



July 1, 2026 • *The Sacred Heart Window*
SUMMER EDITION: News of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology



Dehonian Spirituality

“Mary Magdalene knows neither fear nor hesitation. The great Sabbath keeps her away from the sepulcher, but she returns to it as early as possible after the Sabbath. She seeks her crucified Jesus. Let us seek Jesus with the eager love of Mary Magdalene.”

– Leo John Dehon, SCJ, *Spiritual Directory*, Part II, Chapter Five

It may be summer at Sacred Heart but things are far from quiet!



Celebrating Our Newly Ordained Seminarian and Alumni!

With full hearts, we rejoice in the recent ordinations of several of our seminarians as they begin their ministries in service to the Church. We congratulate these men and ask for continued prayers as they embrace their vocations.

Ordained to the Diaconate:

- **Rev. Mr. Noah Townsend** was ordained to the transitional diaconate for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee on **May 23, 2026**.

Ordained to the Priesthood:

- **Rev. John Akau** was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Honolulu on **May 22, 2026**.
- **Rev. Esteban Hernández-Mejía** and **Rev. Eric Frieb** were ordained priests for the Diocese of Dodge City on **May 30, 2026**.
- **Rev. Alfonso Pizano, Jr.** was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Davenport on **June 6, 2026**.
- **Rev. Yunior González-Díaz** was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Colorado Springs on **June 6, 2026**.

We give thanks to God for the gift of their vocations and celebrate these significant milestones in their lives. May the Lord bless them as they faithfully serve God's people. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this new chapter of ministry.



That They May Be One

On June 19, SHSST was honored to host the conference “That They May Be One: Bridging Cultural Gaps in Your Parish.” As our Church continues to grow in diversity, the call to build welcoming, united, and intercultural parish communities becomes ever more important. This inspiring gathering brought together clergy, religious, lay leaders, and ministry professionals to explore the opportunities and challenges that come with serving an increasingly global Church.

We were blessed to hear from an outstanding group of presenters and panelists who shared their wisdom, experience, and vision for fostering unity across cultures, languages, and traditions.

A special thank you to all of our speakers, participants, and organizers who made this day of learning, dialogue, and fellowship possible. Together, we continue the mission of building communities where all are welcomed, valued, and united in Christ.



Celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart

SHSST joyfully celebrated the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a beautiful Mass in our chapel, bringing together faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the Dehonian family for this special annual tradition. The liturgy was celebrated by Very Rev. Vien Nguyen, SCJ, provincial superior of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

A highlight of the celebration was the commitment ceremony for new Dehonian Associates. We are especially proud to recognize two members of the SHSST community who made their commitments during the Mass: Caitlin Lewis, a member of our academic team, and Vicki Johnson, an ECS instructor. Their commitment reflects the Dehonian spirit of living Christ's love through service, compassion, and community.

Also making commitments were Mary Donahue, Mary Lestina, Jean-Paul Yafali, Deacon Emmanuel Eklou, and Beata Moberg. David Wild, director of facilities, and Dr. Selom Assignon will make their commitments at a later date. Several Dehonian Associates also renewed their commitments, including SHSST alumni Monica Misey, Edell Schaefer, and Jenny Drzewiecki. Pam Milczarski POSH Mission Advancement Manager also renewed her commitment.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart reminds us of our shared mission to form leaders who serve with compassion and to live out Fr. Leo John Dehon's vision of love and reparation in today's world.



Third LEAD Cohort

From May 26–28, SHSST was honored to welcome representatives of SCJ ministries from across the US Province to our campus for LEAD, a leadership formation program rooted in Dehonian spirituality. Following last summer’s pilot program, this marked the third LEAD retreat cohort.

During their time in retreat, participants visited our retired SCJs at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, where they listened to stories of vocation, ministry, and faithful service spanning decades.

In his final remarks, Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ, provincial superior, reminded participants of the importance of their ministry and partnership in the mission of the Priests of the Sacred Heart: “There is a beauty about our mission together; you give us life. I’m very proud to call you my colleagues and, with you, extend the mission of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Our mission is not possible without you.”

July 2026

Dehonian Leadership Institute: Monthly Minute

A monthly series of quotes and reflections on leadership, based on the writings of Ven. Fr. Leo John Dehon, Founder of the Priests of the Sacred Heart

“Punish little, but encourage a great deal. Pardon easily and forget quickly. During and after the correction has been given, let your face show only that you were happy to be able to have done some good.”[\[1\]](#)

This quote comes from Fr. Dehon’s guidance to house superiors on how to give correction. Today, it can prompt leaders to reflect if our feedback includes

encouragement and forgiveness. This month, try to bring God's love into any difficult conversations you might need to have.

Interested in learning more about SCJ-inspired leadership? Contact Monica Misey, Director of Dehonian Associates: mmisey@dehoniansusa.org.

^[1] Dehon, SCJ, "A Small Directory for the Superiors of the Houses of the Priests of the Sacred Heart," 19.

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