



# DEHONIANS INDIA

May 2025

## Voice of the Superior

### Leo John Dehon, the Founder; Leo XIII- Leo XIV, the Popes

Dear Confreres in the Heart of Jesus!

The month of May has been a **crucial month** in the history of the Catholic Church as we have received the **267<sup>th</sup> Pope** in the person of Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, the **sucessor of Peter and the Supreme Pontiff**. He has appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica as the **Messenger of Peace and Justice** greeting the entire humanity with such reassuring words echoing the ideology of his predecessor, Pope Francis, the **Pope of the Poor**. The name he has taken, means a lot to us as Dehonians. **In the words of our General Superior, Rev. Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez:** *In the context of the Dehonian jubilee we are celebrating, it is very meaningful to us that our new Pontiff chose the same name as the Pope who so greatly inspired the life and apostolate of our Venerable Fr. Leo Dehon. Following the example of our Founder, let us pray and collaborate with the mission the Church has entrusted to this new Leo on the Chair of the Apostle Peter. May he remain docile to the action of the Spirit and faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.* The motto of the Vicar of Christ also assumes significance to us Dehonians: **In Illo, Uno Unum** which translates as :**In the One, We are One**, almost resonating the core ideology of Dehonians: **Sint Unum**, 'that they may be one'. May his Augustinian motto further strengthen the spirit of **Sint Unum** and Synodality in everything we do and say

The month began with the **renewal of the vows** of our young confreres at DVS, Aluva following the rich spiritual experience of the renewal retreat, animated by Fr. Daniel Ribeiro SCJ, the Superior of ICA. On the **1<sup>st</sup> of May**, several of our confreres who are given new assignments assumed responsibilities.

I was personally present for the installation ceremony of 2 of our confreres, namely, Fr. Vimal SCJ and Fr. Bhaskar SCJ who assumed the responsibility as the parish priests of St. Thomas More Church, Veppampaatu and that of Sacred Heart Church, Nambur. During this month, we have also sent Fr. Moses Thanagala SCJ, our new District Secretary to our Generalate in Rome to get a special training from Fr. Angelo SCJ our General Secretary.

Towards the end of May, we have sent Fr. Jesu Prasad SCJ to begin the new Tribal mission at Allapalli Mission Parish, in the diocese of Khammam, in the border of Chattisgarh. We have assigned Dn. Arun Gabbetta SCJ to assist him in this demanding mission. As we are in the Dehonian Jubilee (2024-2028), may this new mission define our identity as Dehonians following the footsteps of our Founding Father Leo John Dehon who always desired to be a "Missionary and a Martyr".

May God bless all of us!

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

Fraternally Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ







Leo P.P. XIV





# "SERVING, LEARNING, AND GROWING: REFLECTIONS FROM SANTIAGO CHILE"

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## EXPERIENCES OF CONFRERES IN ABROAD

This is my first visit to Santiago, Chile, and I am deeply grateful to be here. I am currently serving at San José Parroquia, and my experience has already been enriching and memorable.

From the very beginning, I was warmly welcomed by Fr. Claudenir, Br. Leonardo, and the parish community, who provided me with everything necessary. The people here are kind, friendly, and deeply faithful. Their hospitality has touched my heart, making me feel at home, despite being far from my country.

I am actively celebrating Masses, visiting parishioners, and engaging in various parish activities. Each moment has helped me grow both spiritually and personally. During my first month, I attended Spanish classes. Learning the language is a challenge, but I enjoy it and make progress day by day. The people here are patient and encouraging, making the learning process joyful.

Though the language and culture are new to me, I am embracing them with gratitude.

I sincerely thank God, the SCJ community in Santiago, and Fr. Michael Augustine and his councilors for their support.

Muchas gracias, and may God bless you all!

**Fr. Raju Dumala SCJ**









**EMBRACING SUMMER WITH SERVICE, WELCOME, AND PREPARATION**

May was a month of balance rest, responsibility, and preparation as our community entered the summer vacation period. While many brothers were away on holiday, some remained at the Theologate, ensuring the house was well maintained through regular cleaning and care.

Although some birthdays could not be celebrated in the community due to the vacation schedule, we carried our heartfelt wishes and prayers for our brothers who were celebrating during this time. A special moment of community presence was accompanying Fr. Jesu Prasad as he embarked on his new ministry in a different parish, offering our support and prayers for his mission.

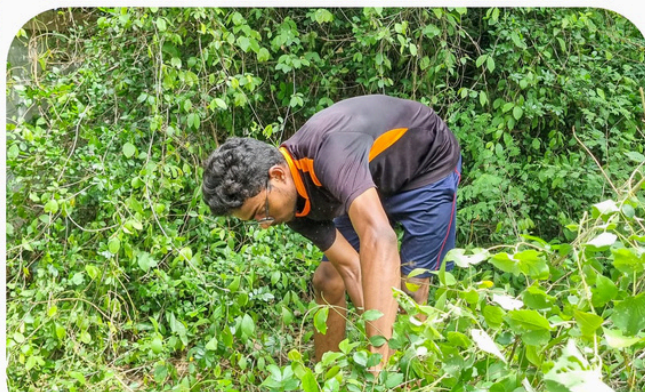
The month also included important planning and discussions for the upcoming academic year, allowing us to reflect on our goals and prepare for the months ahead. Additionally, we were blessed to welcome Fr. Emmanuel as a new member of the CDN community. We look forward to a journey of fraternity and shared mission with him.

