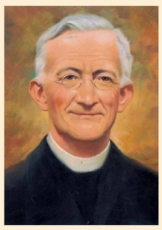
October 02, 2025 • *The Sacred Heart Window*
Bi-weekly News of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology



Dehonian Spirituality

"Certainly, of all the similar features between the Heart of Jesus and the heart of Francis, the principle one is love for God. Francis' life was one of prayer and contemplation; he never tired of conversing with the person who was the object of his affections. Above all, he loved to ponder the mysteries of the Incarnation and Passion, which are the most perceptible manifestations of the great love of our Lord for us. Francis had wanted to give his life to Jesus and Jesus gave his for us."

– Leo John Dehon, SCJ, The Year with the Sacred Heart, October 4

Announcements

Multicultural Mass Celebrates the Beauty of the Universal Church

On October 1, the Sacred Heart community gathered for a moving Multicultural Mass, led in collaboration with students from the English and Culture Studies Program (ECSP). Representing seven different home countries, the ECS students brought the richness of their linguistic and cultural traditions to the liturgy, offering a powerful example of the Church's universality.

Throughout the Mass, prayers, readings, and hymns were spoken and sung in multiple languages, showcasing the beauty of unity amid diversity. It was a joyful exchange of language, song, and culture. The congregation was reminded that while the Church spans continents and cultures, it remains one in Christ. The Multicultural Mass stood as a testament to Sacred Heart's mission of fostering global understanding and communion.

Exploring the Torah's Rhythm: A Lecture with Mr. Shapiro

On October 1, Sacred Heart welcomed Mr. Shapiro, President and CEO of the Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center, for a lecture highlighting the central role of Torah in Jewish communal life.

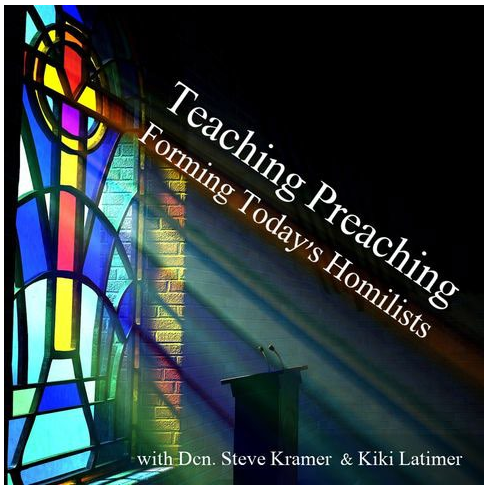
Drawing on decades of experience in Jewish leadership, education, and cultural programming, Mr. Shapiro spoke with a depth of wisdom shaped by his work leading over 300 professionals across five statewide JCC sites. He shared how the rhythms of Jewish life were deeply tied to the tradition of reading the Torah throughout the year, with each weekly portion weaving together sacred memory, faith practice, and community identity.

The lecture culminated in a reflection on Simchat Torah, the joyous festival that marked both the completion and immediate recommencement of the Torah reading cycle. Mr. Shapiro described this celebration as more than ritual, it was a moment of renewal and recommitment to the sacred text, a time when joy and devotion converged to affirm the Torah's enduring presence in Jewish life.

Through his insights, attendees gained not only a greater understanding of the Torah's role in Jewish spirituality, but also an appreciation for the ways in which shared traditions shaped faith communities across time and place.

Understanding Catholicism in Ethiopia

On October 2nd, Rev. Abiyot Agonafer, OFM Cap. presented for the latest edition of the English & Culture Studies Lunch Speaker Series. Fr. Agonafer is a citizen of Ethiopia and is incardinated in the Ethiopian Province of the Capuchin Franciscans. In his talk, he spoke about the deep history of Christianity in Ethiopia and the current state of its religious landscape. He also illustrated the fascinating development of the Ethiopian Catholic Church as it moved towards communion with Rome. At the end of the discussion, the President-Rector presented Fr. Agonafer with his ECS Completion Certificate. Fr. Agonafer will return to Rome next week to continue his studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University.



"Teaching Preaching - Forming Today's Homilists"

WCAT Radio released its most recent podcast episode on September 29. In this episode of Teaching Preaching, Dcn. Steve Kramer and Kiki Latimer talk with Melissa Flaim on her coaching work with CUA and the Sheen Preaching Initiative. To listen to the podcast, click here: https://www.spreaker.com/episode/episode-6-melissa-flaim-on-her-coaching-work-with-cua-and-the-sheen-preaching-initiative-september-29-2025--67944896

Looking Forward

2025-2026 School Year

Oct 06-Oct 10 Fall Break
Oct 10 Employee Holiday
Oct 17 Bagels with Lux
Oct 17 ECS Culture Fair
Oct 22 Ministry of Acolyte
Oct 23-Oct 24 Sacred Heart Symposium
Oct 31 Board of Directors Meetings
Nov 05 Day of Recollection (Seminarians Only)
Nov 12 Candidacy to Holy Orders
Nov 26-Nov 28 Thanksgiving Break
Dec 05 Last Day of Classes
Dec 09 Exam Days
Dec 12-Jan 11 Christmas Break
Dec 12 Christmas Evening Social
Jan 06-Jan 08 Preaching Conference
Jan 13 SHSST Residential Students Return
Jan 14-Jan 18 SHSST Residential Seminarian Retreat
Jan 20 Classes Begin

Jan 22 Christian Unity Evening Prayer
Feb 03 Bagels with Lux
Feb 18 Day of Recollection/Ash Wednesday (All School)
Mar 01-Mar 08 Spring Break
Mar 03 Bagels with Lux
Mar 11 Ministry of Lector
Mar 11 Board of Directors Meetings
Mar 22 Spring Lux Center Public Lecture
Mar 23 Lux Center Morning Lecture
Mar 25 Faculty & Staff Development
Mar 26-Mar 27 Faith & Culture Workshop
Mar 30-Apr 06 Easter Break
Apr 07 Bagels with Lux
Apr 08 Easter Lunch & Student Council Employee Appreciation
Apr 22 Day of Recollection (Seminarians Only)
Apr 29 Employee Recognition & Diaconate Promises
May 05 Bagels with Lux
May 06 Administrator & Graduate Dinner
May 08 Last Day of Classes
May 08 Commencement
May 13 Faculty Council Dinner
May 18 May Session Begins
May 19 End of Year Celebration
May 20 Board of Directors Meetings
Jun 19 May Session Ends

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