



Spring 2024

Good Stewards

United in faith, we bring the Reign of the Sacred Heart to the world.

A message from Fr. Dominic

Fr. Dehon, the Founder of the Priests of the Sacred Heart wrote, “*I always love voyages and I make a beautiful one every day in the best of company. I make the Way of the Cross with Jesus, Mary and John. Oh, what a beautiful voyage!*”

During the past few weeks of Lent, we have been on our own personal voyages and are now in the joyous Season of Easter!

Among the lilies and other spring flowers exciting our senses, think back on what you have learned on your Lenten journey.

Continue to walk with Jesus, Mary and John.

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, touch our hearts and make them like your own.

Fr. Dominic say.



Fr. Dominic with his grandmother's music box.

A legacy is, by definition, something handed down from one person to another. It is a way to show by example those values you believe are important.

When my grandmother passed away, I was allowed to come into her home and pick something of hers that held a memory for me. It did not take long for me to go immediately to a small music box. It was the first thing I would go to when I visited her and the last thing I would admire when I left. I would sit on her lap and listen to the music that came from within. It plays the song “Amazing Grace.”

To this day, each morning and night I wind that music box — recalling with love my grandmother and the gift she left me. I was a young boy then and didn’t realize her deep

devotion. Only many years later did I notice there, on the bottom of the music box, was a picture of the Sacred Heart.

I think it is important for us to leave reminders after we are gone, that we allow our family and friends to have these same moments for years to come. Leaving a legacy comes from our hearts and is given freely.

When I speak to people, and they inform me that they have left a legacy to the Priests of the Sacred Heart, I love to learn why.

Many times, I am told it is a way to show their family and friends what was important to them during their life — ensuring priests for the future. On other occasions, I hear it’s because our ministry in helping those most in need in God’s name around the world.

Sometimes they will share with me that a wedding ring or a special painting is left to a grandchild or other family member. I always smile with memories of my own special gift — my music box.

There are others, heartbroken that their family has gone away from the church, who feel they are not being heard. They take action by leaving a legacy gift to show what is in their heart.

Many times, families are inspired by the legacy our dear friends leave to the Priests of the Sacred Heart and therefore open their

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own hearts to possibilities.

We ask you to consider a legacy gift to the Priests of the Sacred Heart to ensure the good work will continue for years to come. That many more priests will be educated for the future of the church, and that education, food and the needs of the poor will be met.

When deciding how to have your estate distributed, be certain to consider the needs of family members or loved ones who

may need your support. While we hope you will provide assistance for our work, we do not wish your bequest to leave dependents in a state of need.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you have any further questions or concerns. We'd be happy to send you our free, no obligation Estate Planning Series that will walk you through each step of letting your Will be known.

You may reach us at 1-866-268-1057 or visit our website, poshgift.org, for information about how to create a legacy.

As Matthew 25:40 says, "*Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.*"
May God bless you and reward you for all you have done for His Church and for His people!

Express Lasting Love with a Lasting Tribute

We all have people in our lives who have special significance. Those who raised us, taught us, protected us and lifted us with their love. We hold these people dearly in our hearts and in our prayers.

One way you ensure they are not forgotten is by honoring them with a meaningful gift to the Priests of the Sacred Heart. With your gift, you can memorialize a loved one, or commemorate a special occasion such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, a birthday, graduation or anniversary. You can give a gift to express appreciation for someone's special kindness or to recognize his or her impact on your life.

Whatever the reason for the gift, be assured this expression of the goodness of Jesus will touch

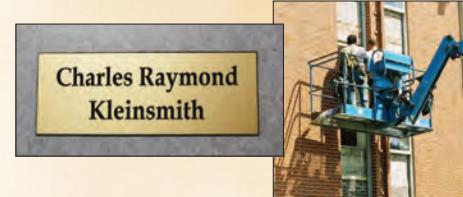
the lives of the poor and needy through works of love and mercy.

The enclosed brochure can explain how you can make your tribute gift. To arrange for your special gift, get answers to your questions or learn about larger gift opportunities, such as building or educational endowments, please call Pam at 1-866-268-1057 or send her an email at pmilczarski@poshusa.org.

While choosing a gift for someone special in your life, what could be more meaningful than a gift celebrating your devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus? I invite you to prayerfully consider a gift that helps support our vital ministries. We are happy to help you find the right gift that reflects your most heartfelt intentions.

There are several gift choices:

 Dedicate a window at the Sacred Heart Monastery



 Engrave a brick in the Sacred Heart Shrine Memorial Garden



 Engrave a leaf, rock or dove on one of our Memorial Trees



Ordained to the Diaconate

“Despite our unworthiness, if God calls us, He will take care of us. There were many moments in my journey during formation that God either steered me in a certain direction or sent people to assist me in difficult times. Take courage and cooperate with His grace, respond to His invitation.” — Dn. Paul Phong Hoang, SCJ

On December 9, Paul Phong Hoang, SCJ, was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Donald J. Hying of the diocese of Madison, WI. The ceremony was filled with music, readings and prayers in a mix of Vietnamese and English — reflecting Dn. Paul’s life. The ordination took place at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology (SHSST), where just a few days earlier he had completed his Master of Divinity.



