



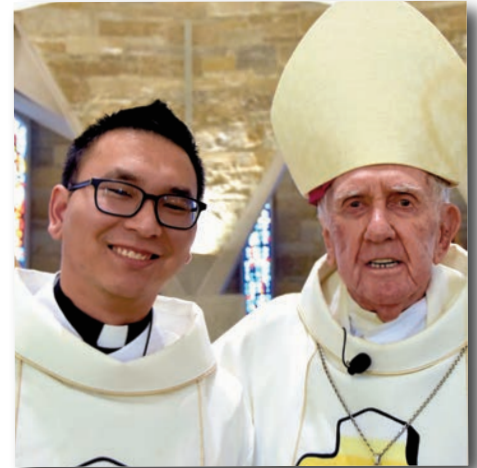
# SCJ News

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

## Congratulations **DEACON** Henry!

“ I continue to be in awe of all the love that is bestowed on me. I will transpose it onto others, to truly be a prophet of love.

- Deacon Henry Nguyen, SCJ



ABOVE: Dn. Henry with Bishop Joseph Potocnak. BELOW: Among those who were present at the ordination were Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú, SCJ, Superior General, and Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, Vicar General, as well as several international SCJs studying at SHSST.

**T**he first weekend in May was a busy time for Dn. Henry Nguyen, SCJ. On Friday evening, May 6, he graduated from Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology with his master's in divinity. The next day, May 7, Henry was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Joseph Potocnak, SCJ, bishop emeritus of De Aar, South Africa.

Present at both events were Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú, SCJ, Superior General of the Priests of

the Sacred Heart (Dehonians), and Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, Vicar General, who were in the United States for the General Visitation. Another special guest at the graduation was Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, who gave the SHSST commencement address.

Reflecting on his ordination, Dn. Henry said that “My life changes forever as I take this next step in my journey of faith to say ‘yes.’ Preparing for my diaconate ordination



VIEW more photos at:  
[www.scjusa.smugmug.com](http://www.scjusa.smugmug.com)





Dn. Henry did his first baptism as a deacon on May 14. "As I was setting up for the baptism, I found out that baby Liam and I shared something in common: we share a birthdate, February 18, which made the baptism that much more special to me," said Dn. Henry. "I believe it was God's providence that baby Liam was my first baptism."

confirmed my vocation because I know that I am called towards a life of service and to be among the people.

"I am excited to start my ministerial experience at St. Martin of Tours parish. I am excited to put into practice what I have been learning these last seven years. I am excited to share the Good News of the Lord with all."

Just a week after his ordination he did his first baptism. "It seemed like providence," he said about the baptism. He and the baby share the same birthday.

## California native

Originally from Orange County, CA, Dn. Henry professed first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 2018 and made his perpetual profession in January. He is 33. Before pursuing his vocation with the SCJs, he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Monterey Bay.

Dn. Henry did his CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) program in San Antonio with CHRISTUS Santa Rosa

Health System, and last year, split his year of pastoral ministry between Sacred Heart Southern Missions in Mississippi and with the mission community of SCJs in Ecuador.

He has served on the SHSST Student Council and has been active with the St. Martin of Tours chapter of the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement (VEYM), serving as assistant chaplain and VP of Academic Affairs. At the national level, Dn. Henry was a youth leader trainer. He has also been a volunteer with the elderly and disabled residents of St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care and assisted with the residential needs of students in SHSST's English and Cultural Studies program. During the past year Dn. Henry was a member of the communications team that is responsible for the general website and social media.

"I am grateful to have received an overwhelming bundle of support from family and friends, near and far, and from the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement which fostered my religious vocation," added Dn. Henry. "I continue to be in awe of all the love that is bestowed on me. I will trans-

pose it onto others, to truly be a prophet of love."

## Finding a balance, finding harmony

In his homily during Dn. Henry Nguyen's diaconate ordination, Bishop Joseph Potocnak spoke of the need for ministers, in particular, a Dehonian, to find a good balance between prayer and action.

"We as Priests of the Sacred Heart try to go to the people, but Fr. Dehon, like Christ, realized that you need a balance in your life... Prayer, Adoration and the Eucharist: these are the essential elements of our spiritual life," said Bishop Joe.

