



Edition #25



NEWSLETTER



# DEHONIANS INDIA

June 2025



## Month of the Heart of Jesus

- Voice of the District Superior
- The Journey of Vocation to be a Dehonian
- "My soul magnifies the Lord."
- "From Pulluvila to the Priesthood: A Vocation Forged in Faith"
- A Grace-Filled Return to Academic and Spiritual Life
- A Month Immersed in Sacred Heart Devotion
- Rooted in Grace and Growing in Brotherhood
- Embraced by Grace: My First Steps in the Philippines on the Path to Mission
- A Joyful Beginning: Embracing the New Academic Year in the Heart of Christ
- Pastoral Engagement and Fraternal Joy

## Sacred Heart for the Secular World

***For Him I live... it's Christ who lives in me... Fr. Leo John Dehon***

Dear Confreres in the Heart of Jesus!

June, the month of the Sacred Heart has been a grace-filled month for all of us. During this month, we had the **Conference of all the Formators animated by Fr. Victor Barbosa from Dehon Study Centre, Rome**. 10 of our formators participated and benefited from the **Dehonian inputs & insights offered to them**.

June, being the month of the beginning of the academic year, we had the **inauguration of the combined formation program at DVS, Aluva**. Other formative communities such as **DPN & CDN** too had the inauguration of the academic years.

The **Sacred Heart Church at Vempadu**, the **Sacred Church at Nambur**, **St. Thomas More Church at Veppampattu** & **St. Peter and St. Paul Church at Allapalli** had celebrated their annual feasts.

Our 2 brothers **Gowtham & Amos** had a month long **Final Vows Preparatory Course in Indonesia**. We also have begun 2 new tribal as well as migrant missions such as **Allapalli Gundala in Khammam diocese & Srisaila Matha Shrine in Kurnool diocese** during this Dehonian Jubilee Years (2024-2028).

Besides this our **Odisha mission** has taken a definite shape with the **canonical erection of 10 mission stations as Sacred Heart Mission Parish** with Fr. Mathew Lalan as its first parish priest & also having our **First Formation House in Odisha (Leo Dehon Minor Seminary)**.

We have also sent 2 confreres (**Fr. Ravindra & Fr. Kiran Kumar**) to do their **specialisation in Rome** & **Br. Ravi Teja** is sent to the Philippines to prepare himself for his theological studies in Macao.

With all these happenings in our communities, each of us could feel the **spiritual vibrations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** whose feast we all celebrated meaningfully on 27 of this month. With these optimistic sentiments, let us enter into the month of July which is a **crucial month for our District as we are going to celebrate the Extraordinary Chapter to facilitate the Process of becoming Region**.



May the Heart of Jesus inspire us and may our Founding Father Dehon ignite us in our pilgrim journey as Dehonian Pilgrims of Hope.

3

Long live to the Heart of Jesus  
Through the Heart of Mary

Fraternally Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

*R. M. Augustine*

Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ



Events

## Different events of the District





As a young boy growing up in a devout Catholic family, I was surrounded by the rich traditions and values of our faith. Our home was a place of prayer, where my parents encouraged me to develop a deep love for God. Every evening, we would pray the Rosary together, and each day I attended Mass and served as an altar boy.

In this nurturing environment, I began to sense a purpose and a desire to serve others. I was especially inspired by the community of religious sisters in my parish. I often watched in admiration as they visited families, got to know them personally, and offered a helping hand to those in need. They taught me that even the smallest acts of kindness could bring joy and comfort. Their efforts to reconcile families particularly moved me, and I felt deeply drawn to their example of compassion and service.

As I grew older, this desire to care for others deepened. During my teenage years, I began to explore the possibility of becoming a priest. At that time, I wasn't sure whether I was called to be a diocesan or a religious priest, but I was drawn to the idea of helping people, deepening their faith, and guiding them toward peace in times of turmoil.

One pivotal moment in my journey was attending a retreat in my parish. Listening to priests share their experiences of prayer and service gave me a sense of clarity and conviction. I realized that I wanted to dedicate my life to serving God and His people as a priest.

