



# SCJ News

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



Participants at the XXIV General Chapter in Rome. Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Quang Nguyen and Fr. Vien Nguyen represented the US Province.

## An extraordinary General Chapter!

“**E**xtraordinary” was how many referred to the XXIV General Chapter. Held three years earlier than planned due to the appointment of Fr. Heiner Wilmer, SCJ, as bishop of Hildesheim, it was a short but intense two weeks during which a new general administration was elected, and priorities were established to help guide it in its work during the next six years.

Over 75 SCJs, representing entities spread across five continents, gathered in Rome, July 14-27. On July 20, they elected a new superior general: Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú, SCJ.

### The new superior general

Fr. Carlos Luis succeeds Fr. Carlos Enrique Caamaño Martín, SCJ, who became superior general following the

appointment of Fr. Heiner as bishop.

Born in the Canary Islands in 1965, Fr. Carlos Luis joined the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) in 1984 and was ordained in 1990.

He studied philosophy and theology in Salamanca, Spain, and in Caracas, Venezuela. Fr. Carlos Luis has a license in Biblical Sciences from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and a doctorate from the Pontifical Gregorian University, also in Rome. In Caracas, he taught Scripture and served as rector of the Institute of Theology for Religious (ITER), and as Dean of the Faculty of Theology of the Catholic University Andrés Bello (UCAB).

### Venezuela is home

Fr. Carlos Luis served briefly in India, but for most of the past 30 years Venezuela has been his home. It is a country where poverty and civil unrest seem to grow daily. “We are in a country that is deeply divided socially, politically and economically,” said Fr. Carlos Luis. “For that reason, reconciliation is not just something that needs to happen individually, but something that is a task for society. A task for all, but most especially for us. We [Dehonians] refer to ourselves as ‘Servants of Reconciliation’. Starting with the Heart of Jesus we want to change the hearts of people too, so that we can change everything.”



Fr. Carlos Luis



The previous General Council did a light-hearted welcome to the chapter. Pictured here are Fr. Carlos Enrique and Fr. Steve.

## A new General Council

Among those elected to a second term on the General Council was Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, former provincial superior of the US Province. He had served during Fr. Heiner's administration. Fr. Steve is 59, professed his first vows in 1982 and was ordained in 1989. Before service as provincial superior he was director of St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota. He has also served in formation, and in pastoral ministry on the Cheyenne River and Lower Brule reservations. Fr. Steve has a Master's in Divinity and a Doctorate in Cross Cultural Ministry from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Two other members of the previous General Council were also re-elected. The first was Fr. Léopold Mfouakouet, SCJ, former provincial superior of Cameroon. Born in 1968, he was professed in 1988 and ordained in 1995. He has served in parish ministry, in formation, and as a professor at the Catholic University in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Fr. Artur Sanecki, SCJ, was the third member of the previous council to be re-elected. The former provincial superior of the Polish Province is 52, professed his first vows in 1985 and was ordained in 1991. He has served in formation and has taught theology, including at the Pontifical University in Krakow. Fr. Arthur holds a doctorate in Biblical Theology from the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome.

New to the council is Fr. Alexander Sapta Dwi Handoko, SCJ, provincial superior of the Indonesian Province. He was born in 1963, professed in 1984 and ordained in 1993. He served in parish ministry, as provincial treasurer and on the Indonesian Provincial Council, as well as on the General Finance Commission.

Also new to the council is Fr. Levi Dos Anjos Ferreira, SCJ. Originally from Brazil, he has served in the German Province for several years. Fr. Levi was born in 1972, professed in 1994 and ordained in 2002. Fr. Levi is currently novice master in Freiburg. He was the only one elected to the council who was not present at the chapter, though he did serve on the preparatory committee. Fr. Levi arrived at the chapter just in time to join delegates at Mass at St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome.

## From general elections to general guidelines

The first week of the General Chapter was dedicated to the election process. After a break on Sunday to celebrate Mass at St. John Lateran, the delegates directed their attention to the future.

How should Dehonians respond to the world today? What priorities should guide the general administration during its six-year term?

Fr. Léopold Mfouakouet spoke about Vocations and Formation. The last General Chapter encouraged promotion of internationality at all levels of formation. Some entities have worked together to create international scholasticates. Others have welcomed international students to established programs. At the general level, nine-month educational programs have been offered for formation directors and for those preparing to serve as treasurers.

Common themes were heard in the reports from chapter discussion groups. Formation is vital, especially initial formation; most delegates thought that initial formation should be done in a student's home entity. Many called for greater development of formation directors at all levels.