Dn. Paul kneeling before Bishop Donald J. Hying

Dn. Paul, 31, is originally from Ha Tien, Kien Giang, Vietnam. His family immigrated to the United States in 2007 and settled in Houston, TX. Before pursuing his vocation to religious life, Dn. Paul earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Houston.

In 2016, he began studies with the community and professed his first vows in 2018. Dn. Paul did his pastoral year in Lower Brule, SD, and has been involved in a variety of other ministries including the English as a Second Language program with the Vietnamese Association in Uptown Chicago; the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement; St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee; Dismas Ministry; Juvenile Jail visitation; Catholic Charities; and with St. Martin of Tours parish, a parish near SHSST served by SCJ’s.

This year in particular has been a busy one. Dn. Paul made his perpetual profession of vows in May and did cross-cultural studies in Ecuador before returning to SHSST for his final semester of seminary studies.

Reflecting on his call to be a Dehonian, Dn. Paul said, “*I was attracted to the SCJs’ simplicity, diversity and community life. My journey of faith is an existential one. I was haunted by the idea of God and attracted to the love of Christ ... What*

resonates with me in our Dehonian Spirituality is the focus on love, as well as the image of the Sacred Heart. It seems generic yet profoundly universal and necessary in our world. Love is what ultimately captivates and converts the heart.”

Following his ordination, Dn. Paul spent the holidays with family in Houston before starting his assignment with the pastoral team in northern Mississippi.



Dn. Paul assisting with the Eucharist.

“I look forward to learning the basics of priesthood in parish settings, applying the training I received from the seminary, and get experience in how to live my vocation as a Dehonian in active ministry,” said Dn. Paul. “It is important for me to gradually transition into my new role as deacon; that means being more attentive toward the liturgy, preaching, serving at mass, and most importantly, living authentically to my vocation as future priest.”

On his way to Mississippi, Dn. Paul made a quick detour to St. Louis to assist his novitiate classmate, Fr. Henry Nguyen, SCJ, at SEEK24, a gathering of prayer and fellowship in St. Louis for young Catholics from January 1-5.

When Dn. Paul was asked if he has advice for young people considering a vocational call, he said, “*Despite our unworthiness, if God calls us, he will take care of us. There were many moments in my journey during formation that God either steered me in a certain direction or sent people to assist me in difficult times. Take courage and cooperate with His grace. Respond to His invitation.”*

Look for God in Small Things

The following story comes from one of our friends, Anita. She says “there are no coincidences in religion” and that we should look for God in small things.

Anita shares her story in her own words ...

More than 40 years ago, my mother made a donation to the Priests of the Sacred Heart and received a 16 x 20 inch photo of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with piercing eyes. Those gentle, yet sorrowful, eyes seemed to peer directly into the viewer’s soul. Mom always loved this picture. After placing it in a simple white frame, she displayed it in a place of honor in her bedroom.

Our son, Anthony, mom’s first grandchild, always associated this depiction of the Sacred Heart with his grand mom. He would stop to look at it when he visited. It came as no surprise that he asked for the picture after his grand mom passed away.

Later that year, I started to think about a birthday gift for Anthony. Without telling him why, I asked him to measure his beloved picture of the Sacred Heart and describe the frame. Since his marriage, the picture hung in his bedroom. His response to my inquiry was immediate.

“I don’t want that picture touched ... it was grand mom’s,” he said.

I assured him I wasn’t going to touch that picture. Once he gave me the size, I went to the website for the Priests of the Sacred Heart. I wondered whether they had a companion picture of the Immaculate Heart of Mary I could purchase for Anthony. Overjoyed at finding it, I placed my order. Like my mother and grandmother before me, I have a great devotion to the Blessed Mother. I thought about ordering a picture for myself, but for some reason I didn’t.

We soon learned Anthony and his wife were expecting their third child, and the picture arrived a few days later. As I removed the picture, something odd happened. I discovered there were TWO pictures in the box, although I had ordered only one. Obviously, Mary wanted me to have one, as well!

With less than three weeks until Anthony’s birthday, I looked high and low for a frame to match his treasured

heirloom from grand mom. The original frame shop was gone. I turned to Mary for a solution and her answer came with frightening speed!

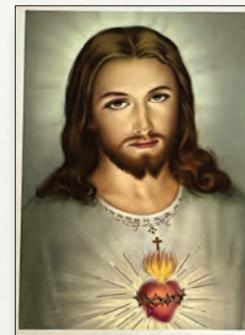
Suddenly, I realized I had another of mom’s pictures — a crewel picture of tulips that I had done for her — framed at the same shop with the same frame. Before I even measured it, I knew this was meant to be. It was exactly the same size!

I thanked our Lady for her help, and took the picture off the wall. When I turned it over to loosen the frame, I stopped cold. There, on the brown paper covering the back was a small label from the frame shop that did the work, as well as a small white label printed in mom’s hand. On it she had printed my full name “Anita Marchione Cugini” and the date, August 25, 1994, the date on which I had given it to her. As many times as that picture had been moved, I never noticed this before.

