

SCJ News

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



What do Dehonians share in common?

DIVERSITY!

nterculturality: Together in Christ" was the theme of the June 11-14, 2019 Provincial Assembly. On the surface, it was a reference to the increasing internationality of the SCJ presence in North America. But the theme moved far beyond the idea of SCJs simply living, praying and ministering together as people from different countries.

"Welcome" or "hospitality" was the wider theme that wound its way throughout the week's activities. It started with the welcome of former SCJs and students who were invited to come together June 10-11 at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology for a reunion. Reunion participants joined SCJs – many of them former classmates – at the Monday evening Jubilee Celebration. They were also present for the first session of the Assembly. Led by former SCJ Tom Tucker, participants from both the Former SCJ Reunion and the Province Assembly reflected on a common theme in their lives: the impact of Fr. Leo John Dehon and his charism.

"The SCJs helped me to see a bigger world, a world with greater needs than I ever realized," said a former member of the community. "The SCJs helped me to see with my heart, they helped me to see what is really important."

"Social justice," said another. "I heard Fr. John Czyzynski speak of it yesterday. Many of us have devoted our professional and personal lives to social justice because of the impact of our association with the SCJs, with the Dehonian charism."

Welcoming the migrant

"We are many parts, we are all one body, and the gifts that we have, we are given to share. May the Spirit of love, make us one indeed."

As SCJs sang the words to the song "We Are Many Parts," the flags of the 15 nations represented by SCJs in North America were carried into the conference center. Fr. Peter McKenna, SCJ, of the North America Migration Committee, spoke of the many peoples and cultures that have been a part of the North American landscape, including the SCJs.

Migration, and the concerns of immigrants, are a continuing priority for Dehonians in the US and Canada. How does the community welcome its own international members and how



Fr. Byron Haaland talks about his experience of being an international student in Rome. On the right is the assembly logo created by Br. Duane Lemke.

does it respond in a compassionate way to the many migrants seeking to start new lives in North America?

Three international SCJs shared their migration stories: Fr. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas, a native of Colombia whose vocational path led to the United States; Fr. Christianus Hendrik, an Indonesian SCJ who not only serves in South Dakota, but is on his second term on the US Provincial Council; and Fr. Byron Haaland, an American SCJ who talked about his experience of being a "student immigrant," when he studied in Rome.

Opening our eyes to the victims of immigration

Barbara Graham, Director of Legal Services for Immigrants for Catholic Charities of Milwaukee, gave a presentation on human trafficking. She noted the "red flags" to be aware of; to be mindful that often victims are hidden in the open. Br. Duane Lemke, SCJ, echoed Barbara's words when he spoke of his shock at learning that human trafficking had been going on for years in his home state of South Dakota, in particular, in a spot not too far from where the SCJ community often gathered.

"I thought that trafficking was something that happened in New York City, in other countries, not Oacoma, SD," said Br. Duane. "I was profoundly saddened that I wasn't aware. I could have done something if I had only been more alert."

Welcoming each other in community

"It is easy to describe interculturality in 10-15 minutes," said Fr.

Anthony Gittins, CSSp. "But intercultural living, that is a lifetime commitment. And not just one lifetime, but a succession of lifetimes. However, if we don't attempt intercultural living, there will be no future for international religious communities. If we can't learn to live together, we will fall apart."

Fr. Anthony is author of the book *Living Mission Interculturally*. A social anthropologist, he has taught theology and anthropology for 30 years in London and Chicago and is now emeritus professor of theology and culture at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. He also served for ten years as a missionary in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

For a day-and-a-half, Fr. Anthony spoke to SCJs about intercultural liv-



Fr. Jim Walters, Fr. Albertus Joni and Fr. Yuliwan Maslim before the closing Mass.

ing, "something radically different than living in an international community," he said.

"Intercultural living is not a problem, he emphasized, "but a challenge, an opportunity."



Fr. Anthony Gittins

Instead of an "us" and "them" mentality, there is only a "we" for those who take on the challenge of intercultural living.