## Formation is vital, but...

As vital as formation is, there is no need for it if there are no vocations. "Vocational development must be our priority," said a delegate reporting for his discussion group. Suggestions included linking vocations to youth ministry, creating more Dehonian youth gatherings, having a greater SCJ presence in colleges and universities, and better utilization of social media.

Some suggested that a secretariat for vocations be established at the general level to animate vocation ministry throughout the congregation. Many emphasized the need for all Dehonians to accept responsibility for vocations. Vocation development cannot be a job simply assigned to a few.

## Evangelization

Fr. Stephen Huffstetter spoke about "Evangelization," a sector that includes education, justice and peace, and parish ministry. How can the congregation better address Justice and Peace concerns? Fr. Steve noted that most religious congregations the size of the Dehonians have a full-time Justice and Peace director. Should the SCJs consider establishing such a posi-



Fr. Francis Vu talks with the new superior general about Vietnam



tion? If so, would that person need to be based in Rome, or could the person animate social justice issues from his home entity?

Fr. Steve also spoke about education and parish ministry. A seven-member education group was established on the general level. "These educators want to do more than create networks for information exchange, they want to get to the heart of our pedagogy," said Fr. Steve. What are the commonalities of education under the umbrella of the Dehonian charism?

### What does it mean to be a Dehonian?

The congregation has many diverse ministries around the world, but so do other religious communities. What is it that makes a Dehonian ministry distinct from that of a Jesuit, Benedictine, Dominican, or diocesan ministry? How are the social works of the community any different than the social efforts of secular organizations which also seek to be in solidarity with the poor and disenfranchised?

Understanding the Dehonian charism – Dehonian spirituality – is the first step in answering the question, "What does it mean to be a Dehonian?"

During the previous administration, Fr. Artur Sanecki had responsibility for the sector of Spirituality. Fr. Artur identified some of the work that has taken place during the past three years including the establishment of Dehonian Theological Commissions on each continent, and the International Theological Symposium held last year in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

"But are we doing enough to develop our understanding of who we are as Dehonians?" he said.

A significant resource is the Dehon Study Center (Centro Studi Dehoniani). Fr. Stefan Tertünte, SCJ, director of the center, spoke about some of the CSD's activities. One of the major works of the office is the development of "DehonDocs," a searchable on-line directory of the writings of Fr.

Leo John Dehon, as well as related research and commentaries. You can visit it at [www.dehondocs.org](http://www.dehondocs.org)

### To have a missionary spirit

What does it mean to be a Dehonian? Fr. Paulus Sugino, SCJ, reminded delegates that it also includes a call to the missions.

"As an international Congregation we hear the call to the universal mission of the Church and we wish to participate in it at the individual and the community level," said Fr. Sugino, citing the SCJ Constitutions. "Missions beyond our borders constitute for each one a basic dimension of our consecration."

Fr. Sugino continued, noting that a call to the missions has been with the congregation since its earliest years. However, it is a call that requires resources, both financial and personnel. How can the congregation adequately support the missions? Is there still an openness to new efforts? Several entities have developed missionary volunteer programs; how can these programs best serve the missions while at the same time provide an important formative experience for those who take part in them?

### Communications

Fr. Radek Warena, SCJ, General Communications Director, spoke about the work by of the newly developed Communications Office. He emphasized that the office is in service to the General Curia. For example, the prior General Government developed the new "Open Heart and Mind" Mission Statement. The Communications Office then had the task of making the statement known. Seen on tee shirts, cups, notepads, websites and other items, the new "Open and Heart and Mind" logo is present



The US delegation with Fr. Steve at St. John Lateran. From L-R they are Fr. Jack, Fr. Quang, Fr. Steve and Fr. Vien.

throughout the congregation.

The logo illustrates how a simple image can quickly bring to mind the organization that it represents. But a logo is just one piece of an organization's Visual Identity. Visual Identity includes everything from logos to typefaces to colors to slogans. Fr. Radek presented the Communication Office's first steps in creating a possible Visual Identity for the congregation. Other significant projects of the office include a new website.

### Find out more!

Reports, videos and photos from the General Chapter are available at [www.dehon.it](http://www.dehon.it). Note that the link to the English site is in the upper right corner of the homepage. Online photo albums are available at: [www.generalate.smugmug.com/XXIV-General-Chapter](http://www.generalate.smugmug.com/XXIV-General-Chapter)

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## Fr. Ed Kilianski re-elected as Provincial Superior

"I promise I will work hard to be your pastor," said Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, as he brought the US Province Election Assembly to a close.