"We should be men of the people," he continued. "But also men of prayer. There is no conflict in this harmony; it is a wonderful harmony between being a man of the people and a man of God. We need both, they go together. If we follow this harmony, if Henry follows this, he'll have a happy, harmonious diaconate and priesthood.

"Priests who make time for prayer always seem to have time for the people. Priests who say that they are too busy to pray, they don't seem to have time for the people either.

"As a Priest of the Sacred Heart we ask that Henry has this happy harmony between ministry to the people and being a man of prayer, a man of God."

**VIDEO:** A recording of the livestream of the ordination is available on our YouTube channel at:

[www.youtube.com/dehoniansusa](http://www.youtube.com/dehoniansusa)

**PHOTOS:** An online photo album is available on our photo site at:

[www.scjusa.smugmug.com](http://www.scjusa.smugmug.com)





Archbishop Pierre (left) and Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú, share a laugh before graduation.

## Archbishop Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, delivers SHSST commencement address

**A**s noted in the previous article, graduation exercises at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology took place on May 7, the day before Dn. Henry Nguyen's ordination. After two years of pandemic-restricted gatherings, this year's commencement exercises took place in a full chapel that included several VIPs. Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú, SCJ, Superior General, was the presider at Holy Vespers. Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio of the United States, gave the commencement address.

"The presence of the Risen Lord, he is at work in the hearts of the believers, said the Archbishop during the commencement address. "Thus, the Christianity which our new graduates will propose is a way of life and a changed humanity diametrically opposed to the type of moralism which seeks to control behavior and seeks to reduce life to the keeping of rules. One can follow the rules without being transformed by the knowledge and love of Christ..."

"Sometimes the Church does this directly and other times she educates her children to act personally and responsibly. The time spent here at Sacred Heart has been a time principally dedicated to education, to an integrated formation which respects the values and beliefs of the Catholic community, and to nurturing an awareness of belonging to a community of believers in which communion with the Church is an indispensable guiding factor in pastoral activity.

"Often members of the church seek to change the conditions of the world through political and ideological means. Perhaps the better approach would be to encounter Christ anew and experience his love in prayer and community allowing yourselves to be so transformed by the encounter so that we face the problems of our world differently."

**View the archbishop's full address in the livestream recording of commencement at:**

**[www.dehoniansusa.info/Pierre](http://www.dehoniansusa.info/Pierre)**

## Remembering Fr. Johnny Klingler, SCJ

Provincial Superior,  
General Councilor,  
Missionary, Teacher,  
Advocate for the Poor

**O**n Saturday, March 12, Fr. Johnny Klingler, SCJ, died. Originally from Paterson, NJ, he was 86, professed his first vows in 1963, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1967.

Growing up, Fr. Johnny gave no thought to being a priest. He earned a degree in communications with the idea of working in television production. When he was drafted during the Korean War, a relative suggested that he should volunteer to be a chaplain's assistant because it was "easy duty." This experience, together with working with Korean children orphaned by the war, led to his life-long passion for working on behalf of the poor. When he read information about the Priests of the Sacred Heart, he knew it was where he was called to be.

Fr. Johnny's first assignment was as a teacher and formation director at

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Priests of the Sacred Heart

the province's Kilroe Seminary in Honesdale, PA, before a brief stint in parish ministry in St. Louis. In 1974 he became province director of Justice and Peace.

## Provincial Superior, then General Councilor

In 1977, Fr. Johnny was named provincial superior of the US Province. He finished his second term in 1983, moved to the Rio Grande Valley, but then found himself in administration again a year later when he was elected to the General Council in Rome. He was a general councilor from 1985-91. Fr. Johnny came back to the States in 1992 and spent six years with the Cheyenne River Pastoral Team based in Eagle Butte, SD. He then ministered for a year in South Africa before again joining provincial administration, first as director of apostolic activities, and later, as director of ministers and ministries.

Throughout his years of religious life, Fr. Johnny was passionate about social justice issues. When asked of his proudest accomplishment he talked about "building 30 homes in five days with the help of Habitat for Humanity." Fr. Johnny was a significant part of the effort that got the national Habitat team, including President Jimmy Carter, to come to South Dakota for a home-building week.

