

Follow the General Chapter
May 17 - June 6 at:

[www.facebook.com/
dehoniansworldwide](http://www.facebook.com/dehoniansworldwide)

J NEWS

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

April 2015

First general chapter without Fr. Dehon, p. 5

Lay associate program gets underway in Texas, p. 7

SCJ bishop named to October synod list, p. 7

Fr. Ornelas reflects on 12 years of leading the congregation

Teamwork key to administration, and to the congregation

In May, 2003, Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, SCJ, was elected to succeed Fr. Virginio Bressanelli (now bishop of Neuquén, Argentina) as Superior General of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

Twelve years later, Fr. Ornelas is preparing for his own successor.

Academics to administration

When Fr. Ornelas was named provincial superior of the Portuguese Province in 2000, he was just settling into what he thought would be his life's path: teaching and formation. Three years earlier he earned a doctorate in Biblical Studies. "I had been teaching for about 11 years and thought that I had some capacity for it," he said. "I saw myself doing research, being a biblical scholar, giving conferences."

He admits that it was not easy at first to embrace the call to leadership, to leave the university and serve as provincial superior.

But soon he began to realize that



Fr. Ornelas giving a homily during his visitation of the US Province in 2013.

as provincial superior, he was continuing the path that he was already on, not walking away from it.

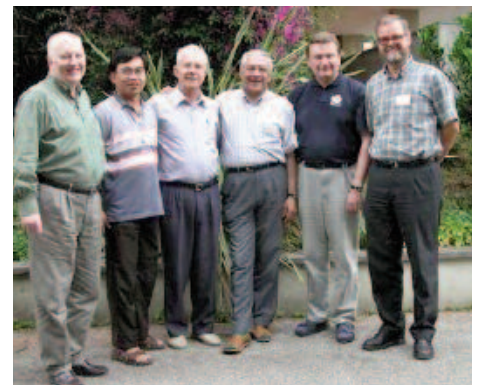
Instead of living in the world of academics, "as provincial superior I could take the many theories that I had studied and transform them into action. I could make the theories real."

In 2003 he was elected superior general.

Like most people new to a job, Fr. Ornelas came to the superior general's office with enthusiasm and many ideas, many dreams. "But I like to think that I am a practical man," he said. "We needed ideas, but we also needed the patience to help those dreams grow into realities. You can't dictate change, but you can give motivation to those who can make change."

"We," he emphasized. "We needed clear ideas."

The "we" was an administrative team with little experience in general administration. "We had a new treasurer, new councilors; I, of course, was new to the task, but it was a real



Fr. Ornelas with his first council in 2003



Fr. Virginio Bressanelli, out-going superior general, congratulates Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho on his election as general in 2003.

bleasing,” said Fr. Ornelas. “During these years there has been much creativity. I am grateful to all who worked with us, even those who were only present for a short period of time. Fr. Marek Stoklosa [secretary general when Fr. Ornelas took office] was an excellent resource to us.

“Teamwork has always been very important to me. I can be an impulsive person. It is important to have a team of people in whom you can trust, with whom you can share ideas. And more so, to listen to.”

To help the administrative group build that sense of teamwork they took a week-long course on human resources and management at the Spanish Province’s ESIC business school in Madrid.

“Teamwork — this is a path we must follow not only here in administration, but throughout the congregation,” he said. “Soloists can sing beautifully but we are a religious congregation; we must sing as a choir.”

To build that “choir” Fr. Ornelas said that the congregation needs to continue to develop a sense of communion, of “sint unum.”

“This is done through transparency and solidarity,” he continued, emphasizing that the concept of a common purse is just one expression of communion. “It is not just about sharing resources, it is about having a common life, of being dependent upon one another, to need each other and serve each other. This is religious life. The rest will fall into place, but

only if we truly live in community. Without that, there is no religious life, there is no solidarity.”

Reflecting the changing Church and world, the congregation is undergoing a transformation. When Fr. Ornelas was elected superior general in 2003, all of the major superiors of the African entities were European missionaries. “I looked around the meeting room and thought to myself, ‘it will never be this way again’ —

not because of any decision that I would make, but because the Church and the Congregation were changing.”

Certainly, the number of missionaries was diminishing, but more importantly, the number of indigenous SCJs in mission territories was growing dramatically.