After completing my studies and a period of discernment, I was accepted into the Dehonian family. There, I was given the opportunity to experience the steadfast love of the Heart of Jesus through the Dehonian values of hospitality and availability. My formation journey has included postulancy, novitiate, philosophy studies, and now, my final year of theology. As I progress in my studies, I feel a growing sense of excitement and anticipation. I am deeply convinced that I am being called to a life of service as a true Dehonian.



Looking back on my journey, I am filled with gratitude for my family, friends, and formators who have supported me. I am humbled by the trust placed in me to serve as a Dehonian. As I continue to grow in my vocation, I am reminded of the power of prayer and the importance of being present and caring for the well-being of others. My vocation story is a testament to the truth that God's call is always present—waiting for our response. I pray that my journey will inspire others to consider a life of service and devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. As our founder, Venerable Fr. Leo John Dehon, wrote: "For Him I live, for Him I die," and as St. Paul says: "For I know that in me dwells no good thing" (Romans 7:18). Yet, it is precisely in our weakness and vulnerability that we find the strength to serve and love others.



**Dn. Challa Satish SCJ**





**“My soul magnifies the Lord.”**

Dear Reverend Fathers,

The month of June has been truly a time of blessings for our community. We have felt the hand of God guiding us in every moment, and His presence continues to be a source of strength and joy.

This month, several important events have taken place:

1. A few of our Fathers traveled to Kerala to participate in the formatters' meeting.
2. Fathers Mariano and Kishore returned from Goa, bringing with them mango saplings—symbols of growth and life.
3. We had the privilege of welcoming Fr. Andry, SCJ, the General Treasurer, who visited our community and spent time with us.
4. Fr. Ravindra and Fr. Kiran departed from our house to pursue their studies in Rome, Italy. Brother Ravi Teja, the former regional, also left for Macau to continue his theological formation.
5. Our community rejoiced as Fr. Libin and Fr. Alex celebrated their First Mass with us—an occasion of grace and joy.
6. We also marked the ordination anniversaries of Fr. Pavan and Fr. Chittybabu, giving thanks for their years of dedicated service.

Our community currently includes Fr. Mariano, Fr. Gopu, Fr. Kishore, Fr. Thambi, Fr. Mega, Fr. Pavan, and Br. Rusin. We are especially grateful this year to be blessed with ten new vocations from different parts of Andhra Pradesh, in addition to six senior students.

The new brothers arrived after June 15th and have already begun their initial formation—learning basic prayers and becoming familiar with our congregation's charism and way of life. We are committed to nurturing their vocations with care and attention.

In our daily lives, we are also focusing on the care of our house and surroundings. We recently planted flower saplings around the community, adding beauty and a sense of peace to our home. Our shared life includes community prayer, meals, games, and recreation. We regularly share our thoughts, feelings, and experiences with one another, fostering a spirit of openness and trust.

There is a genuine sense of joy and unity among us. We are growing together in mutual understanding and in the spirit of our founder, Fr. Leo John Dehon. It is a blessing to be part of such a life-giving community.

With gratitude and prayers,

**Br. Rusin SCJ**



## “From Pulluvila to the Priesthood: A Vocation Forged in Faith”

*“For the Almighty One has done great things for me, and Holy is His name” (Luke 1:49).*

My name is Dn. Sajeevan Marcelin, SCJ, and I come from Pulluvila, a small fishing village in the Trivandrum district, Kerala, India. I belong to the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Born into a humble family, my father is a fisherman and my mother a homemaker. I have three sisters and one younger brother, all of whom are now married, blessing me with eight nephews and two nieces.

My journey to religious life began at the age of 15, when I joined the SCJ congregation in June 1995. At the time, I had just passed my SSLC (10th grade) exam—an achievement I viewed as a miracle, given my academic struggles. After three years of initial seminary formation, my continued difficulties in studies led me to discern a vocation to religious brotherhood instead of the priesthood. I accepted this path, trusting God’s mysterious plan, though I did not want to put Him to the test by pursuing what seemed impossible at the time—philosophy and theology.

There were many moments when I contemplated leaving the congregation, especially as the eldest son responsible for helping my family financially. My sisters needed dowries for their marriages, and I felt the weight of that responsibility. Yet, every time I considered stepping away, God’s grace and the spiritual support of my SCJ formators sustained me. He was working quietly, preparing me in ways I couldn’t yet understand.

