leaves are hung from it and extended out from the bamboo trunk like a teepee. This structure is filled with lights and other



Fr. John shows off a souvenir he received from students

decorations...

"The people in the area are poor so periodically there are what Fr. Showe says are called 'free marriages.' Our guys welcome folks who cannot afford a wedding celebration to have their wedding at the parish. There are a number of couples and their guests for the occasion. Our guys cover the cost of a very nice meal for them after the wedding ceremony. People of the parish support this generous celebration."

Go to [www.scjusa.wordpress.com](http://www.scjusa.wordpress.com) to read more posts from Fr. John.

## Formation farming!

Fr. Tom Cassidy, SCJ, who is serving in India until May, has also been a regular contributor to the province blog. One of his recent entries was about the livestock maintained by the formation community in Eluru, including the community cow, who seems to have a love for

soccer:

"Besides the pigs and cow we also have a flock of free range chickens," wrote Fr. Tom. "I'm not sure how many there are but enough that from time to time we enjoy home-grown chicken as opposed to chickens purchased on the open market. I usually know when it's the house variety by the racket that takes place just before John, our cook, dispatches the bird of the day. Usually as well I'll see some feathers not too far from the kitchen door where the unlucky bird met its fate.

"Our one and only cow thinks it's part human as it has no contact with others of its kind. If you let it on the soccer field it will butt the ball, but as far as I know it has never scored a goal.

"Last year we also had a herd of goats but there just isn't enough land (about six acres) to support them, and besides, they tended to eat everything in sight, including Fr.

## Eldest North American SCJ dies

**F**r. Joseph George Coppens, SCJ, a member of the Canadian Region, died on Saturday, February 14, surrounded by members of his SCJ community. He was 94, in the 72nd year of his religious profession, and the 67th year of priesthood.

Fr. George came to Canada in 1949 from his native Holland and spent several years ministering to Catholic immigrants from the Netherlands. He assisted them with housing and employment, he organized social activities for families, hosted evenings for youth, and was committed to keeping them connected to the Church and their faith heritage.

He also served for many years as a teacher and prefect at the community's school in Delaware, Ontario. Fr. George assisted in parishes in the dioceses of London, Toronto and St. Catherine's. He served as pastor of St. Joan of Arc parish in Toronto, Sacred Heart parish in Delaware, and Sacred Heart parish in Uxbridge. He was appointed treasurer of the Anglo-Canadian Province and until his death, was the local treasurer of the Toronto community.



Fr. Coppens

Mariano’s vegetable garden. He has enough trouble trying to keep the cow from eating the grass he’s trying to grow!”

As noted in the previous item about Fr. John, you can read Fr. Tom’s blog entries at [www.scjusa.wordpress.com](http://www.scjusa.wordpress.com).

### Health care program benefits school’s benefactors

St. Joseph’s Indian School in Chamberlain, S.D., introduced an innovative health program in January, the benefits of which are aimed at the school’s own benefactors.

The “St. Joseph’s Health Access and Discount Program” provides access to board-certified doctors via telephone (TeleConsults) or a computer/mobile device (eConsults) for less money than most co-pays. In addition, the program offers savings and discounts on other medical services. Licensed nurses are available 24/7 and can be consulted at no charge.

“As a ‘thank you’ to our donors, we are excited to launch this program,” said Rita Cook, project manager assistant at St. Joe’s. “Not only can this program save our donors time and money, it directly benefits our students as a portion of proceeds are directed to the school. It’s really a win-win.”

For more information about the program call 1-855-366-9066.

### JPR Commission distributes nearly \$70,000 in grants

The Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission of the US Province has chosen its annual grant recipients. Grants are given to organizations that further the Dehonian charism of “going to the people” as “prophets of love and servants of reconciliation,” said province JPR director Mark Peters. Sponsored groups must have some connection to the SCJs, and are judged on their impact on the poor and potential for contributing to social change. Special consideration is given to those that address issues that the US Province has identified as a high priority, such as immigration and economic justice.

This year, grantees include SET Ministry, the Benedict Center for Criminal Justice, the Dominican Center, and Common Ground in Milwaukee; Casa Juan Diego, Magnificat Houses, The Metropolitan Organization and Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston in Texas; the 8th Day Center for Justice, Port Ministries, and the Br. David Darst Center in Chicago; and St. John’s Homeless Shelter in Green Bay, Wis.



St. Joe’s students will benefit from a recent wellness grant from Walmart.

### St. Joseph’s Indian School receives Walmart grant

St. Joseph’s Indian School was one of seven recipients of the Walmart Foundation’s South Dakota State Giving Program. The SCJs’ school for Native American children received \$42,500 to expand its healthy lifestyle and food preparation programs.

“We’re proud to partner with nonprofit organizations throughout South Dakota as we believe they are crucial building blocks for strong communities,” said Sharon Power, Walmart’s regional general manager. “Empowering residents and combating hunger are essential for a community’s health, and we eagerly await the impact St. Joseph’s program will have on the Lakota children and families in South Dakota.”

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[www.scjvocation.org](http://www.scjvocation.org)

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