He spoke of older models of international welcoming which emphasized assimilation: a dominant culture was very happy to welcome an international member as long as that person worked toward adopting and conforming to his host culture. But that has changed. Intercultural living requires conversion and hard work. "Good will is not enough," said Fr. Anthony. "Intercultural living is not natural, but it is possible... We are called to live with and through our differences, not in spite of them."

Final moments

The assembly also had a presentation by Praesidium, an organization that specializes in safety training and certification in regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, talked to SCJs about various legal documents, such as Power of Attorney for Health Care; Mary Gorski, province communications director, walked SCJs through the province website and other online resources.

Of course, prayer was woven throughout the days' activities. On Thursday, SCJs gathered around the Sacred Heart Mausoleum to commemorate SCJs who had gone before them.

The assembly concluded Friday morning. In his homily at the Closing Mass, Fr. Andrzej Sudol, SCJ, reminded Dehonians that "Intercultural living begins with hospitality, with a



Fr. Andrzej Sudol

sense of welcome. When we enter someone else's culture we learn a lot about each other, and a lot about ourselves. Hospitality changes us. As a missionary I was touched and

humbled by the hospitality of others. Hospitality is in our charism as SCJs. This US Province has intentionally chosen to be intercultural, multicultural. It has chosen to offer hospitality to others. This assembly has been a banquet of hospitality and I am grateful."

Hosted by the US Province, the assembly included SCJs from both the United States and Canada.

Fr. Johnny Klingler Social Action Award

As noted earlier, Barbara Graham, Director of Legal Services for Immigrants for Catholic Charities of Milwaukee, gave a presentation on human trafficking during the assembly.

During the Assembly dinner on Tuesday, she was awarded the Johnny Klingler, SCJ, Social Action Award for her work with migrants and refugees. The award was established two years ago to honor a former Provincial Superior and the first Director of Justice and Peace for the US Province.

Graham has a caseload of about 4,000 clients and manages it with only five staff attorneys and two paralegals, many of whom she recruited herself out of Marquette University's Law School. They defend both legal permanent residents and those without papers from deportation. The office represents 700 DACA clients – those who came here as children and know no other country as home. Graham's team assists with asylum claims, including victims of domestic abuse, and helps reunite separated families. They help new arrivals obtain perma-

nent legal residence and eventual citizenship, help newly-resettled households integrate into the community, and do outreach via social media and YouTube.



Barbara Graham

Reunion of former SCJs and students

As noted earlier, overlapping with the Province Assembly was the reunion of former SCJs and students. The reunion began with a presentation by Fr. John Czyzynski, SCJ.

"I left home two weeks before I turned 14 and now I am 81 years old and have been a professed SCJ for almost 63 years," said Fr. John. "I left home to become a priest and I have grown into being a religious, a Priest of the Sacred Heart. Through the years the men I met who taught me or were somehow a part of my growing up helped me to get to know the God they were committed to: the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I could relate to Jesus as I came to know Him with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. And that must be true for all of you who are here. That is why you are here today: the spirituality that we were taught and saw lived out."



The first morning of the assembly was a combined session with reunion participants discussion how Dehonian spirituality impacted their lives. Ray Sousa and Fr. Richard Johnston are pictured here during table discussions. MORE PHOTOS are at: www.scjusa.smugmug.com

460 years of religious life!

lthough it might seem like an overused format for an annual story, it is still significant to note the number of years of commitment to religious life – SCJ religious life - that were celebrated by the province at the 2019 Province Jubilee Celebration. With two 70-year jubilarians (Frs. Ed Griesemer and Paul Casper), two 60-year (Fr. Tom Westhoven and Br. Andy Lewandowski), three 50-year (Frs. Jim Walters, Yvon Sheehy and Terry Langley), one noting 40 years (Fr. Ralph Intranuovo), and another 10 years of vows (Fr. Praveen Kumar Richard) with the Priests of the Sacred Heart the province commemorated 460 years of religious life: 460 years of community, prayer and ministry as SCJs, as Dehonians.