“Now, the majority of the responsibility of entities in Africa and Asia is in the hands of local confreres,” he said. “During my second visitation I experienced fully African Dehonian communities for the first time.” This



“It is exciting, it gives me joy, but it is a challenge too,” said Fr. Ornelas about the congregation’s global growth.

was a dramatic change from his first term. In just a few years he was seeing a predominantly European-based community evolve into one where its members represent cultures and countries from all over the world.

“It is exciting, it gives me joy, but it is a challenge too,” said Fr. Ornelas. How can the Dehonian charism be realized in environments outside of its birthplace? “How do we mission WITH other cultures instead of TO them?”

And then there are the nuts and bolts, the practicalities, including fi-



Fr. Ornelas has fun with students at Holy Family School in Holly Springs, Miss.

nances. When European provinces were missionaries "TO" other cultures they generally funded their efforts. But this too is changing. "Yet if we live our lives truly as religious brothers, living in solidarity, we will discover new ways of doing things, creative solutions for our whole congregation. Not just answers to individual concerns," said Fr. Ornelas.

Internationality and a sense of mission are two of the building blocks of Fr. Ornelas' view of the congregation. Before entering full-time into the world of academics, he served for two years as a missionary in Mozambique. "It changed me," he said. "It opened my eyes to the internationality of the congregation."

When asked what gives him joy in looking back over his two terms, Fr. Ornelas quickly lists the increasing areas in which the congregation is now found, including new missions in Vietnam, Taiwan, Angola, Chad and Paraguay. Also, he notes the international communities developing in places such as Berlin and Toronto. "These are examples of the *congregation* in mission, not just individual entities."

He speaks of what he calls "investments" that have been made in the members of the congregation through extended courses for formators and treasurers.

And, he is enthusiastic when talking about the wider Dehonian family, seeing the charisma grow and lived in new ways among the laity. "If the charisma is strong enough to move us, it needs to be shared with others," he said.

"It is important to collaborate more with the laity, not just out of necessity, but because they enrich our mission," he continued. "Just as we are not self-sufficient in community, we are not self-sufficient *as* a community. We must be interconnected with others."

The challenges? While it is exciting to see how the congregation grows in new areas, there is also the



The theme for the General Chapter is displayed on Fr. Ornelas' computer during a meeting with the Planning Commission.

reality that it is diminishing in its birthplace of Europe. "How do we as a congregation continue to address this?" he said. How does the charisma find a new expression in the realities of Europe and North America today, and how does congregation minister to individuals and provinces that are aging?

"It is only as a congregation, in solidarity with one another, that we can respond to challenges, whatever they are" said Fr. Ornelas. "If we truly live as brothers, the answers will come to us. God never fails to assist His children!"

Chapter theme

The theme of the upcoming General Chapter is "Merciful, in Community, with the Poor." According to Fr. Ornelas it captures both who the Priests of the Sacred Heart are, and who they should be.

"The mercy of God is at the center of our spirituality," he said. "If you do not show mercy, do not live mercy, you cannot be a Dehonian or a Christian."

"All of what we have been talking about, the challenges for the congregation and the joy of the congregation, are linked to mercy. Mercy in our communities is what allows us to be community, to be in solidarity, to share with each other and care about each other."

As the congregation prepares for the General Chapter, it is not simply

looking at better methods of operation. "We are not mission machines organizing our communities for greater efficiency," he said. "We are religious brothers."

Advice for his successor?

Fr. Ornelas belongs to a very small group. Including him, there are only two other living SCJs who have served as superior general: Fr. Antonio Panteghini and Bishop Virginio Bressanelli.

"We have developed a special bond, a strong connection," said Fr. Ornelas.

When asked if he will have advice for the next superior general, he reflected back on what Bishop Bressanelli said to him.

"I asked Fr. Bressanelli to stay for a few weeks after I was elected but he said, 'I don't have much to teach you, you have to find your own way and God will lead you.'"

"I feel the same. The best advice that I can offer is to share the story of the congregation as I know it. But the next steps? That is up to the next superior general and how he hears the call of God in the congregation in this moment. Always, the task of the general superior is to help the congregation discover how the Dehonian charisma can speak to the world, minister WITH the world, in a particular moment of time."