Overall, May was a peaceful yet purposeful month, marked by care, community spirit, and hopeful anticipation for the academic year ahead.

**Dn. Ashwin SCJ**









Month of May has been filled with a beautiful community experience and it has become a month of learning, and a time to tackle the vicissitudes of life. I had a fruitful time spent in **CDN community, participating in community activities. I had the opportunity to attend the music classes in Chintalapudi** and it was **really a time of great learning and of advantage for future ministry.** I had also good time with fathers and brothers at CDN, and **enjoyed my stay with joy, sharing and laughter. They supported me a lot and treated me as their own brother and I felt as if I were at home.**

I had also the time to visit my family for few days and it **was bit sad for me to see my mother getting a mild heart stroke** and I happened to be at home by God's grace; for I could take her to the hospital for treatment. She was really saved from danger by prayers of many fathers and brothers of our congregation. I was **really touched by the support and comfort given to me in time of sorrow and tension by many of our confreres.** I am grateful to all of them. As a whole, it **remains forever an unforgettable experience for me** in life where for the first time **I had a great support from religious family.** I thank God for everything he has been to me all through my life.

**Br. Nirmal Uppatti SCJ**





## **"A NEW LAND, A FAMILIAR CALLING: SERVING WITH HEART IN CHILE"**

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

Leaving behind beautiful memories of God's plan in past years, I embarked on His future mission in Chile the farthest country from India.

Bidding farewell to my loved ones, my heart was filled with passion and adventure as I set off on this journey, overcoming intermissions and interruptions.

As someone once said, "All great beginnings start in the dark, when the moon greets you to a new day at midnight, and moonlight cools the soul."

Even in the midnight hours, hearts full of eagerness and faces full of joy greeted us with a memorable welcome by the Dehonian fathers.

Now, two months into my mission, I have witnessed the beauty of this land. I have observed the painstaking pastoral work of the Dehonians, who carry out their ministry with minimal human resources yet with deep-rooted Catholic faith. I have also seen the hard work of the pioneers who initiated the Dehonian charism, charged with overflowing devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Moreover, I have recognized the urgent need for priests and religious figures to continue this God-initiated mission. I have visited our schools and other parishes, and in this short period, I have learned valuable lessons about a completely unfamiliar culture and its traditions, unveiling the beauties of God's creation.

I am profoundly grateful to God my Creator, Guide, and Protector for leading me according to His plan. I also thank my Heavenly Mother for her prayerful shield of protection.

Additionally, I express my gratitude to the District Superior and his Council for their unwavering support in this mission.

**Fr. Thambi Behan Kumar SCJ**







## **FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND FORMATION: A SECRETARY'S JOURNEY**

As I stepped off the plane in Rome, a mix of excitement and nervousness filled me. I was about to attend a preparatory period for my role as secretary of the India District of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The thought of representing our district and working closely with our General Secretary, Fr. Angelo SCJ, was both inspiring and humbling.

Learning from Fr. Angelo SCJ was a transformative experience. Our discussions were rich and enlightening, covering various aspects of our congregation's functioning and future directions. He was very kind, supporting me in every possible way to ensure my stay in Rome was comfortable. The meeting provided valuable insights and practical guidance for my new responsibilities, allowing me to gain a clearer understanding of expectations and challenges that lay ahead.

Additionally, I had the chance to engage with other district and regional secretaries from Asia, learning from their experiences and advice. Within the community, I met confreres from around the world, each bringing unique cultures and perspectives. I was deeply struck by the global nature of our congregation and the various ways we live out our charism.

Beyond my formal duties, I also had opportunities to explore Rome. With its rich history and spiritual heritage, the city provided the perfect backdrop for personal reflection and growth. I spent precious moments visiting holy doors and significant places, seeking blessings and guidance from the Lord for my future responsibilities. This experience deepened my devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and renewed my commitment to serving the congregation. My time in Rome was a profound experience that prepared me spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally for my new role. I will return to India with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of our congregation's mission. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and look forward to serving the Indian District with commitment.

**Fr. Moses Thanagala SCJ**







**“A MONTH OF GROWTH, GRATITUDE, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT”**

We would like to share some of our community experiences from the month of May. On the 1st, we celebrated the Renewal of Vows, with Fr. Michael Augustine as the main celebrant of the Holy Mass. On the 2nd, three of our brothers who had completed their philosophical studies left for holidays before beginning their year of regency in different communities.

On the 3rd, a new batch of degree students arrived. Meanwhile, the second-year philosophy brothers completed their fourth-semester exams at MG University on the 7th and left for their holidays on the 8th. Similarly, degree students completed their second-semester exams on the 9th and left for their holidays on the 10th.

Newcomers began English grammar classes, and on the 27th, our Plus One and Plus Two students arrived. By the end of the month, all those who had gone home for the holidays had returned. The entire community actively participated in preparing and arranging the house for the next academic year. We were also delighted to welcome our new community member, Fr. Ajith Vincent. The Dehon Vidya Sadhan community is immensely grateful to Fr. Roy Xavier for his wholehearted service to our community, and we wish him the very best in his new appointment.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers. May God bless you abundantly!

**Fr. Christy Peter SCJ**