August 25 was a special day for my mother. It was her mother’s birthday. It is also the birthday of St. Faustina of the Divine Mercy who shared something else with my mother and grandmother. St. Faustina’s name is Helena, and my mother’s name was Helene!

Our Lady’s unspoken confirmation was a sign she and two of her biggest fans were pleased at my gift choice for Anthony. I bet he will be, too.

These events remind me of the lyrics of a favorite hymn, “*Look for God in small things. Praise Him whenever you find Him in anything small.*”



If you would like to purchase a photo of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or the Immaculate Heart of Mary, please visit poshusa.org/store or call us at 1-800-448-7674.

Give Twice with just One Gift!

With a Sacred Heart Charitable Gift Annuity, you can give one gift that has twice the power! When you make your donation now, you are eligible for a charitable deduction and will receive partially tax-free income from that gift for your entire life. Then, at your death, the remainder supports the mission and ministry of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

In 2023, Congress passed a law allowing the transfer of an IRA to a Charitable Gift Annuity for those 70 ½ or older. This can further help you with your required minimum distribution.

Find out more by contacting Pam, our Mission Advancement Manager, for a free, *no obligation* illustration. You can reach her at our toll-free number, 1-866-268-0157, via email at pmilczarski@poshusa.org or you can visit our website, poshgift.org.

* Rates are subject to change.
Call Pam at 1-866-268-0157 for details
on single, joint or deferred rates.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>
55	4.5%	73	6.3%
56	4.6%	74	6.4%
57	4.7%	75	6.6%
58	4.7%	76	6.8%
59	4.8%	77	7.0%
60	4.9%	78	7.2%
61	5.0%	79	7.4%
62	5.1%	80	7.6%
63	5.2%	81	7.8%
64	5.3%	82	8.1%
65	5.4%	83	8.3%
66	5.5%	84	8.5%
67	5.6%	85	8.7%
68	5.7%	86	8.9%
69	5.8%	87	9.1%
70	5.9%	88	9.3%
71	6.0%	89	9.5%
72	6.2%	90+	9.7%

Life Insurance: The Forgotten Gift?



Do you have a life insurance policy you no longer need? Perhaps your other assets have grown to provide the protection you require, and the insurance policy lies forgotten in a safety deposit box.

Did you know the policy could make a wonderful charitable gift to the Priests of the Sacred Heart?

Instead of giving cash or stock, you could sign over your life insurance policy to the Priests of the Sacred Heart and,

generally speaking, receive a charitable income tax deduction for the replacement value of the policy. The Priests of the Sacred Heart could cash in the policy and put those dormant dollars to work right away.

Your gift of life insurance can be used to establish a future endowment fund in your name, or you can honor someone else through the fund. The policy could also be used to assist with a capital project or to simply give the annual fund a mighty boost.

If you have insurance you may like to contribute, or if you are currently paying premiums on a policy and want to discover how this policy might work as a gift, contact Pam via email at pmilczarski@poshusa.org or call 1-866-268-0157. She is also available to speak with your life insurance professional, if you wish.

More than just Traditions

Adoration and First Friday devotions are more than just prayer traditions for the Priests of the Sacred Heart, they are among the essential elements of Dehonian Spirituality in practice.

Fr. Andrzej Sudol, SCJ, is pastor of St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, WI. Just before he assumed the role, Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú, SCJ, came to the U.S. Province in 2022 for the general visitation. Knowing that Fr. Andrzej was about to begin ministry at St. Martin of Tours, the two spoke about ways in which to make a parish more Dehonian. Top of the list: “First Friday Devotions and Adoration,” said Fr. Andrzej, “along with a ‘shrine’ or information area about Fr. Dehon.”

The pastoral team at St. Martin of Tours agreed and decided to make First Fridays and Adoration a priority for the parish in 2023.



*Fr. Andrzej Sudol, SCJ
during Adoration*

“We encouraged and explained the idea of Adoration and First Friday in a variety of ways,” said Fr. Andrzej. Slowly, the First Friday gatherings grew from about 20 people in the morning to upwards of 70. This includes several families who take part in Catholic Schoolhouse, a Catholic homeschool program. A smaller gathering in the evening continues to take place.

“What we have done is a start, but we must do more to help people know and understand these traditions in the context of our Dehonian charism,” said Fr. Andrzej. “The three-year Eucharistic revival program is an excellent opportunity to explain and popularize Adoration and First Friday at St. Martin of Tours. We must take advantage of it.

“We SCJs must also take advantage of this opportunity to share our beautiful Dehonian traditions. It is good for us as Dehonians to be present in prayer with others, it has a greater impact than many of us realize. Busy in ministry, we often struggle to find such moments with the laity in prayer. But it is an important way to share who we are as Dehonians, and it is important for our own prayer lives, regardless if we minister in a parish.”

“I welcome my SCJ brothers to join us at St. Martin of Tours for Monday Adoration at 6:00 pm and/or First Fridays at 8:30 am or 7:30 pm. Of course, we welcome anyone to join us in prayer; the invitation is not just for SCJs! ”

