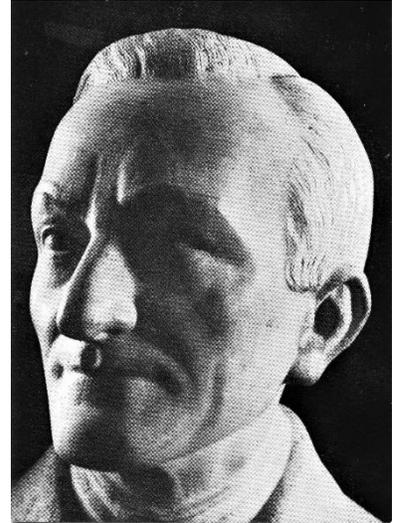


Dehonian

Esprit de Corps

*Some biographical information
as of June 2017*

[P = First Profession of Vows, N = Novitiate Year,
DH/IHM = Graduation from or years spent at the minor seminary]



Daniel Arman [DH 1965]

After graduating from Divine Heart in 1965, I went home to decide what I would do with the rest of my life. After much deliberation, I chose to pursue a career in electronics. I enrolled in electronics school and graduated with an associate engineering degree in electronics engineering. My first job and last job, due to company buyouts, was with Westinghouse [later, Emerson Electronics-Rosemount Analytical]. I was with this combo for 45 years, working on everything from military electronics to nuclear power systems to industrial power systems. I am married to my wife for 46 years and have two sons. My wife and I live in Wooster, Ohio. I am retired now going on 4 years.

Dave Biancardi [N 1968]

The older I get, the more the "SCJ experience" is appreciated. I had a reasonable career in international corporate business, but then established a USA company with Italian partners. I'm still doing this. I have a son and a daughter, now adults.

Anthony Bruder [P 1953]

I am writing a book, "Dr. Tony's Anxiety Solutions and the Wisdom Within." It is a self-applied course on anxiety and is written entirely in poetry consisting of 350-400 poems. It will be going to the publisher in January 2017 and hopefully in print by April.

Richard Burchell [N 1969]

I was ordained in 1975 and now am pastor of St. Rita Church in Cleveland Ohio.

Pat Collison [P 1969]

I have been a practicing physician for 35 years and retired on December 31, 2016. After a few months off, I am starting a retirement job as a part-time faculty member at the Department of Otolaryngology, University of Iowa

Richard Fagon [P 1962]

After a career of teaching in Maryland and doing private commissions for schools and churches, as well as for the University of Notre Dame [three life-sized bronze busts of coaches], my wife, Anna Mae and I moved to Bluffton, South Carolina. In my retirement, I volunteer teach at our local Catholic schools. I have a wonderful sixth grade class for Religion and Latin. I also prepare students at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School and students at our newly built Catholic High School, St. John Paul II, to be lectors at our weekly school Masses. I just completed a bas-relief sculpture which donors commissioned for our new parish Life Center. I am also currently working on another bust for the University of Notre Dame.

Nick Farina [P 1974]

I left the community in December 1992. I worked as a high school math teacher in the Chicago Public Schools. I stayed in Chicago until 1999 when I moved back to my hometown in New York, where I worked a couple of short-term jobs. Then, I was hired by a pharmaceutical company and worked for five years as a training specialist, and three and a half years as a manager in documentation. I worked in another pharmaceutical company for one and half years and, after that company closed, I retired.

Randy Fischesser [N 1975]

I have two adult children and three grandchildren. I was a Firefighter-Lieutenant/Paramedic for the city of Reading, Ohio, for 30 years. I retired from the fire service in 2007. I have been a Councilman for the city of Reading from 2009 to the present. I have kept active in my church including chairing various events, faith ministries, and Pastoral Council.

James Fox [P 1961]

My wife Judy and I are very active in our local parish, St. Albert the Great, here in Reno. We retired to Reno in 1985 after serving 23 years in the USAF and we worked locally until we retired again in 2004/2005. We still visit Donaldson occasionally as my sister is stationed at Ancilla Domini convent there. She just celebrated her 50th jubilee as a nun. Last year we celebrated our 50th anniversary by traveling to Ireland, one place the AF never sent us. We have two children, a son, Dale, who is a Colonel in the AF Reserve and is currently stationed at Hurlburt AFB in Florida. He has two children. Our daughter Kathy is currently living in Indianapolis and is an electrical engineer for Raytheon. She is married but has no children.