Held June 19-20, 2018, at the Provincial Conference Center in Hales Corners, WI, the primary task of the gathering was to elect a new provincial administration. By the end of the first day, Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, was elected to a second term as provincial superior, and Fr. Quang Nguyen, SCJ, and Fr. Jack Kurps, SCJ, were re-elected as councilors. The rest of the council was elected the second day: Fr. Christianus Hendrick, SCJ (he also served during Fr. Ed's first term), Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ (he was on council during Fr. Tom Cassidy's administration) and Br. Andy Gancarczyk, SCJ. Originally from Poland, this is Br. Andy's first experience in provincial administration.

"You are family to me," continued Fr. Ed in his closing words to fellow SCJs. "You are very special men

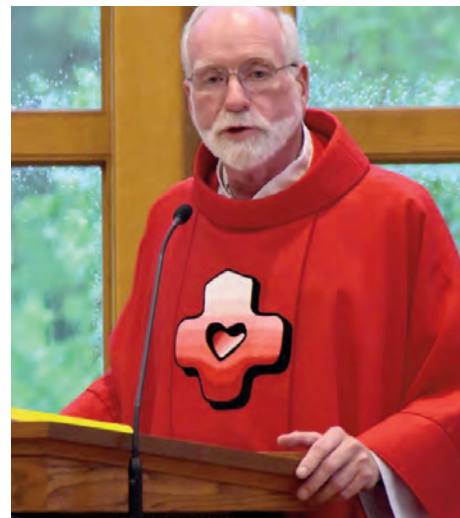
doing good ministry. When I was pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe I told parishioners that every night I prayed for them.

"Now, every single night before I go to sleep I pray for each and every one of you. If we do not pray, we are nothing more than businessmen trying to do business. We are about spreading the gospel, the kingdom of God, the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We have a mission that is very valuable in the Church; we have a charisma that speaks to the need for healing and reconciliation in our country and world."

### "A privilege to serve"

A Buffalo native, Fr. Ed, 63, said that he felt called to the priesthood for as long as he can remember. There is an often-told story of him as a child about when he let his parents know that not only did he want to be a priest, but perhaps he was pope material as well.

"When I was seven years old Pope John XXIII died and on the radio they said that he wanted to be a priest when he was 11 years old," said Fr. Ed. "I said to my mom and dad that, 'I'm only seven and I want to be a priest, does that mean that



Fr. Ed speaks during the Opening Mass.

someday I'll be the pope?"

"They laughed as everyone does when I tell the story but somehow I knew that one day I would be a priest."

He went to the SCJs' Immaculate Heart of Mary High School Seminary in Lenox, Mass., and then entered the SCJs' formation program in Chicago. He studied at Northeastern Illinois University, and earned a degree in Psychology with a minor in Philosophy.

Midway through his undergraduate studies he entered the novitiate in



Participants at the 2018 US Province Assembly



Victorville, Calif. Fr. Ed professed his first vows in 1975.

After completing his bachelor's degree he went back to where he started – Immaculate Heart of Mary – to teach, coach basketball and soccer, and serve as assistant dean of students. In 1979 he began his theology studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. In 1982 he earned his Master of Divinity.

On January 29, 1983, he was ordained to the priesthood at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary parish (now, St. Martin of Tours) in Franklin, Wis.

His first assignment as a priest was at Sacred Hearts, but after six months he was asked to do vocation ministry.

"I drove the entire United States meeting and interviewing young men who were interested in the priesthood or religious life," he said. "I did this for seven-and-a-half years, becoming the director in 1985." Although many of the men he met did not pursue a vocation with the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Ed said that he always felt as though he was doing an important service for the Church. "As an SCJ, I helped others discern their own vocation – wherever it might be – and helped them find the path the God was leading them on."

After vocations, Fr. Ed had a number of ministry assignments. In 1996 he moved to northern California, where he edited a newsletter and served as parochial vicar at St. Philip of Jesus in Occidental and St. Teresa of Avila in Bodega. It was in Bodega that he first felt called to Hispanic ministry. He began yearly visits to Oaxaca, Mexico, to study Spanish.

In 2004 he moved to Houston and ministered at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish. After a six-month study sabbatical in Mexico, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston in 2008.

In this year's State of the Union report Fr. Ed told his fellow SCJs that "It has been a privilege to serve as your provincial, a position I neither sought nor desired. It has been a real ministry of love, service and challenge. I have seen my role and ministry as the servant of servants.

"Be assured of my gratitude, thoughts and prayers. Let us continue to promote, display, make known and celebrate with others our Dehonian charism. Fr. Dehon saw the refusal of the love of Christ as the deepest cause of human misery. Caught up in this often unrecognized love, he wanted to respond to it by being intimately united to the Heart of Christ and by restoring His Reign in individuals and in society. Let us try our best to follow his example."

