

May 1, 2023

Happy Religious Brothers Day!

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Religious Brothers Day is held annually on May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, the patron saint of religious brothers. It is a day to celebrate and give thanks for the men who live the call to be a religious, such as a Dehonian, but who serve as non-ordained members.

“All its members are equal in the same profession of religious life, without any other distinction except that of ministries.” The quote is from No. 8 of the SCJ Rule of Life and refers to what makes an SCJ an SCJ: not his ministry or role in the community, but his profession of religious life.

In the United States, Dehonian brothers are in communities and ministries throughout the province. They include **Br. Diego Diaz** and **Br. Andy Gancarczyk**, both members of the Mississippi community serving with Sacred Heart Southern Missions (they are pictured below, Br. Andy is on the right); **Br. Ray Kozuch**, who is currently **Alfonso Pizano's** postulancy director; **Br. Duane Lemke**, a member of the Provincial Council and superior of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML; **Br. Frank Presto**, provincial secretary; **Br. Brian Tompkins**, assistant with our senior community at SHML; and brothers in retirement who represent a diverse background in ministries such as teaching, missionary service, social justice, farming, art, and internal ministry. Our retired SCJs include **Br. Andy Lewandowski**, **Br. Matt Miles**, **Br. Frank Snider**, **Br. Leonard Zaworski** and **Br. Clay Diaz**.

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