George Grob [P 1961]

I am married with four children and four grandchildren. We will celebrate our 50th anniversary on February 24, 2018. My brother Frank was also an SCJ. He died on January 8, 2014. I retired from the Federal Government after 40 years of service. Now, I have my own consulting business, "Center for Public Program Evaluation."

John Guidry [P 1972]

My wife Pennie and I are the parents of two daughters, Pamela [29 years old] and Angela [26 years old]. Pamela is a reading teacher at the middle school level. Angela is a college recruiter for Lamar University. She covers the Dallas/Ft. Worth area and lives in Dallas, Texas.

Lyle Hennen [P 1995]

I am now retired at age 71 and continue to work at new Hope Village, Holly Springs, Mississippi. I am also a member of Queen of Peace Men's Club and the Knights of Columbus. I attend Mass daily and keep very busy doing many projects for both clubs and K. of C. I also travel whenever I can.

Robert Hess [P 1960]

I spend a good deal of my time hiking in the mountains, appreciating nature, being in the wilderness in a contemplative way, and growing my meditation practice. I spent nine years as a massage therapist viewing it as a healing ministry. So strange after 36 years a priest to be touching people's bodies and communicating without words. I especially treasure the two winters I spent in El Salvador as a volunteer massage therapist at an AIDS clinic run by Maryknoll Sisters. I am no longer able to reach out to and give long-term encouragement [and at times assistance] to as many "hopeless" and desperate individuals as I once did. But I still maintain close ties to four prisoners on Death Row or sentenced to life without parole. For two of them, it has been more than 25 years. I was blessed in 2012 to spend about three weeks in Congo visiting the SCJ friends I had who worked there. Fr. Zenon, the Provincial, is a close friend of mine and made me feel part of the community that has done so much for the people of Congo for a century.

Dave Jackson [P 1957]

As I approached 72, I felt increasingly uneasy about the direction of the institutional Church. After a lengthy period of discernment, I decided to seek a dispensation from the priesthood and the SCJs. The dispensation process was difficult and tedious. It dawned on me that the Catholic Church cannot admit that a marriage can die, nor can it admit that a priesthood can die. The dispensation was granted and in 2010, I married one of my former students, a widow. Looking back now since my marriage I can truthfully say I have no regrets for my decision. Entering my new life has been exciting, educational, and fulfilling. I really am at a loss for words to describe my beautiful wife. Inheriting three daughters, two married and with granddaughters, and one now a businesswoman in a serious relationship has been a grace. The pastor of our parish is

very forward looking and has involved me in the parish, teaching scripture courses, giving retreats, and facilitating the Parish Council. My wife and I are deeply involved in our Thursday Soup Kitchen and distribution of pantry goods. We are members of a small intentional community that meets in a home for Sunday worship.

Donald Klingler [P 1954]

I have been in Kalamazoo, Michigan, since 1974 and formally entered the diocese in 1980. In these years I have served in the following assignments: Chaplain to the Sisters of St. Joseph for many years. Still help several times a month. Prison chaplain. Pastor at three parishes. Spiritual Director and Counselor to Permanent Deacons and lay people. Led the widows and widowed men groups in the diocese and at St. Margaret's Parish [still do]. Chaplain at Borgess Catholic Hospital. I retired in 2011, but still am very active. Helping wherever I can in our priest-shortage diocese. Every priest has at least two and sometimes three parishes.

Bill Koch [P 1977]

I'm the father of four kids, all in their 20s and 30s and have 4 grandchildren. I teach writing at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. I've been teaching here for 17 years, though as an adjunct. I lector at my home Church as well as lead song as cantor. I'm in the midst of trying to write a book called *Completing the Revolution: Adult Education for Boomers in Retirement*. The idea is that as a member of the Boomer generation, I saw the campus unrest going on in 1970 here at UNI, led by Boomers who felt they could change the world. But as always happens, youthful idealism gave way to economic practicality. Forty-six years later, Boomers still see war on TV, and so my book is a challenge to Boomers to complete this revolution to end [among other things] war in the world. I've organized the book as 50 daily reflections to be read during the 50 days of the Easter season, but Boomers in retirement can meditate on them at any time. I present ideas about education and idealism and language and narrative that I think are the ways the revolution they began in their youth can be completed in their retirement. But they must examine their own body of assumptions and undertake "intellectual wars" involving their understanding of words. At least that is how I think the revolution starts to be completed.

Jim Marks [P 1961]

Currently, I'm semi-retired after 27 years with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Now working as a senior adviser to the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County. Married to Judy for 44 years. I have one son, Jonathan, who is a manager with UPS.