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.





Delegates to the 1926 General Chapter, the first chapter held after Fr. Dehon's death. Seated in the middle, in front of the statue, is Fr. Joseph Laurent Philippe, who was elected as the first successor to Fr. Dehon. There were 19 delegates, representing the three provinces of the congregation. All were European. The minutes of the meetings were written in Latin.

Looking back as we look forward

As noted in the previous article, Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, SCJ, completes his second term as superior general this year. His successor, and the new General Council, will be chosen at the 23rd General Chapter, which takes place at the Generallate in Rome, May 17 – June 6.

Representing the US Province will be Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ (provincial superior), Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, and Fr. Duy Nguyen, SCJ; delegates from the Canadian Region are Fr. Bill Marvee, SCJ (regional superior) and Fr. Claude Bédard, SCJ. They will join SCJs from over 40 countries on five continents. Their task is not only to elect a new general administration, but to give direction to that administration as it guides the congregation during its six-year mandate.

The delegates will be seated in a state-of-the-art meeting hall complete with professional translation assistance and multimedia capabili-

ties. More than ever before they will reflect cultures of the southern hemisphere in Asia, Africa and South America; the changing face of the congregation.

Quite a change from chapters held during the early years of the congregation.

We take at a few:

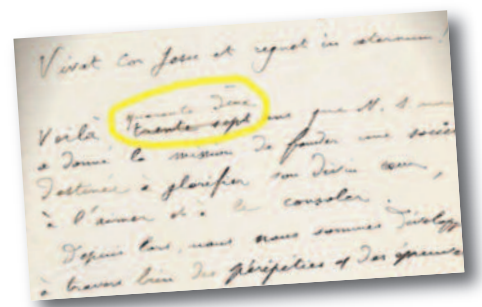
8th General Chapter, 1919; a chapter delayed by war

The 8th General Chapter was originally scheduled for 1914 but was delayed by five years because of the First World War. Fourteen delegates (three were absent) gathered in Heer (Maastricht), in the Netherlands, July 29-31.

Curiously, the delayed chapter picked up where it left off in 1914. The five years of war were hardly acknowledged except in Fr. Dehon's

closing remarks in which he said that he was "happy to note that charity and union did not suffer too much for the difficulties caused by the war."

In his opening address the founder simply crossed out the number "37" and replaced it with "42," indicating the years since the congregation's founding. You can see it in his own hand in the image at the below (change is circled in yellow).



General Chapter delayed by five years because of war? No problem! Fr. Dehon just changed "37" to "42" in reference to the number of years since the congregation's founding and gave the opening address in 1919 that he wrote in 1914, prior to World War I.

Typical of previous chapters, the delegates at the 1919 gathering got down to business right away. By the end of the first morning the vice general was elected (Fr. Joseph Laurent Philippe, SCJ), as well as the three-member council. Each councilor represented one of the three provinces of the congregation: Holland, Germany and Franco-Belgium. There had been a proposal to erect an Italian entity, separating the region from the Franco-Belgian Province, but that proposal failed.

With its general administration in place by lunch on the first day, the chapter turned its attention to spiritual matters in the afternoon. The importance of spiritual formation of not only the Dehonians themselves, but of students in the congregation's schools, was stressed. There was a desire for uniformity in oral prayers and an emphasis on the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as the expression of "our life of love and reparation." Each local community was to spend 30 minutes a day in adoration, as well as do an annual retreat of eight days.

Delegates reviewed the Constitutions in regards to formation issues (silence was to be observed among novices during meals) and the apostolate. The superior general (Fr. Dehon) was quoted as saying at the chapter that the congregation is mixed, "not strictly apostolic."

This was the last chapter that the founder attended. He died shortly before the 9th General Chapter was scheduled in 1925.

9th General Chapter, 1926; 1st chapter without Fr. Dehon

Held in Rome, January 19-28, the 9th General Chapter took place four months later than originally planned. The selection of delegates and preparation for the chapter was halted due to the death of Fr. Leo John Dehon in August, just a month before the General Chapter was to have taken place.

After receiving an indult from the

Vatican to hold an election rather than a business chapter, members of the congregation prepared for their first General Chapter without their founder.