In time, the Lord helped me complete a Bachelor of Arts degree and a diploma in electrical engineering. Later, I was even blessed to pursue a Master’s in Consecrated Life and Philosophy in the Philippines. Looking back, I see how God patiently shaped my journey in His time.

Finally, after 27 years of waiting and discernment, at the age of 45, God opened the door to priesthood. In 2023, I began theological studies, and on April 29, 2025, I was ordained a deacon by Most Rev. Antony Valumkal, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Verapoly, at the DVS community in Aluva. That moment was nothing short of a divine gift.

Shortly after my ordination, I had the privilege of serving for a month in St. Francis Xavier Parish, Vattapara, under Fr. Aji, SCJ, in the Diocese of Neyyattinkara. It was a grace-filled experience: I exposed the Blessed Sacrament, preached during Mass, blessed homes, and encountered the faithful in meaningful conversations. Though I began with fear and uncertainty, God’s strength became perfect in my weakness. As Scripture says:

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9).*



Currently, I reside in CDN, Eluru, completing my final year of theology. I continue to walk this path as a Dehonian—rooted in the Heart of Jesus and inspired by the charism of our founder, Venerable Fr. Leo John Dehon, who lived a life of radical love and service. All that I am today is by God's divine providence, shaped by the spiritual, fraternal, and financial support of my SCJ family, benefactors, and my own family—especially my parents and siblings who have supported me throughout this journey.

This vocation has taught me one great truth:

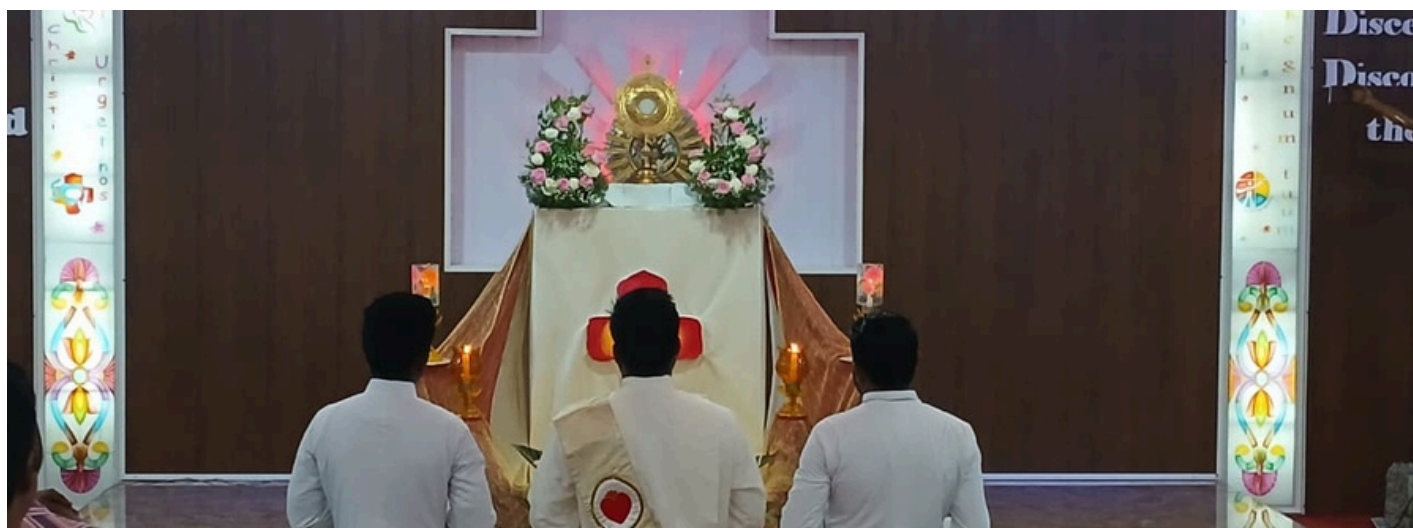
To be faithful in prayer, humble in heart, and trusting in God's timing—because nothing is impossible for Him.