Tim McInerney [P 1973]

I'm retired now. I'm back playing the guitar at St. Gertrude's Parish on the north side of Chicago.

Mike McMillen [P 1960]

I continue to conduct Clinical Pastoral Education programs, albeit part-time. This year I will turn 75; seems impossible. Spending so many years as an SCJ has continued to influence my spirituality to live simply and occasionally remember those SCJs who influenced my life and pray for those who are no longer with us.

Cletus Meiergerd [P 1967]

Sharon and I married in December 1985 and lived and worked in Joliet, Illinois, since January 1986. In 2014, we both retired and moved to Avon, Indiana, our current address. We have one child, a son, Joshua, who lives with us. We really are happy with our new home and being retired. There is not a day that goes by that I do not think of my experiences with the SCJs with fond memories. I do not regret any of those years and I continue to pray for all of the people that I had the honor of working and living with. I was able to visit Milwaukee the past summer to attend the funeral of Howard Le Pine and visit with his family, who are good friends. I also took some time to visit the SCJ Mausoleum and realize how many old acquaintances have passed on. It helped me to see how short life is and to see that while I have been so busy with my life, a lot of water has passed under the bridge. I would love to keep in touch.

George Nestler [P 1967]

I'm retired, traveling, and staying active.

Michael Ortiz [P 1948]

I was a former SCJ for many years. I transferred over to the Diocese of San Diego for a number of reasons but am still an SCJ at heart. Though now retired, I continue to work as a chaplain for a Catholic High School and a supply priest at a number of local parishes.

Frank Palishen [P 1976]

I have a total of 32 years working in ministry within the Church [including with the SCJs]. I am now retired. My SCJ spirituality flows from Fr. Dehon's mediation, "The Priestly Heart of Jesus and the Suffering" [The Priestly Heart of Jesus, 14th Meditation]. I now include world events: Syria, immigrants, etc. I have led myself and others in this great meditation for Fr. Dehon's— even if they don't know it.

Dan Peerenboom [P 1992]

I left the SCJ's in August 1994. My first job after leaving vowed life was Principal of Spotted Eagle High School until 1999. As Executive Director of the Center for Parent Alternatives, I played a pivotal role securing School Choice. I am currently teaching at St. Rafael the Archangel, a Seton School [97% Hispanic with large immigrant population]. I have been involved with religious education since leaving vowed life. Daily, I pray for the SCJs, their ministries and their benefactors. I attribute my success to their journeying with God and me as

I discerned my vocation in the years 1989-1994. My parish is Nativity of the Lord in Cudahy, Wisconsin, and I am a Secular Franciscan at St. Josaphat's Parish.

Michael Philipp [P 1970]

I am a Clinical Psychologist working in Community Mental Health. I am an Ignatian Volunteer Corp member, a Chicago Botanic Garden Volunteer and a Maryville Crisis Nursery Volunteer. I have an interest in the spirituality of Creation and Blessing.

David Schimmel [P 1969]

After a five-year discernment period that I characterize as, “kicking and screaming all the way,” I decided to move away from the SCJs and active ministry as a priest. Coming to terms with my sexuality, embracing my identity as a gay man, and admitting that I did not want to be celibate, I requested and received a dispensation in 1996 after 25 years in vows and serving for 14 years as a priest. I am happy to say that I enjoy a loving relationship with a man. What seemed particularly confounding for many people was my intention to continue working in spirituality—serving as a spiritual director and facilitating retreats. For the next 18 years I also wrote a monthly four-page publication called, “PASSION, Reflecting on Christian Spirituality from a Gay Perspective.” During those years I was fortunate to receive an invitation to join the Institute for Spiritual Leadership, a training program for spiritual directors, where I served on staff and eventually as Co-Director until it closed in 2010. For the next few years, I did a number of odd jobs to pay the bills until the SCJs asked me to be the Director of Dehonian Associates. I tell people that getting this job was like winning the lottery. The financial stability, of course, was much needed, but more importantly, I am able to work with a spiritual tradition that I love and which has been an important part of my life for over 50 years. In a sense, I have never left the SCJs.