The 2019 Jubilee Celebration took place Monday, June 10, at Sacred Heart Monastery / Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. It was the kick-off to the Province Assembly.

The following is a bit of biographical information on our golden (50-year) jubilarians. Read about the other jubilarians on the province website at: **www.dehoniansusa.org/feature-stories.** On the website there are links to Fr. John Czyzynski's homily and to an online photo album.

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Priests of the Sacred Heart



Back row, L-R: Fr. Terry Langley, Fr. Jim Walters, Br. Andy Lewandowski, Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Tom Westhoven and Fr. Praveen Kumar Richard. Front row: Fr. Yvon Sheehy, Fr. Ed Griesemer, Fr. Paul Casper and Fr. Ed Kilianski

Our 50-year jubilarians

Fr. Jim Walters, SCJ

A Pennsylvania native, Fr. Jim, 69, was ordained to the priesthood in 1978.

Early in his studies he discovered that he had both an interest and aptitude for language. Fr. Jim earned a BA in Modern Foreign Languages from the University of Loyola in Chicago; he is fluent in Spanish, French and Italian.

Fr. Jim has been at SHSST since 2004; for many years he has directed the seminary's Hispanic Studies program. Prior to his ministry in academics, he served primarily in parishes. From 1989-2003 he was in South Dakota, where he ministered with the Lower Brule Pastoral Team and at St. Joseph's Indian School. From 1980 to 1988 he focused on ministry with the Spanish-speaking in Texas, serving at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Raymondville, St. Cecilia parish in San Antonio and St. Lawrence parish, also in San Antonio.

He has been on several province committees, as well as the Provincial Council (1998-2001). Besides his degree in Foreign Languages, Fr. Jim also as an MA in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola of Baltimore, as well as an M. Div. from the seminary at which he now teaches.

Fr. Yvon Sheehy, SCJ

Originally from Vermont, Fr. Yvon, 69, grew up in a French-Canadian family near the Canadian border. French was his first language. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1978.

Fr. Yvon spent many years in South Dakota ministering on the Cheyenne River, Lower Brule and Crow Creek Reservations. He is credited with being the architect of the team ministry approach that continues to be used on the reservations. Visitors to South Dakota may remember his frequent line: "And all this could be yours" as he waved his hand towards the South Dakota prairie, encouraging other religious to join him in ministry at the birthplace of the US Province.

In 2001, Fr. Yvon was elected to the Provincial Council; he served as vice-provincial from 2001-2010. When elected to his first three-year term, he was also named Province Vocation Director. He continued as director until 2007, when he was named pastor of St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, WI; he was pastor for 10 years. Since 2017, Fr. Yvon has been the Residential Director of the ECS (formerly "ESL") program at Sacred Heart Monastery.

Fr. Terry Langley, SCJ

Fr. Terry, also 69, was ordained to the priesthood in 1979.

With a father in the Marines, Fr. Terry called many places home when growing up.

He earned a BA in History from Loyola of Chicago, an M.Div. from Catholic Theological Union (also in Chicago) and an S.T.L. in Systematics from the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, MA.

Currently pastor of St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, Fr. Terry has served in a variety of parishes including St. Matthew parish in Houston, St. Rose of Lima parish in Detroit, St. Paul parish in Grosse Point Farms (near Detroit), and Queen of Peace parish in Olive Branch, MS. In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Fr. Terry has also served at St. John the Evangelist in Twin Lakes and St. Alphonsus in New Munster.

He has been on several province committees and commissions, including five years on the Finance Commission. Fr. Terry also served as provincial secretary from 2012-2013. As secretary, he took part in an international workshop for secretaries at the Generalate in Rome. "The internationality of our congregation is something to behold," he said of the experience. "I stand in awe of our young people from the countries we have recently entered. I am filled with hope for the congregation."

Fr. Terry is a member of the St. Joseph Community at SHML.



