



GENERAL SUPERIOR
CONGREGATION OF THE
PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART
Dehonians

Prot. N. 0030/2010

Rome, February, 25, 2010

Dear Confreres,

On the occasion of March 14, the anniversary of the birth of Fr. Dehon, it has been customary for the General Administration to send a message to remember the gift received from the life of Fr. Dehon and to encourage us to pray for Dehonian vocations.

As indicated in the programmatic letter, this year and the next years of our service to the Congregation in the General Administration, we will do something different. It will be a reflection on the legacy of Fr. Dehon in relation to the theme of this year: "A new human being for a new world."

On the occasion of the Feast of the Sacred Heart, we will give our reflection on the same question but a bit more extensively and with greater attention to the current situation of the Congregation.

This text of March 14 is the fruit of the work of some confreres who have put together their respective talents: Fr. André Perroux who researched the writings of Fr. Dehon on this topic, Fr. Stefan Tertünte who reshaped the content into a narrative style, and finally Deacon Angel Alindado who worked out the graphic image of the message. We are grateful to them. Fr. Perroux has, moreover, agreed to write up his understanding of, what in the Constitutions # 2 has been called, the "faith experience of Fr. Dehon." It will appear soon in our periodical *Dehoniana*.

Despite the fact that this text does not talk explicitly about the day of prayer for Dehonian vocations, it is clearly an invitation not only to look on this day historically as the day of birth of Fr. Dehon, but also to look upon him as a model of a person who has responded to the experience of the love of God in his own life and as a gift to us of one who lived in the spirit of love and reparation. May the remembrance of him be a stimulus for every one of us to open ourselves to this love, to respond with the same generosity and to invite others to follow the same path.

P. José Ornelas Carvalho scj
Superior General and the Council