Jim Schweitzer [Promises 1969]

I attended Donaldson from 1964-1968 and Ste. Marie from 1968-1969. [Since our class size was large, we started at Lenox and arrived at Ste. Marie the week that class was going to take vows. I think we all enjoyed the time in Lenox.] I disliked just about everything about the time in Ste. Marie. I started Kilroe in 1969 and two years later the seminary was closed. We moved to Chicago to attend Loyola, or in my case, Mundelein. Fr. Thomas Sheehy invited me to work at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Raymondville, Texas. I enjoyed almost two years working with him and the other SCJs. Towards the end of Raymondville, I decided to leave the SCJs and began law school at the University of Houston. Shortly after graduation, I moved down the highway to Galveston. For the last 15 years I have been an elected Justice of the Peace in Galveston County while still practicing some law. I have been married for 36 years to Lisa, and have four children and two grand kids.

Ray Sousa [P 1970]

I am semi-retired since July 2015. I received a Masters in Counseling from Loyola University, Chicago. I am a licensed counselor in the State of Illinois and am adjunct faculty at Loyola, Chicago.

David Stackowicz [P 1972]

After leaving the Order, I lived in Milwaukee for 10 years working in customer service for an electrical company. In 1988, I was offered and accepted a transfer to the Raleigh-Durham, NC, area. Completing 34 years working with sales reps and the general public, I retired in 2011. Presently, I am a volunteer broadcaster/announcer at a classical radio station, WCPE 89.7 FM [www.theclassicalstation.org] in the Raleigh area. The tower transmits in a 90-mile radius from the station and is streamed worldwide over the Internet. Living in Raleigh, I was blessed to meet a wonderful and loving woman named Dorothy and we were married in 2000. She is originally from Brooklyn, NY, and worked for a pharmaceutical company in the area. She too retired and we are both doing various social ministries at our parish.

Fred Stadler [P 1967]

I met my wife at Sacred Heart School of Theology in 1976. She was singing at an event and we both knew George Nestler and others. She knew many of the seminarians because she was a Dental Hygienist in Hales Corners, and many SCJs were her patients! We have four adult children, all married, and nine grandchildren, and we see them frequently. I am a retired teacher—42 years teaching. 3 Years in Walls, MS, at Sacred Heart School; 8 years at St. Charles Boy's Home in Milwaukee; 31 years at Milwaukee Area Tech College, teaching Philosophy, Ethics, Death and Dying, and other subjects as well. My wife Judi is a retired Hygienist and then a retired school Counselor in Whitefish Bay [20 years in Whitefish Bay]. We enjoy family, friends, and travel. We thank God for our many blessings.

Tom Tucker [P 1963]

I sadly left the community in August 1991 after nearly 29 years in vows and nearly 20 years in ordained ministry. I was 47 and a prime candidate for midlife issues. I say sadly because I love the community. I was profoundly grateful to the order who had such a profound influence on my life, values, education, and faith. I entered Donaldson as a sophomore aged 15 and 32 years later I officially left the community. It was a necessary step because chastity/elibacy had become a burden rather than a gift.

With the kind assistance of the community I was able to study for a Masters in Social Work from Loyola University in Chicago. I did odd jobs during that time and slowly adjusted to my new life style. I married just before I finished graduate school. Upon graduation I found a job as a social worker and part-time chaplain at a hospice program in Barrington, IL, where I worked for 18 months. I then applied for a similar job with the newly opening hospice program at Loyola University Medical Center where I remained for the next 17 years.

In many ways hospice work was a real continuation of ministry. Dealing with terminally ill people and their families was a great privilege and it allowed me to share life with them at a profoundly painful period in their lives. Again it was much like priestly ministry and in fact, I was able to administer the Sacrament of the Sick to several patients who had no affiliation with any parish but who wanted to be anointed.

Through all the post-SCJ years I found myself always in contact with the poor and needy. Having worked with Hispanics for many years, I continued in hospice care. My awareness of the needs of the less fortunate was heightened because I was an SCJ for so many years. I was also a proud son of Irish immigrants so I felt a kinship with immigrants from many countries and in a sense, I understood a bit some of their challenges. My parents raised me to be aware of and responsive to the needs of others. I continue now in my retirement years working for a small ecumenical organization that works with the homeless and we try to find places for them to live and assist them to improve their lives.

According to Church law I'm no longer an SCJ. But in my heart and blood I am. I identify deeply with the SCJ mission statement which says, "...and to be especially among the poor, 'prophets of love and servants of reconciliation'." And when I first heard the often quoted statement of Fr. Dehon that we should "get out of the sacristy" I found myself agreeing completely just as I identify with our current Pope Francis. Being an SCJ makes me a better person because I know that I have the privilege and responsibility to work for the good of others.