Br. Brian Tompkins

Living the call of presence

hen asked to describe his vocational call, Br. Brian Tompkins reflects on the words of Mother Teresa:

"Do small things with great love."
"That's what I feel that I am called to do, who I am called to be," said Br. Brian. "I really feel it."

He lives that call as a religious brother with the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians). Originally from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Br. Brian first thought about a vocation as a young boy.

"But it was in the way that any young child would think about a vocation," he said. "I was a boy, so that meant being a priest." After church on Sundays Br. Brian would get out his mother's linens, a goblet and plate from the china cabinet, set up an altar on a small desk and play priest.

"I took it quite seriously," he laughed.

Childhood games remained in childhood, as did Br. Brian's thoughts about the priesthood. Life went on. After high school he entered the university but didn't feel that he was in the right place. He left, went to cosmetology school and began a nearly

20-year career in the industry.

Much of what he did then is similar to what he does now: Br. Brian is present to people. He listens to them, he cares about them.

"I've always felt called to be present to people," he said. "My heart breaks for people who are hurting or sick."

He says that he long felt the call of "presence," but as a child and young adult was too shy and introverted to live it as a ministry. Curiously, it was working in a hair salon that gave him the confidence and courage to approach others.

Eventually, he realized that he also had the courage and confidence to pursue the vocational call that he felt years earlier.

At the age of 42, Br. Brian enrolled in Christ the King Seminary in British Columbia. Operated by the Benedictines, the seminary allows students to enroll without sponsorship of a diocese or religious community. Br. Brian was one of those students, using his time in the seminary as part of his initial discernment process. As an older student, he said that it was a challenging transition but that "basically,

it was a very happy four years." He remains friends with several of the men with whom he studied.

Br. Brian graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and then considered his options. Several of the Benedictine monks suggested that he pursue his vocation with their community, but after living the Rule of St. Benedict for four years, he realized that it wasn't where he was being called.

He made inquiries with dioceses and religious communities but heard little response. Perhaps, he thought, it was his age. And then he saw a flyer from the Canadian Region of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. He called the number listed and had a short conversation with a member of the Toronto community who basically said, "Fill out the paperwork and we will see what happens."

He did, and eventually was invited to spend a week at the community house in Toronto. "It was a good week," said Br. Brian. "It was a way of religious life that was different than the Benedictine monks; I felt very comfortable."

By 2004 he was living as an SCJ candidate at Resurrection of Our Lord parish in Ottawa, which the region then served, and studying theology at St. Paul University. "I loved, loved, LOVED IT," said Br. Brian. He enjoyed being with parishioners, being present to members of Resurrection of Our Lord. He still considered himself an introvert, but in the ministry of presence he easily reached out to others.

In 2006, Br. Brian entered the novitiate. He joined novices in the US Province; Fr. John Czyzynski, SCJ, was his novice master. He appreciated the opportunity to get to know the congregation and its history, and the US Province as well. He professed his first vows in 2007. He was 50 years old.

Br. Brian entered the novitiate still considering a path to priesthood. "Basically, it was what I knew." After vows he went to St. Augustine Seminary in Toronto, where he earned his master's degree in theology. It was

during that time that he realized that what he was truly called to was religious life, not necessarily the priesthood. He professed his final vows in 2011 as a Dehonian religious brother.

What remained unchanged in his call was a desire to be present to others, especially the elderly. He thrived in his CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) and in volunteer work at a larger senior residence in suburban Toronto. At the time, a Canadian SCJ with Parkinson's disease lived at the center. When visiting him, Br. Brian noticed the need for volunteers and so he offered to help.

"I loved to visit with the residents, I loved to be with them on their daily journey," said Br. Brian. "I remember one woman who was so lively and busy when I first started; she loved to read and have conversations on a variety of topics. I continued to be with her as she entered into dementia. At the end she didn't know who I was, but I felt that it was a comfort for her that I was there, to be a steady presence in her life."

He enjoyed what he was doing, but he didn't consider it a ministry. To him, it was simply volunteering.

