



GENERAL POSTULATION
CONGREGATION OF THE
PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART
Dehonians

Rome, November 11, 2018
Centenary of the end of the First World War

Subject: Dehonian Memorial Day

To the members of the Congregation of Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

“Let us learn from the saints who have gone before us, who confronted the difficulties of their own day. So I propose that we pause to rediscover some of the reasons which can help us to imitate them today.
(Evangelii Gaudium, 263)

Dear confreres,

The celebration of this day was instituted by the Superior General, Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, on May 31, 2004, as an opportunity to commemorate those who impacted the Congregation with their offering of life and their generous witness. November 26 was chosen because it was on this day (November 26, 1964) that Mgr. Joseph Albert Wittebols, SCJ, the bishop of Wamba, together with six other missionaries, were killed. On the same date we also note the death of the Servant of God, Fr. Andreas Prevot, SCJ, in Brugelette - Belgium (1913).

The Superior General, in his letter (Prot. No. 182/2004) wrote: *“Already in 2000, on December 18, Fr. Virginio Bressanelli, General Superior, when news was given the Congregation of the approval of the decree of martyrdom of Bl. Juan Maria de la Cruz, published a list of other martyrs and invited us to “reclaim the history and memory of our more significant brothers and sisters who can serve as models and inspiration of living the vocation and mission we have in the church and in the world today.” This date should be opportunely prepared for and celebrated in all communities, especially in formation communities, and with lay people who share our pastoral, educational, and missionary activities. Let the celebration of this day become an occasion to learn about and remember those persons who have impacted the history of a Province / Region / District and the Congregation, or a particular work or section of our mission”.*

The Dehonion Memorial Day invites the entire Dehonian Family to remember all of our brothers who have passed this world and are enjoying the face of God the Father in heaven. On this day we Dehonians join in supplication and thanksgiving for all confreres who have died. It is a day for gratitude and remembrance. Moreover, it is a moment to thank God with our prayers. Celebrating this memory also represents an opportunity to make availability to God visible in our daily life; the life offered by our brothers has profound meaning as an act of following Christ Jesus in a charism marked by oblation and reparation, as well as living and renewing values such as reconciliation, peace, justice, "Sint Unum"...

This year we want to direct our gaze to a particularly important moment to be remembered: the centenary of the end of the First World War (11 November 1918). Even the Congregation was strongly wounded by this Great War, endangering its survival and causing numerous internal conflicts. Many confreres were forced to take part and 33 of them lost their lives.

For this reason, the confreres who are collaborating with the General Curia offer the whole Congregation a proposal to live and celebrate Dehonian Memorial Day 2018:

-On November 26, we will remember our brothers who died in World War I. Various materials were prepared: a prayer vigil, a video and a pamphlet about the brothers who died in the war. These proposals invite us to live, feel and pray for peace and reconciliation. They are also a memory of our Dehonian history and an invitation to remember.

- We also invite you to celebrate the Mass of Commemoration of all the Deceased Confreres of our Congregation. Although the day is celebrated liturgically for ALL the deceased members of the Congregation, particular attention should be placed on the confreres who, with an untimely death, identified themselves with the One who loved us and gave His life for us (see Gal. 2:20).

Certain of the intercession of the Venerable Fr. Dehon, of Blessed Juan Maria de la Cruz, and of all those who have preceded us on their way to the Father,

Fraternal greeting in the Heart of Christ,



Fr. Ramón Domínguez Fraile, SCJ
The General Postulator