There were 19 delegates (all of whom were European) and the minutes were written in Latin. On the second day Fr. Joseph Laurent Philippe (elected as vice general at the previous chapter) was chosen as the first successor to Fr. Dehon. Later that day the general council, the secretary general, general bursar and procurator were elected.

Before the day came to an end the delegates also voted to move the Generalate from Brussels to Rome.

A busy day.

The rest of the chapter concerned a review of the constitutions and making amendments. On January 28, prior to the chapter's close, delegates had an audience with Pope Pius XI.

It was a significant turning point for the Priests of the Sacred Heart. The congregation was no longer led by its founder, Fr. Dehon, who had actually asked the Vatican if a coadjutor with a right of succession could be named at the originally scheduled September chapter. The Vatican denied the request since the selection of a general superior is reserved to a general chapter.

Then, as now, general chapters were recognized as the highest authority in the congregation.

1973: the seven-week chapter

After reading about General Chapters in which new administrations were elected to office before the first day's lunch break the chapter of 1973 is quite a contrast.

The Second Vatican Council and



The minutes from the first General Chapter

Pope Paul VI charged every religious community with the work of renewal, including updating their Constitutions or Rule of Life. Over many years and three General Chapters, the Priests of the Sacred Heart struggled with this challenge. Fr. André Perroux, SCJ, one of the principal authors of the current Rule of Life, spoke about his experience in an interview with Fr. Stefan Tertünte, SCJ. The interview was published in the December 2014 *Dehoniana*:

"There was fear of a document that would be too normative and that would snuff out the dynamism of life. To start with, the word 'rule' in the title horrified many delegates. It was a fear that we would be under too much uniformity, that we would be backing an orientation that was too institutionalized, too reactionary: we would be limiting ourselves if we developed a new text.

"[The General Chapter of 1973] was a long chapter, almost seven weeks. At the beginning we did not know much where we were going to end up, we needed to get to know each other, to listen to each other. From the beginning we were in agreement not to maintain a division between spirituality, seen in a doctrinal or abstract way, and the apostolate. Once we were taken up with this idea of integrating spirituality and apostolate we could present our religious life in this unity.



Fr. André Perroux

“Well, we had to have an inspiring text. What scriptural text were we going to take that most nourished the experience of Fr. Dehon? We took time to re-read several works by Fr. Dehon and finally we opted for

Galatians 2:20: “I still live my human life, but it is a life of faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

“We sought above all to re-express the spiritual aim of the congregation as Fr. Dehon wanted by recovering certain key words like oblation, union with Christ in Eucharistic celebration and adoration, fraternal life, mission, and all of that fed by a spirit of love and of reparation or im-molation.

“At the end of June 1973 it was hot, very hot. We had worked a lot, everyone was tired, and some wanted to return to their provinces. After dinner one evening, Fr. Dijkman said to me, ‘André, from your [contributions to the discussions] we can see that you are ready to draft the Rule of Life, at least a rough draft to submit to a vote.’ Seeing my surprise, he humorously added, ‘Do you want a bottle of Bols [Dutch liquor], or better yet a case of beer? One or the other; it’s your choice. Then I will accompany you to your room and you will not come out until you have written a text that brings together and completes all that we have approved up till now!’

“We laughed. But I sensed the impatience, and also the confidence in me. I got down to writing, taking up the paragraphs we had already approved in the general assemblies, leaving some empty spaces for what was not yet clear for me — the whole night. Around 4 a.m I had filled 47 long pages with writing. Unable to sleep, I left my room to seek a little

rest in the silence and fresh air of the garden. I saw a light on the third floor, and it was Fr. Piet Adam. I said, ‘Piet, I am going to ask for your help. I just wrote a draft of our *Rule of Life*, and I do not have a typewriter, but you cannot read this because there is so much that is indecipherable, covered with erasures and abbreviations. If I dictate it to you, can you type it?’ He did and around 7:30 we finished.

“Fr. General had the text photocopied and distributed to each chapter member. After weeks of work, a good part of the text was not new to them, and besides, this was only a provisional text. During the coming years it would be very important to study, to experiment with, to critique, and to modify it. On July 4, 1973, the text was voted on, 76 of 78 in favor.”

