

Mission Education 2016 – Mercy in Mission

Sacred Heart Southern Missions, Mississippi



As I walked down the path of new knowledge during our Mission Ed, I kept thinking – we are here because of one man – Fr. Leo John Dehon!

He was in all our hearts and minds as we learned more about the work our sister mission does in Mississippi for the poor and needy in Delta area! I felt humbled, and I felt inspired!

In one of our sessions we saw many different depictions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, We had discussions about the one that came to our attention the most. No matter which depiction our group chose – the one word that we used most was “Heart”.

Heart is also a word that comes to mind to describe what we felt during our visit to the Civil Rights Museum. It touched all of our hearts and it’s a feeling we will remember in years to come.

Thank you St. Joseph’s for this opportunity to travel with a great group to learn more about Sacred Heart Southern Missions. What they do in Mississippi – we do here for our students and their families. It’s different – but the same! We are one – we are a legacy of Leo John Dehon!

Shirley Basting



To be around others with a disposition to help those in need was affirming. Building relationships with other missions and refreshing our spirits for the work we do reminded me that right now, I am where I need to be.

Jeff Lepkowski



I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend the Mission Ed trip. My whole perspective has changed in so many ways! I loved everything about Mississippi and all presentations, especially the singing. Met some new friends, they actually showed me their classrooms. I would like to say a special thanks to Mike for introducing me to the couple that worked here at St. Joes. And letting them know that I was Grandma in Residence at St. Joe’s. I feel very honored, and now it is up to me to uphold my position in the best way I know how even more so. It was an honor to be a part of the Mission.

April Fallis



I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to go on the Mission Ed trip and see what’s happening in other places. It was also wonderful to meet folks from St. Joe’s who I don’t usually cross paths with and some whose paths I’ve never before crossed. We had a great group and a good time.

I have to say I loved Memphis – great food and music!!!! The Civil Rights Museum was a very powerful place to see and experience and I would recommend it. The folks from Southern Missions were so very welcoming and fed us in so many ways!!! We had a chance to see two schools and get some idea how they do things. It was important to make connections with them and sense the commonality of our missions – meeting people where they are. It was spiritually enlightening as well as we all share this journey.

Karen Haynes



I felt honored to be able to attend the Mission Education trip. It was a very humbling to hear some of the stories that were shared on what they have gone through. What a great reminder on how lucky, fortunate and truly blessed we truly are. I really like their Habitat for Humanity projects. I would love to get a group together and go down there and help them with that. I really enjoyed getting to know others who were on the trip with us. I've been truly blessed to be working for St Joe's.

Shawn McQuiston

Witnessing the testimonies of faith and dedication to service from all those that attended the conference was important for me as it caused me to reflect on how I am connected to St. Joseph's Indian School.

It was a great opportunity to get to know the people in our own organization better.

There was a lot to learn, far beyond the content of the formal presentations. One aspect that struck me was how the arts and humanities were a significant ingredient during the conference.

More than once I found myself in conversation with new friends discussing food and recipes – and through these discussions learned more about the person I was speaking with and the culture / history of the area.

Every day began and ended in song, I heard music that was inspirational not only lyrically or technically (so much talent!) but the spirit in which it was delivered. From the gospel music during official conference hours, to the Beal St. bands, and for me especially the music I heard in the Museum of Civil Rights – I was reminded of how powerful and important music is to our history and our present.

Visual art was everywhere. I personally got a lot out of the presentation involving a multitude artistic representations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It made the idea that in our mission, in our lives, we can see the same things in different ways and still connect with what we see the same.

Dave Meyer

The first thing that struck me was the hospitality of the people, they were just great!

Another moment was when the young woman spoke of her childhood and how much that help was needed in the Delta. She proved that the mission work did make a difference and still does!

The music from Africa to Beale Street was fabulous. We all learned of their culture and music & how it was used throughout the history of time.

I feel like the trip was very inspiring because to learn about the work that the people do in the Southern Missions makes a person realize that there are so many people all over that need help & prayers in one way or another.

Last but not least was our group from St. Joe's. What a great bunch of people to work & travel with. Everyone was on the same page to learn & have fun! I feel very blessed that I was chosen to be included in this Mission Ed. Thank you!

Vickie Brennan Dykes