### A new Provincial Council

Fr. Quang Nguyen, SCJ, was the first to be elected to the new Provincial Council; he is currently vice provincial superior, as well as province director of vocations. Fr. Jack Kurps, SCJ, executive director of Sacred Heart Southern Missions, was also re-elected, as was Fr. Christianus Hendrik, SCJ, a member of the Lower Brule Pastoral Team.

New to the council are Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ, and Br. Andy Gancarczyk, SCJ. Fr. Vien recently earned his doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, Calif. He is now on the staff of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. Br. Andy, originally from Poland, is a member of the Houston community serving at Our Lady of Guadalupe. Previous to his ministry in the US Province, Br. Andy served as a missionary for five years in Uruguay.

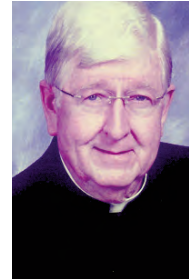
The new administration begins its term in September.



Counting the ballots

## Remembering Fr. Tom Burns

Fr. Tom Burns, SCJ, died June 23, near Pinellas Park, FL. He had been hospitalized with complications from pneumonia. Fr. Tom was 79, professed his first vows in 1958 and was ordained in 1965.



Fr. Tom

From Wilkes-Barre, PA, Fr. Tom began with the SCJs at Dehon Seminary in Great Barrington, MA. He did his philosophy studies at Kilroe Seminary near Honesdale, PA, and theology at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, WI.

His first assignment was at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Lenox, MA. In 1972, he earned his Master of Arts degree in French at Immaculata College in Worcester. Fr. Tom then studied for certification as a high school principal and supervisor at North Adams State College. He was subsequently named principal of the seminary. He served there until 1979.

Following his assignment at Immaculate Heart, Fr. Tom enrolled in the Institute of Spirituality and Workshop at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif. After a two-year update in spirituality and post-Vatican II theology, he joined the faculty of St. Joseph Notre Dame High School in Alameda, Calif.

Fr. Tom received his first parish assignment at St. Matthew parish in Houston where he served for 1983-86. He then joined the Mississippi community serving at Queen of Peace parish in Olive Branch from 1986-1993 and at St. James parish in Corinth from 1993-2009.

He retired several years ago and was a member of the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, FL.



# Ordained a deacon!

**“I understand that formation does not end after finishing theology or initial formation but is instead a continuous and ongoing process during our entire lives. So, the real challenge for me is to continue giving my best for the good and growth of our mission as SCJs.”**

**- Dn. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas, SCJ**

In 2006, Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas entered the ESL program (English as a Second Language) at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. It was his first step on the path to ordained ministry as a Dehonian, a member of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

On June 16, 2018, he was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop James T. Schuerman, DD, auxiliary bishop of Milwaukee. The ceremony took place right where Dn. Juancho began his Dehonian formation: at SHSST.

Dn. Juancho, 35, was born and raised in Colombia. He often jokes that “I didn’t think that my call to the priesthood would be such a long-distance call!”

His journey in formation included a ministry year in Brazil; it was an experience that he treasured, an experience that he said deepened his vocation.

“After my experience in Brazil, where I was able to participate in many ministries and activities, I can say that I understand the importance and the value of getting out of the sacristy and being among those who need us the most,” said Dn. Juancho. “In addition, I have experienced the missionary character of our congregation and the international perspective of our mission. I feel blessed to be part of this great congregation, of this family.

During his time in Brazil, Dn.

Juancho was a frequent contributor to the province blog.

“I understand our call to live intimate communion with God,” he wrote in one of his posts. “But I also understand that it is through our service to others that we truly experience communion with God. It is the intimate and personal communion with God that Fr. Dehon experienced and translated for us as the intimate communion with our brothers and sisters.

“In this way, this union with the poor and marginalized reveals the joy of our union with Jesus. This is how our call and vocation takes its meaning and purpose as we strive for a perfect relationship with the love of



God, one that is reflected in our love for our brothers and sisters.”

Dn. Juancho professed his first vows in 2013 and his perpetual vows in February of this year. On May 24, he received his Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He was anxious to put his 12 years of preparation to work and begin full-time ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston. As a student, he did summer ministry there, and was a part of the preparation team for a youth group from the parish that went to World Youth Day in 2016.

“I understand that formation does not end after finishing theology or initial formation but is instead a continuous and ongoing process during our entire lives,” said Dn. Juancho. “So, the real challenge for me is to continue giving my best for the good and growth of our mission as SCJs.”