Looking for a change of pace, he spent the summer of 2008 at Villa Maria. This was the senior community for retired SCJs in Hales Corners prior to the construction of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. At the end of the six weeks, Fr. Jim Brackin, SCJ, then superior of the community, told him that there would always be a place for him there.

Br. Brian went back to Canada but Fr. Jim's words stayed with him. He spoke to his superiors and they said that if he was needed in Hales Corners to assist with the senior religious, they were open to him going. He would continue to serve the community, just in another entity.

However, there was one caveat: Br. Brian would have to learn to drive. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake is beyond public transportation. One of his tasks with the community would be to assist senior SCJs in getting to doctors' offices and other appointments.

Br. Brian started his lessons in Toronto with a friend and then continued in Hales Corners with a professional driving instructor. He passed his driver's test; his sister bought him a GPS to celebrate.

The move to SHML was shortly after the new wing for lay residents opened. Br. Brian soon put together a core group of lay residents to plan liturgies in the main chapel, Holy Hours, weekly recitation of the rosary and other events. In his day-to-day contacts he continued to do the ministry to which he had always felt called: presence, being present to others.

It is the same ministry that he

does within the SCJ community, including helping people with some of the small daily tasks that many take for granted. Br. Brian shared the story of helping a SCJ senior who needed to have a salve applied to his feet.

"That is very humbling for you to do that," said the SCJ, who is now confined to a wheelchair and unable to do the task himself.

"I didn't think of it as humbling at all," said Br. Brian. "It is just a small thing, but one that can be done with great love."

It is the vocation of presence that Br. Brian continues to live each day as a Dehonian brother.

We are all called to help others

e are restoring humanity," is how Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ, describes the work that she and others do at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas.

Executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, Sr. Norma was the main speaker at the Dehon Lecture at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in April.

Since 2014, she and volunteers from every faith community in the area, plus civic and business leaders, have assisted migrants on their asylum journey. She insists that it is the responsibility of all Americans to help in this migration crisis.

"We need to go to sleep at night tired from doing good, from doing more than the bare minimum," said Sr. Norma. "It is a wonderful feeling to know that you have done God's will... We must seek to quench the thirst of Jesus in every person. Don't say to yourself, 'Oh, someone else can do this better than me.' All are called to help others."

How? "Start by finding the things that we all have in common... we



Sr. Norma Pimentel

must remind each other that we are one family, one human family."

Her story

Sr. Norma begins her call to others by sharing her own story, starting with her vocation to religious life. As a child, she loved art and had aptitude for it; she hoped to one day get a degree in fine arts.

In the midst of trying to find a way to make her dreams of college a reality, she agreed to go to a prayer meeting with friends.

"They were going to Pizza Hut after; that was really my motivation,"

she laughed.

During that meeting "God introduced Himself to me," she said. "It's hard to explain, but from that moment on I wanted to be immersed in His presence." She met a religious sister who invited her to a vocation retreat and didn't look back. A few years later, she joined the Missionaries of Jesus.

The religious community is located near the US-Mexican border and often was asked by border patrol agencies to assist in caring for migrant families. "From day one these migrants were a part of my religious life," she said. Sr. Norma heard their stories, knew of the atrocities that many faced in the midst of violence and war.

When she was asked to join a group that was protesting US support of some of the situations that led to conflict in Central America, Sr. Norma agreed and went to the congressman's office where the protest was taking place. But instead of seeing the congressman, she saw the police who told the protesters to leave or they would be arrested.

One of her fellow sisters said that they couldn't just run away when things got difficult, otherwise "we really don't stand for anything or anyone." Sr. Norma thought of the many refugees she had met, the people whose lives had been directly impacted by civil unrest.

And so she stood her ground in the face of the police "and that was very hard for me, it went against everything that I was taught," she said. "I was raised to obey the law and if an officer told me to move, I moved.

"That moment defined me, helped me know who I am. I realized that I had a mission in life. I knew that I had to stand up and speak to what I thought was right.

"We all have those moments. I hope that you don't miss yours. When God presents you an opportunity to find yourself, say yes."