*“Vivat Cor Jesu, per Cor Mariae!”*

*(Long live the Heart of Jesus, through the Heart of Mary)*



**Dn. Sajeevan Marcelin SCJ**





## A Grace-Filled Return to Academic and Spiritual Life

10

The month of June has been a time of abundant grace and renewal, marking the start of a new academic year and a joyful return to student life at DVK following a two-month summer break. The academic year was inaugurated with a solemn celebration led by Most Rev. Dr. George Antonysamy, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, setting a prayerful and hopeful tone for the journey ahead.

Throughout the month, our community experienced several memorable events. We joyfully celebrated Freshers' Day both at the college and within our own house, warmly welcoming new students into our academic and spiritual family. Our classes began smoothly and have already laid a strong academic foundation for the coming year.

Spiritually, June was especially enriching. We celebrated the Solemnity of Corpus Christi and the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus with deep devotion and heartfelt participation. We also took part in the Cavara Lectures at DVK and paid tribute to His Holiness, the late Pope Francis, through meaningful ceremonies and reflections that honored his life, his commitment to service, and his profound dedication to interreligious dialogue and unity.

This month has been a beautiful blend of academic rigor, spiritual depth, and communal joy. Each experience has contributed to my ongoing formation and helped me grow in all aspects of religious life.

**Br. Nirmal Uppatti SCJ**



## A Month Immersed in Sacred Heart Devotion and Community Fellowship

The month of June was profoundly meaningful for our community at Dehon Bhavan, as we dedicated 30 continuous days to special prayers in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, held in the presence of the faithful. This spiritual journey was enriched by joyful celebrations, including the priesthood anniversary of Fr. Sunil Roman, SCJ, and the birthday of Fr. Jose Antony, SCJ.

On June 27th, we celebrated the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with great solemnity. The celebration brought together priests, religious sisters, and benefactors, creating a vibrant atmosphere of shared devotion and gratitude. We concluded the month on June 30th with a beautiful evening of adoration and Holy Mass with our local community. As a gesture of thanksgiving and unity, many faithful brought a variety of snacks as offertory gifts, which were later shared joyfully among all.

Starting this month, we have chosen to give renewed attention to First Friday devotions. These special evenings will include opportunities for confession, adoration, the Sacred Heart Novena, and the celebration of the Eucharist—deepening our community's prayer life and devotion.

We also reached out in compassion and solidarity to Fr. Thomas Vinod, SCJ, visiting his family to offer our condolences and prayers following the passing of his father and his mother's illness.

June has truly been a month of spiritual depth, communal celebration, and heartfelt fellowship.

**Fr. Abraham Lazar SCJ**







**Rooted in Grace and Growing in Brotherhood**

We are truly grateful to share the joyful events and formative experiences that enriched our community life this June.

On June 2nd, we inaugurated the 2025–2026 academic year for both our Philosophy and Degree Colleges. We are proud to announce that three of our Philosophy brothers earned academic ranks, and one of our Degree students received an A grade in the second semester at KMM College, Chowara—a testament to their dedication and hard work.

We were also blessed by the presence of all our formators, along with Fr. Stan from Hong Kong. Fr. Victor, the Coordinator of the Dehon Study Centre, led a five-day formation program for the formators. Their presence and guidance provided great encouragement and inspiration for our brothers.

On June 6th, we formally began the academic year within our house with a Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Michael Augustine. The month continued with moments of celebration: on June 16th, we celebrated the birthday of Bro. Xavier, and on June 20th, we gave thanks to God for the gift of life of Fr. Anu.

A particularly special moment came on June 28th, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when we celebrated the 147th Foundation Day of our Congregation with heartfelt gratitude. The following day, June 29th, we commemorated the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus with a meaningful community celebration. We invited around ten families from our neighborhood to join us for Holy Adoration and a shared meal. Their presence added warmth and joy to the occasion, and they expressed deep gratitude and promised their continued prayers for our community.

We are happy and flourishing in our Dehonian brotherhood. We currently have eight Orientation students, all of whom are settling in well and enjoying their time with us. We humbly ask for your continued prayers for our community. May God bless each of you abundantly in your respective communities, parishes, and families.

**Fr. Christy Peter SCJ**







**Embraced by Grace: My First Steps in the Philippines on the Path to Mission**

I begin by thanking God for His abundant blessings and loving care throughout my journey to the Philippines. His guidance has been my strength, and I remain deeply grateful for His constant presence in my life.