## Province award named after him

It was because of his many years working for social justice that in 2017 an award was created in his name to honor him.

"The Johnny Klingler Justice and Peace Award was established to acknowledge an SCJ or someone nominated by members of the province who, like Fr. Johnny, has worked tirelessly for social transformation," said a representative of the province Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission, when Fr. Johnny became the award's first recipient.



Fr. Johnny as many remember him: all smiles!

"When I was in Rome on the General Council I met many Ethiopians," wrote Fr. Johnny in a reflection for the North American Migration Commission. "They came into Rome illegally, hoping to immigrate to the United States, Canada or Australia where members of their family lived.

So many of them were living and sleeping outside of the train station.

A call came from the Vatican to all religious communities asking them to give them room and board.

"We had seven to ten of the refugee men living with us in the Generalate. I was able to visit them often. I had parties for them and picnics in a nearby park. I took a few to visit my Roman friends. They told me about their lives and families and their culture. We got to know each other fairly well. Most of them were able to immigrate. I visited one of them in New York and San Francisco. He visited my family in New Jersey."

## Connecting with and helping others

Connecting with others, helping when he could – these were constants in Fr. Johnny's life, no matter where he lived or ministered. In retirement, he quickly became involved with the Benedict Center in Milwaukee, serving on its board and working in several outreach programs. The Benedict Center is an interfaith, non-profit criminal justice agency that

works with victims, offenders, and the general community to bring about justice and rehabilitation.

Although he did his share of administrative work with the center, his greatest joy came in one-on-one interactions with the center's clients. He frequently worked with women who took part in the center's education program, tutoring those preparing for GED or HSED exams (high school equivalency). He regularly taught social studies and English through the program, helping some of the women gain literacy skills for the first time in their lives.

In retirement, Fr. Johnny also joined the informal group of "visiting uncles" who spent time in the Dehonians' Philippine Region. "They said that they were looking for 'older' SCJs to come and be a presence to the young people," said Fr. Johnny. "They wanted the SCJ students to learn about the congregation through the stories of our experiences.

"Right away, I thought 'I'm perfect for this!'" As provincial superior, mission secretary and general councilor "I was able to travel to and experience much of the congregation."

Visiting SCJ uncles also helped students with their English studies, since for most Dehonian students in the Philippines, English is not a first language. In the seminary Fr. Johnny taught English composition, public speaking and other communication arts classes. Just as with the Benedict Center, teaching was something with which he was familiar and enjoyed.

## A Twitter autobiography

Fr. Johnny's description of himself from his Twitter account: "A Jersey boy living in Milwaukee. Lived in Italy for 6 years. Like wine, the Brewers, digital photography. I have a heart for the poor and social justice."

A life summed up well in the character limit of Twitter.

**VIDEO:** View a YouTube recording of Fr. Johnny's funeral at: [www.dehoniansusa.info/JK](http://www.dehoniansusa.info/JK)





Fr. John stands next to a picture of the original Sacred Heart Monastery during his presentation.

## Much has changed since the days of the “Shabby Abbey”

*In May, Fr. John Czyzynski, SCJ, offered a presentation on a place that he has called home for many years, first as a young SCJ in the “Shabby Abbey” (the nickname given to the original building that housed Sacred Heart Monastery), and now in his retirement at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. Most residents currently living on the property are lay people who have apartments in two of the three wings of the SHML apartment complex. Fr. John’s presentation gave them background on what is their home now as well. What follows are short excerpts from Fr. John’s presentation. For the full text go to:*

[www.dehoniansusa.info/SHML](http://www.dehoniansusa.info/SHML)

**B**efore the Priests of the Sacred Heart owned this property, the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary did from 1903-1929 and had a convent/monastery built on the land. In 1929, the Sisters sold the property to the SCJs.

### Sacred Heart Mission House

From 1929-1934 the building served as the novitiate. It was called “Sacred Heart Mission House.” When the novitiate program moved to Sainte Marie, IL, that title moved with the program and the building that was purchased from the Dominican Sisters was called “Sacred Heart Monastery.” The title is deceptive because the Priests of the Sacred Heart are not monks. We are an apostolic/active community. A possible explanation is the fact that the first SCJs who lived in the building were from Germany. The German word for a residence for religious is “kloster” and it is translated as monastery or convent.

