

Historical memory June 28th

First profession of Fr. Dehon. The day of the foundation of our Congregation (June 28, 1878)

On June 28, 1878, Leo Dehon made his religious profession. It was the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day of the foundation of our Congregation. Only a few close friends were present. His was an act of faith which might have seemed like a dream with no future. Instead it marked the birth and the beginning of a long posterity, what he called the Work of the Sacred Heart. In that rich experience of faith, our Congregation finds its origin and its identity. Fr. Dehon recalled this strong conviction of faith in his Spiritual Testament: "I leave you the most wonderful treasure: the Heart of Jesus. He belongs to everyone, but has particular tenderness for ... those who are consecrated to him and are entirely dedicated to worship, love and reparation as he asked. However, they must be faithful to this beautiful vocation "(LC 407). This vocation, this charism that Fr. Dehon left as an inheritance is not something to be kept hidden. It is a living treasure. It is a love that is renewed every day. From this charism entire generations of confreres have lived, finding in it the inspiration and strength for a spiritual and apostolic life, spent entirely for God, for the Church, for the mission, and for "the reign of the Heart of Jesus in souls and society".

(BRESSANELLI, V. An updated reinterpretation of our charism, Dehoniana 1994/2, 15-22)

PACT OF LOVE (Fr. Léon Dehon)

My Jesus,
before you and your heavenly Father,
in the presence of Mary Immaculate, my mother,
and of St. Joseph, my protector,
I make the vow of placing myself out of pure love
at the disposal of your Sacred Heart,
and of devoting my life and energy
to the Congregation of the Priests of your Heart.
I accept in advance
all the trials and sacrifices
which it will please you to ask of me.
I vow that pure love for Jesus and his Sacred Heart
shall be the intention for all my actions.
And I beg you to touch my heart
by inflaming it with your love,
so that I may have the intention
and desire of loving you.

Through your grace
let me again feel the happiness
of having all the affections of my heart
centered on you alone.

Daily Renewal

My Jesus, I lovingly renew the pact of love that I made with you.
Give me the grace to be faithful to it.

You are God, Te Deum Laudamus

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of
power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church
acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy
of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
you did not spurn the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven
to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come, and
be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

Save your people, Lord, and bless
your inheritance.
Govern and uphold them now and always.
Day by day we bless you.
We praise your name for ever.

Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy;
for we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope:
and we shall never hope in vain.