I also wish to express my heartfelt thanks to our District Superior and the Council for granting me this wonderful opportunity. Coming to the Philippines is a significant milestone in my vocational journey, paving the way for my future theological studies in Macao. I am humbled and honored by the trust and support that has been shown to me.

From the moment I arrived, I was received with great warmth and kindness. The people, the culture, and the environment have left a deeply positive and lasting impression on me. I look forward to the experiences that lie ahead—embracing each moment as a chance to grow in faith and prepare more fully for the mission entrusted to me.

In this community, I am blessed to live alongside four dedicated SCJ priests:

- Fr. Nino, SCJ – Regional Superior
- Fr. Patrick, SCJ – Postulancy Master
- Fr. Francis, SCJ (from Poland) – Responsible for fundraising
- Fr. Candido, SCJ – Rector of the minor seminarians

Each of them brings a unique spirit of leadership and service, enriching the community and offering inspiring examples of religious life.

I also treasure the time I share with my younger brothers from the Philippines. Their joy, humility, and openness uplift me daily. Whether in prayer, meals, or simple conversations, the bonds we are forming in this brotherhood fill my heart with gratitude and hope.

One of the key reasons for my presence here is to attend English language classes, together with brothers from Vietnam. This time is not only for academic preparation, but also an opportunity for us to grow in fraternity, understand one another more deeply, and build a foundation of unity before continuing together to Macao for our theological formation.

This chapter of my life is truly a gift of grace—a time of learning, community, and spiritual deepening as I walk the path of mission.





## A Joyful Beginning: Embracing the New Academic Year in the Heart of Christ

The month of June ushered in a season of new beginnings as we joyfully commenced the academic year at SCJ Theologate, Major Seminary, Eluru. We began with a Holy Spirit Mass in our community, prayerfully invoking divine guidance for the journey ahead. At the college, the academic year was inaugurated with a spiritually enriching and thought-provoking celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by Bishop Daman Kumar Karanam of the Diocese of Nalgonda. This liturgical moment served as a firm spiritual foundation for our path forward.

Our Christu Dehon Nivas (CDN) community was further blessed by the continued presence of Fr. Tom Cassidy, who serves as a dedicated formator and mentor. His wisdom and support continue to be a great source of strength and inspiration for all of us.

We also celebrated the birthdays of two of our scholastics, rejoicing together in a spirit of Dehonian fraternity and love, sharing in the joy of life as one family.

One of the most memorable moments of the month was the celebration of the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. As witnesses to the love of Christ, we extended invitations to nearby religious communities—both priests and sisters—to join us in this meaningful celebration. Together, we shared moments of spiritual and fraternal nourishment, strengthening our bonds and spreading the spirit of the Dehonian charism.

All these grace-filled experiences have deepened our sense of community and renewed our commitment to living as one family in Christ. Through our shared celebrations and acts of hospitality, we continue to embody the Heart of Jesus in our relationships, our outreach, and our witness to the world.

**Dn. Ashwin Joseph SCJ**









## Pastoral Engagement and Fraternal Joy

At Thiru Hrudhaya Bhavan, Arthunkal, we remain deeply committed to our pastoral mission—nurturing the spiritual life of our community while extending support to nearby parishes. Our ministry continues to be warmly welcomed, especially through adoration services and recollection talks offered to various religious communities who graciously invite us to accompany them on their spiritual journeys.

The construction of our new community building is progressing steadily, symbolizing a hopeful step forward in strengthening our communal life and expanding our mission. A recent highlight was the visit of the General Treasurer, whose presence served as a tangible sign of the congregation's fraternal support and encouragement.

We also had the joy of celebrating our community feast, joined in meaningful fellowship by neighboring communities. This gathering was a beautiful expression of unity and shared faith. Within our own house, we commemorated two special events: the birthday of Fr. Siju Solomon and the ordination anniversary of Fr. Martin. These occasions were filled with gratitude and joy, further enriching our communal spirit. With hearts full of thanksgiving, we continue to journey together—rooted in mission, strengthened by fraternity, and united in the love of Christ.

**Fr. Thomas Raju, SCJ**







**Different events of the District**