Fr. Perroux, continued, talking about next General Chapter:

“The Chapter of 1979 approved an important modification in the plan of the Rule of Life: to start with the faith experience of Fr. Dehon and with our initiation in the Gospel in the Church. We tried to express the faith experience of Fr. Dehon, and how we can express and live this ‘spiritual aim’ in and for the world. On the whole, the Vatican gave a positive judgment and the approbation was not delayed. We were one of the first congregations of some importance [at that time we had more than 3,000 members] to present our new constitutions. Consequently, the Congregation for Religious recommended that several congregations, mainly women’s, come and get advice from us.”

As noted earlier, the 23rd General Chapter gets underway May 17 and runs through June 6. Photos and reports from it will be posted on the Dehonians Worldwide Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/dehoniansworldwide

as well as on our own US Province Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/priestsofthesacredheart



St. Joseph’s class of 2015

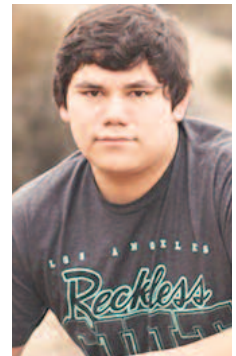
“My name is Kyran and I have attended St. Joseph’s for ten years,” writes one this year’s graduating seniors from St. Joseph’s Indian School in Chamberlain, SD. The SCJ school for Native American children recently featured the class of 2015 on its website.

“These past few months, I’ve really taken a step back and tried to enjoy my time here, knowing it’s my final year,” continued Kyran. “To be involved with St. Joseph’s for so long is really an amazing accomplishment for me!”

“I’ve participated in a bunch of different activities while attending high school. The clubs I’ve been a part of include the Native American Club, Drama Club, and FFA (Future Farmers of America). I have participated in basketball, baseball, and football.

“I have made countless memories while at St. Joseph’s. One of my favorites is the time I went to Maine for a donor luncheon. Meeting the people who make this place possible was really extraordinary.

“I want to thank every single one of my houseparents. I don’t know how you put up with me, but I really



Kyran, a St. Joseph’s Indian School senior

appreciate it. For the staff and teachers, all of the Family Service counselors as well, words can't express how much I thank you guys for being there for me. You guys really are special, so just another thanks to everyone who works at St. Joseph's.

"My plan for next year is to attend the University of South Dakota and major in business. Some advice I'd like to share is don't be afraid to try anything you really want to do. You can't be afraid to fail — failing is a part of life and it will only help you get better. Also, if you're going to do anything, do it to the best of your ability."

Go to the St. Joe's website to read more stories from the school:
www.stjo.org

Vacation time is work time for SCJ students in India

Fr. Tom Cassidy, SCJ, has spent much of the past few months in India, where he has been assisting in the district formation program. During his time there he often shared his journal entries on the province blog. Writing about the students' spring break from school Fr. Tom noted that "With this being vacation time the scholastics spend more time at work, and work right now is concentrated on the front drive and small plots of land in front of the refectory filled with grass and flowers.

"Currently there are 10 students in the house; all but three of them will leave next week to begin either their vacation or their 20-day pastoral experience. Some of the students who left on April 1 will return to keep the work force up. The returning group is splitting their ministry time from their vacation time. They began their ministry time helping out during Holy Week and continued with the Indian custom of house blessings following Easter.

"After eight or ten years in the seminary system the students pick up



"After eight or ten years in the [Indian] seminary system the students pick up all sorts of trades and skills," writes Fr. Tom Cassidy. "Some have learned a lot about electricity and technology, while others learn carpentry and masonry and still others cooking and hospitality skills."

all sorts of trades and skills. Some have learned a lot about electricity and technology, while others learn carpentry and masonry and still others cooking and hospitality skills. Some, given their physical size, are usually the first given work requiring strength — the grunt work!"

Read the rest of this and other posts to the province blog at www.scjusa.wordpress.com.

Sharing the Dehonian charism with laity

At the 2014 Dehonian Family Conference in Rome participants were presented with the "Spiritual Path," a formative guide for introducing lay people to the Dehonian charism. David Schimmel, director of Dehonian Associates for the US Province, adapted the guide for use in the United States.