From 1932 until 1955 the SCJs used the original building for college students who majored in philosophy. The building also housed those pursuing theological studies: the last four years of study before ordination to the priesthood. When the college program

was moved to Pennsylvania, only those studying for theology lived in the building.

The original building had two stories. In 1933, the SCJs literally “raised the roof” and added a third story. Once the construction was done and the seminarians moved in, they gave nicknames to various parts of the building. The main corridor on the third floor was called “42nd Street.” The shorter wing on the south side had walls that were so thin that it was called “Cardboard Alley.” If anyone in that section sneezed, all of Cardboard Alley would call out “God Bless you.”

At times bats got into the building. This would be an occasion for SCJs and students to arm themselves with towels and tennis rackets and get rid of the bats. The poor bats didn’t have a chance.

In 1940 a new three-story wing was added to the northern end of the original building. This was used for classrooms, offices, common rooms and bedrooms. The wing that was added was larger than the original building.

### The Shabby Abbey

The official name of the old building was “Sacred Heart Monastery”, but it was affectionately known as “The Shabby Abbey.”

There used to be a vocation club. Young men who lived in the Milwaukee area came here to learn about the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Dn. David Nagel, SCJ, [province treasurer] was one of those who first got in touch with us through the vocation club.

### Across the street

In the early days of Sacred Heart Monastery more land was needed to grow food. [At the time, the religious community depended on its own farming to feed students and religious] The SCJs approached the farmer who owned the land across the street from the original building. He did not want to sell the land. The

story is told that Fr Kiefer, who was then the provincial superior, buried a statue of the Sacred Heart on the property. Soon after, the farmer had a change of heart and donated the property to the SCJs. [Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology / Sacred Heart Monastery now sit on the land.]

## Demolition

Sometime around 1981 the SCJs sold the land with the original building to developers who planned to build condos on the site. The building was razed. Bricks and copper were salvaged. However, the plan never came to fruition and after many hassles the property on which Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake stands was returned to the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

## “Bill and Maria”

During the years 1986-87 plans were made for a residence for senior SCJ religious. A building was erected north of the convent building that could house 18 residents. Completed in 1989, it was called “Villa Maria.” A magazine once arrived in the mail at this residence addressed to: “Bill and Maria.”

In 2009 that building was razed to make room for the construction of this present building, “Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.” In 2011 the Priests of the Sacred Heart moved into the northern section. Then lay folks moved into the center section in 2012 and the southern section in 2013.

There is room for 36 senior SCJs on the first three floors of the north wing, and for 10 SCJs who are active in ministry to live in community on the fourth floor. There are 138 apartments for senior residents [rentals] in the middle and southern sections of the complex. Twenty percent of the apartments are reserved for low-income residents.

*Fr. John thanks SCJs Dn. David Nagel, Br. Ray Kozuch and Fr. Wayne Jenkins for their help in assembling this history.*



Fr. Carlos with students in Mississippi.

# A whirlwind tour of the USA

## *The General Superior and Vicar General tour the US Province during General Visitation*

**D**elayed for two years by the pandemic, Frs. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú, SCJ, (Superior General) and Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ (Vicar), made their way to the United States in May for the General Visitation of the US Province. It’s been almost ten years since the last Visitation, done by Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, SCJ, in 2013.

Their first stop was with the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, FL, where Fr. Carlos said that he met with senior SCJs who gave him a historical sense of the province, emphasizing its commitment to some of the poorest counties in the country, and its many social commitments.

After Florida it was on to Wisconsin where Frs. Carlos and Steve took part in commencement at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and in Dn. Henry

Nguyen’s ordination (see page 1). From there, they went to South Dakota, an area Fr. Steve knows well from his many years of ministry there, most recently as executive director of St. Joseph’s Indian School before being named provincial superior of the US Province. Heading south, Frs. Carlos and Steve went to Mississippi, where they celebrated Mass and visited students at Sacred Heart and Holy Name Schools and learned about the



With a student at St. Joseph’s Indian School.



various ministries of Sacred Heart Southern Missions. Their last stop was in Houston at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Although much of the visitation involved ministry tours and visits with those who collaborate with the Priests of the Sacred Heart, the primary task of a visitation is dialogue. It is time for SCJs on the local level — individually and as a community — to have conversations with the General Administration. The Superior General gets a better sense of the local communities, and the local communities learn first-hand about news of the congregation at the general level.