Following-up on the call to DO SOMETHING!

have never heard this topic addressed at our parish; I am going to call my pastor this afternoon!"

The topic was "immigration" and the comment came in the midst of small group discussions at an initial meeting of the newly developing "Catholic Coalition for Migrants and Refugees."

The group is so new that it really doesn't have a name yet; "Catholic Coalition for Migrants and Refugees" is just a placeholder for now.

Approximately 75 people, representing a wide variety of Catholic parishes, organizations and religious communities throughout the Milwaukee area, gathered July 11 at the Provincial Conference Center in Hales Corners, WI, to discuss immigration. In particular, how they could help to create a response to immigration issues in light of Catholic social teaching.

It was a response to Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, who called on Catholics to "do something" about the nation's broken immigration system. She was the featured speaker at the spring Dehon Lecture (see previous article).

Mark Peters, US Province director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, said that the July 11 gathering was one of the first steps in building the "large numbers," which Sr. Norma said could help the voice of Catholic social teaching be heard.

The primary goals of the coalition are to: 1) educate Catholics on issues surrounding migration in light of Catholic social teaching, and 2) organize Catholics to engage lawmakers in a non-partisan way and help them develop bipartisan solutions to immigration reform.

Already, a small group of



SCJ NEWS

Mark Peters, province JPR director, and Kelly Kornacki of SHSST

Milwaukee-area Catholics has had meetings with senior staff from the offices of Senators Tammy Baldwin (D) and Ron Johnson (R). With the help of a larger coalition, it is hoped that those efforts can extend to other legislators.

After brief presentations, participants broke into small groups to address topics such as parish education, community outreach, congressional advocacy, border visits, and response network development.

By the end of the morning, organizers had the names and contact information for dozens of people interested in taking the next steps on each topic. "Anyone can do something," said Mark.

Before the closing prayer, participants were invited to submit ideas for a name for the group and to suggest possibilities for a leadership team.

The July 11 gathering was organized by Mark Peters in collaboration with the province JPR Commission and others who have been active in seeking a more humane response to immigration. It was hosted by the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

If you would like to learn how you can get involved, contact Mark Peters at justdir@usprovince.org or call him at 414-427-4273.



Fr. General visits

Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú, SCJ, superior general, was in Hales Corners for meetings early in May. During his visit, he joined the Novitiate Community for prayer and dinner, and on May 2, he conferred the Ministry of Lector on three Dehonian seminarians: Fraters Henry



Fra. Huan, Fr. Carlos Luis, Fra. Paul and Fra. Henry

Nguyen, Phong Paul Hoang and Huan Duy Pham.

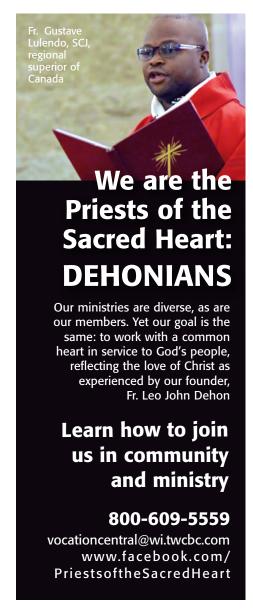
"Enjoy the Word and share the Word," said Fr. Carlos Luis to the three seminarians, who are students at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. Fraters Henry and Paul are members of the US Province and Frater Huan is from the Vietnamese District

Holy Family principal, Clara Isom, retires

In June, Clara Isom, principal of Sacred Heart Southern Missions' Holy Family School in Holly Springs, MS, retired. She had been a part of the school since 1960, when she was a first-grade student. After graduating in 1972, she returned as a teacher's aide. While working as an aide, she studied for her bachelor's degree in elementary education at Rust College, and later, earned a master's degree in education from the University of Mississippi. She has served as a teacher, director of the Childcare Center, and since 2009, as principal of the school.

Find us on Instagram!

The US Province is now on Instagram at "dehoniansusa." Also, the Canadian Region has an Instagram account for vocations at "dehonianway." Follow us!



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