Fr. Richard MacDonald, SCJ, heard about the program and decided to see if there might be interest in it among people in the Diocese of Brownsville. The SCJs served in the diocese for 42 years "and I was graced to be present for much of that time," said Fr. Mac, who continues to live and minister in the area.

"I spoke to nearly 50 people in Raymondville, and a few days later,

almost the same number in Lyford," he said. "I am scheduled in May give a second session in each location. I think it went very well. There was a lot of enthusiasm to continue and the people thought that others would join us in May. I am more than encouraged."

Fr. Mac said that it was Bishop Virginio Bressanelli, SCJ, when he was superior general, who inspired him to share the Dehonian charism.

"I heard him speak about how we, as professed SCJs, should share the gift of Fr. Leo John Dehon," said Fr. Mac. "His letter 'We the Congregation' reinforced that in me."

"These first meetings are an introduction," he continued. "I spoke about the Sacred Heart, focusing on the person of Jesus, his humanity and divinity and why the Church has taken the Heart of Jesus as a great image and symbol of His unconditional love for our redemption and forgiveness. I talked about Fr. Dehon and told the people about how these talks are part of the effort of the SCJs to share his charism with the laity and deepen their love for the Sacred Heart in carrying out their mission in the Church.

"The people were very pleased to hear that I would continue the talks and some asked what the Dehonian Associates might look like for them."

Familiar name among October synod participants

Bishop Zolile Mpambani, SCJ, of Kokstad, South Africa, has been named as one of the participants at the October 4-25 Synod of Bishops. The theme of the synod: "The vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary



Fr. Mac



Bishop Zolile waves to well-wishers.

world.”

Bishop Zolile, an SCJ from South Africa, is also a former general councilor. Many in North America may remember him from when he spent time in the US and Canada on sabbatical following his term in general administration.

Dehonian Spirituality

The web address of the Dehonian Spirituality page on the province website recently changed to:

**www.sacredheartusa.org/
dehonian-spirituality**

You can also access the page from the “Dehonian Spirituality” option at the top of the province website.

Back issues of the weekly Dehonian Spirituality mailing (sent by email

to SCJs in North America and others who request it) are archived by date and theme. The archives can be accessed from the left column of the Dehonian Spirituality page.

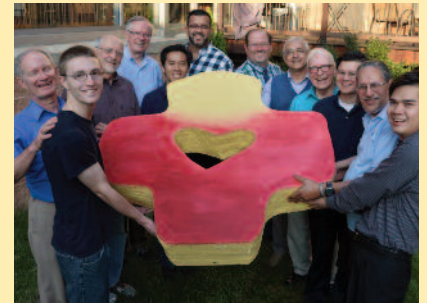
Seasonal mailings, such as the recent one-minute Meditations on the Cross for Lent, are also available in the left column of the Dehonian Spirituality page.

Anyone is welcome to receive the weekly Dehonian Spirituality email newsletter that goes out most Fridays. To be added to the list send an email with “subscribe” in the heading to: **scjcommunications@gmail.com.**

Award-winning lobby

The Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology lobby renovation project received an “Excellence of Design” award from the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), Wisconsin Chapter. Mark Wenzel, director of facilities for the province, represented the SCJs at the awards dinner in Madison on April 23, along representatives from the general contractor for the project, Jens Construction, and the architect/designer, Dimension IV.

Besides updated aesthetics, the redesign included asbestos removal, and other necessary structural updates and repairs.



Members of our Dehon Formation Community in Chicago where students attend a variety of universities while learning about and preparing for religious life as an SCJ.

Join us!

The Dehon Formation House in Chicago is home to an international, intergenerational, multi-program community of professed SCJs and those discerning religious life with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. The community not only houses the initial formation programs (candidacy, novitiate, philosophy and theology) of the province but also welcomes SCJs in sabbatical or graduate programs.

Do you know of someone who may be discerning a vocation to religious life? Contact our vocation office to learn about visits to the formation community. Call them at 800-609-5559.

Vol. 36, No. 2
April 2015

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PriestsOfTheSacredHeart

Vocations: www.scjvocation.org

Visit us on the web: www.sacredheartusa.org

Change service requested

Priests of the Sacred Heart
P.O. Box 289
Hales Corners, WI 53130-0289

SCJ NEWS

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hales Corners, WI
Permit No. 71