“We are your servants,” said Fr. Carlos during his meeting with the Provincial Council. “How can we better serve you?”

Among the topics discussed during his visit with the council was the importance of having a missionary spirit and an openness to multiculturalism. Fr. Carlos noted that the US Province welcomes SCJs from around the world in community and ministry, but also hosts many international students in its ECS program at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

“Hales Corners – Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology – is one of the treasures of the congregation,” said Fr. Carlos. “It is not only important to the congregation, but also to the Church.”

After their visit of the US Province Frs. Carlos and Steve flew to Canada for the Regional Visitation there.

Fr. Carlos was elected as Superior General in 2018; he completes his first term in 2024.



Catching up with Bishop Joseph Potocnak

# SCJ NEWS



Fr. Francis with his advisor and SCJs following his doctoral defense in Rome

## Congratulations DOCTOR Francis!

Congratulations to Fr. Francis Vu Tran, SCJ, who defended his doctoral thesis in Rome in May. The title: “The Word of Agur in Proverbs 30:1-9.” Fr. Francis, originally a member of the US Province, is district superior of the Vietnamese District. He is pictured here with his advisor and several SCJs who attended the defense, including Fr. Vincent Sri Herimanto, SCJ, general councilor (second from right) and Fr. Victor de Oliveira Barbosa, SCJ, the newly named director of the Centro Studi Dehoniani (far right).

## SCJ artist’s work on display

The artwork of Fr. Guy Blair, SCJ, is now on display the Tobin Library in San Antonio. As noted in the previous

SCJ News, Fr. Guy has been painting images of the homeless whom he visits in San Antonio. He always asks permission before capturing someone’s image.

“I generally try to do more of a psychological portrait, focusing on something that reveals their personality,” said Fr. Guy.

The artwork will be on display through the end of June.

## Fr. Wayne Jenkins honored by SHSST’s Lux Center

Congratulations to Fr. Wayne Jenkins, SCJ, who was recently honored with the The Lux Center for Catholic Jewish Studies’ Building Bridges Award “for his continuing efforts to bring religious harmony into our world,” said Bonnie Shafrin, director of the Center, which is based at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. The award was one of several distributed at the Sister Rose Thering Award Dinner. Other honorees included Dr. Steven Shippee, theology professor at SHSST, who was also a recipient of the Building Bridges Award, and Fr. David Cooper and Rabbi Ronald Shapiro with the Sister Rose Thering Award itself for their lifetime of contributions to furthering interreligious relations.

Among those who spoke at the dinner was Dr. Richard Lux, SHSST professor emeritus, after whom the Lux Center is named.

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Fr. Wayne Jenkins with Bonnie Shafrin, SHSST's Lux Center director

"A Jew can be a Jew and a Roman Catholic can be a Roman Catholic as we share freely our faith stories with each other," said Fr. Wayne during his acceptance speech. "Together, we can be a light in the darkness such as at Fort McCoy when we purchased new winter clothes for the Afghan refugees. More importantly, we can challenge together any acts of antisemitism and of anti-Judaism within the Greater Milwaukee area."

### A return to South Africa

For several weeks in spring, Fr. Charles Brown, SCJ, was in South Africa delivering a variety of presentations: first at the sabbatical program sponsored by the Southern African

Catholic Bishops' Conference (the SACBC includes Namibia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland — the name of which recently changed to "Eswatini" — and South Africa), and second, leading a Lenten retreat for SCJs in the South African Province.

"The Sabbatical Programme for Priests and Religious is held every other year," wrote Fr. Charles. "I have worked in the program since the mid-2000s. Bishop Joseph Potocnak, SCJ, was one of the founders of it." Pre-pandemic, Fr. Charles also was a presenter and retreat facilitator with the South African Province, and for several years taught at the St. Joseph Theological Institute in Cedara, South Africa.



While in South Africa, Fr. Charlie had a chance to visit with Fr. John Strittmatter, a retired SCJ missionary originally from the United States.



## DEHONIANS Priests of the Sacred Heart

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

**Find out how you can join us!**

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