Paul Waldo [N 1968]

I entered the seminary as a 14-year-old boy because I was drawn to the life of a minister of social justice, not because of the traditional rites and rituals of the priesthood. I was fortunate as an elementary student at a Catholic school to have the example of a young parish priest who encouraged community service. I admired him for the work he did within the parish and larger community. It was his example and encouragement that led me to enter the seminary. Why Divine Heart? Simply answered, it was because my family lived in the same neighborhood as another family whose son was at Donaldson [Tom Tucker]. Our mothers were friends and when it was my time to select the seminary to go to, Divine Heart was an easy choice. Missionary work was also attractive to me so the SCJs were a good fit.

However, as a 14-year-old boy I wasn't fully aware of the sacrifice required of the clergy, notably celibacy. I'll never know, but in some ways I think I may have been ordained, if priests were allowed to marry. When I became fully aware of my human sexuality through chaste but not fully innocent experiences with young women I met in the Novitiate as part of my community service activities, I decided I could no longer dedicate my life to the priesthood. I left the Novitiate about 6 weeks before I would have taken first vows.

Having said that, I have not one single regret for the time I spent at Donaldson or Ste. Marie. The education I received both in and out of the classroom has served me very well. I grew up in the seminary developing a maturity that I am certain far outpaced anything that would have happened in my life had I not gone to the seminary. I learned the true meaning of friendship as I shared my life with the many other boys [soon to be young men] who were with me at Donaldson and Ste. Marie. I also internalized the true meaning and joy of serving others in this life. And that lesson has stayed with me all these years, as I am a dedicated volunteer in the service of those who are not as fortunate as me.

I am no longer a man of faith [not sure I ever really was]. It's not important to me. I live a more Buddhist life now seeking to express the god within me and find the god within others. I don't live my life now expecting to earn some afterlife. This life is reward enough. I am agnostic and do not expect to ever know whether or not there is a God as defined by the Catholic or other Christian faiths. And again it doesn't matter to me. What matters to me is that I live the best life I can following the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and other spiritual leaders. I don't believe Jesus was God. Does it matter? I don't think so. I credit the seminary life for instilling in me this fervent interest in loving one another and doing all I can to improve the lives of others even though I have let go of much more of the religiosity of my training there.

Greg Yates [P 1955]

Shortly after ordination in 1963, the Provincial at the time, Fr. Peter Miller, SCJ, asked if I would be interested in doing missionary work in Sumatra, Indonesia. I studied the Javanese dialect and eventually worked in a transmigration area occupied by Javanese immigrants. I served as pastor in Tugumilio for 5 years and prior to that in Blitang as an associate pastor. I left Indonesia towards the end of 1971 and returned to the States. When leaving Sumatra, I had asked for laicization, so that, God willing, I could share my life with someone in the married state. After waiting for a considerable period of time, I knew that laicization would not be granted. I knew from Canon Law that if I married civilly, it would be granted. And it was. On October 1, 1973, my wife to be, Mary Solomon and I entered a sacramental marriage at Sacred Heart Church in Warrensburg, Missouri. In 1975, we adopted two children, brother and sister, 7 and 5 years of age. These children, now adults, 47 and 49 years of age, have three children each. Mary and I have been and still are involved in the work of our parish, Our Lady of the Presentation. I've been retired from my job with an area Agency where I worked 24 years until age 65. Mary and I are happily married for 43 years. My wife and I attended a spiritual event at Sacred Heart Monastery about 6 or 8 years ago. I'm 84 years of age and I need to discontinue my Faith Formation classes because of a hearing loss.

Ron Zeilinger [P 1964]

I have a Bachelor degree in Art Education from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and a Master of Divinity degree from Sacred Heart School of Theology. I spent 20 years in Catholic marketing and fundraising [Sacred Heart Development Office and St. Ann Center for Intergenerational

Care] and 10 years in Religious Education [St. Joseph Indian School, Chamberlain, SD]. I founded Dismas Ministry [www.dismasministry.org] in the Jubilee Year 2000 after completing a national survey identifying the need for free Catholic resources behind bars. For the past 16 years I have provided development and oversight of all programs and operations of the ministry—a national Catholic prison outreach providing free faith, scripture, and prayer resources for Catholics and others in U.S. prisons. Presently, I live in Bay View, Wisconsin. I have a son Micah [and Becky] in Wisconsin; and another son Matthew [and Mandy] and grandson Bastian, in Illinois.