“I truly believe that God calls us in mysterious ways and always has a plan for us,” he added, reflecting on his path to the diaconate. “I have also learned that we do not receive all the things we want or desire when we want them, but that God always gives them to us in the proper time. As I continue my vocational journey, I want to thank all the people in my life who have always been there to support me and lead me. They include other people in formation with me and my fellow classmates, even those who are no longer with us in the congregation, my family and all my friends, and of course, the Priests of the Sacred Heart and others who have always believed in me...”

“All my experiences with the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart have told my heart that this is the place that I belong; this is where God has truly led me!”

Dn. Juancho is a member of the pastoral team at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston.

**View photos from  
Dn. Juancho’s ordination at:  
[www.scjusa.smugmug.com](http://www.scjusa.smugmug.com)**

## Celebrating and remembering

**T**he Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) have had a formation program in Chicago since 1971. Students attended Catholic Theological Union, Loyola University, St. Xavier University and other schools while living and praying together in community and learning about religious life as an SCJ.

In recent years, the Dehon Formation Community has been located in a renovated brownstone in the heart of Hyde Park. A multicultural, intergenerational community, the house has also welcomed SCJs from around the world who come to Chicago for sabbaticals and graduate studies.

This summer, the Dehon Formation Community became a part of Sacred Heart Monastery. Undergraduates will go to Milwaukee area universities and theology students will attend Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

The move brings to end an era of formation in Chicago, an era that was honored and celebrated by the community in a ceremony early in the summer. Dehonians, neighbors and friends joined in prayer and shared stories together.

“We gather to remember a formation community and a history of 47 years in which SCJs and candidates studied, ministered and lived in the city of Chicago,” began Fr. Bob Tucker, SCJ, a member of the formation team. He led the prayer service that moved from the lobby, to the kitchen, to the living room and finally, to the chapel.

“May our farewell express our affection for all who were a part of this history,” he continued. “May our remembering and our prayers enable us to express gratitude, ease any sadness, sustain and strengthen us for the upcoming transition. Let us also be thankful for the gifts of God’s grace that flowed in and through the many people who passed through our SCJ



Hubert Liassidji carries a piece of art that would come with the community to the monastery.

formation houses in Chicago. We gather today to honor and remember the many people and stories of those who were a part of this history.

“Let us remember the gifts of formation directors, candidates, novices and the temporary professed. We remember those who celebrated final profession, ordination to diaconate and to the presbyterate, or perhaps moved on to other ways of living out their baptismal vocations. We remember also the many guests to our Chicago formation houses, including those who came to our doors looking to find the mercy of Christ.”

Fr. Bob reminded those gathered that while an era has come to an end in Chicago, a new one is beginning at Sacred Heart Monastery. The move will allow students to have greater interaction with members of the province, more easily attend community events, and study in one of the congregation’s own seminaries.

At each stop in the prayer service — the lobby, kitchen, living room and chapel — items were chosen to be brought to Sacred Heart Monastery. At the end of the prayer service, these items were packed into a large box of memories and keepsakes.

“These will help us to remember our past as we move toward a new future,” said Fr. Bob.

# SCJ NEWS



## Nine recommit as Dehonian Associates

Nine members of the Sacred Heart Southern Missions staff and board celebrated their re-commitment as Dehonian Associates during a ceremony on July 31. The Dehonian Associates include Clara Isom, Chris Greer, Kelly Tartt, Laura Grisham, Lois Harrison, Steve Koepke, Bridget Martin and Joyce Moore.

David Schimmel, Director of Dehonian Associates for the US

Province, received their recommitment in a prayer service that reflected on Jesus' request to "ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." The task of the Dehonian Associates, David noted, "is to be the human touch of God. The reward for our efforts is not necessarily success, but to find ourselves in the midst of the harvest, working side by side with Jesus, and growing more and more in the image of his Heart."

## Connecting with the founder's message

"I tell people that I never saw anything in Fr. Dehon's writings that was only for Catholics. His social justice concerns, his concern for all people; this is what inspires me," said Deborah Kosut. After 27 years at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, she retired at the end of June. In an interview she talked about how the Sacred Heart community and the writings of Fr. Leo John Dehon helped her grow in her faith and even find beauty in the challenges of her battle with terminal cancer. "I am so grateful, so changed for having been a part of the Sacred Heart community."

Read more about Deb in the News-Features section of:

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



## We are the Priests of the Sacred Heart: DEHONIANS

Our ministries are diverse, as are our members. Yet our goal is the same: to work with a common heart in service to God's people, reflecting the love of Christ as experienced by our founder, Fr. Leo John Dehon

**Learn how to join us in community and ministry**

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