

## Death of the second Superior General: October 21

### Mons. Joseph Laurent PHILIPPE (April 3, 1877 – October 21, 1956)

#### Biographical profile



Bishop Joseph Lawrence Philippe. Second Superior General (January 20, 1926 - October 24, 1935). He was born on April 3, 1877 in Luxembourg. He made his first profession on September 18, 1897 and was ordained on May 28, 1904. He was elected second Superior General of our Congregation on January 20, 1926. Appointed Bishop of Luxembourg on April 25, 1935 by Pope Pius XI and ordained in Rome on June 9, 1935. He died in Luxembourg on October 21, 1956, at the age of 79. He was buried in the Cathedral of Our Lady in Luxembourg.

#### Circular Letter: On the Death of Fr. Leo Dehon: 23.08.1925

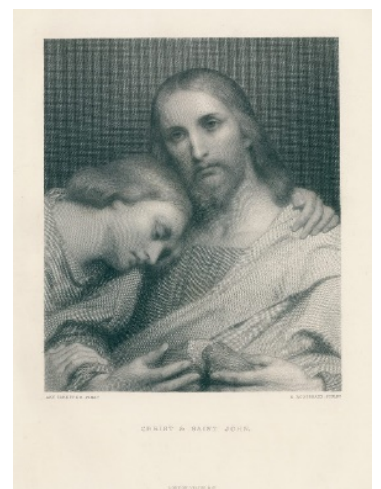
##### Supernatural Sources

Let us consider the supernatural sources where this energetic sense of duty and this industrious finesse of heart [Fr. Dehon] were nurtured. It seems to me the spiritual doctrine and consequently the foundation of the interior life of our Très Bon Père can easily be reduced to a life of union with Our Lord.

The illness of our saintly Founder and more particularly the endless sleepless nights were but one continual prayer. This prayer became more ardent and more suppliant as the Holy Eucharist was brought early in the morning to the venerable sick man. On the first days of his illness, it was a great sacrifice for him not to be able to receive holy communion, so much so that on the first Friday he could stand it no longer and asked with insistence to communicate, depriving himself of all liquid until he had received the sacred host.

His favorite words which he repeated with his customary vivacity were: “Jesus is all, the friend; bring me my Jesus”. These exclamations were but the echo of his soul’s vivid desire to be united with the Master; thus his nights became a continual spiritual communion, an uninterrupted preparation for the reception of the Divine Guest. Near his bed, he had a little postcard placed there representing the well-known picture by Ary Scheffer: St. John resting on the bosom of Jesus. Pointing to this picture he used to say to his visitors: “Behold my all, my life, my death, and my eternity”. These sentiments which never left the venerated sick man, are they not both the proof and the manifestation of a profound and fervent interior life?

The constant disposition of the Heart of Jesus was to do the will of His Father: to accept completely the will of God was also the intimate disposition which dominated the soul of our Reverend Father General.



## Intention for Lauds and Vespers

Receive, Father, into heaven our confrere Joseph Lawrence Philippe, Superior general, who has partaken of the body and blood of your Son

- May he participate in the banquet of eternal joy.

## Prayer for the Congregation and its superiors (Adoration)

Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
we ask you to guide our Congregation.  
Help us,  
who are dedicated to your heart,  
to live as brothers united in chastity,  
poverty, and obedience.

Bless our communities.  
May all that we are and do  
draw strength from the love  
made visible in your pierced side.

Be with our brothers  
who are given the service of authority.  
May they work with courage and love  
to build up our common life and ministry.  
May we collaborate with them,  
faithfully searching for God's will.  
In this way,  
may the whole Congregation participate  
in your offering of love to the Father. Amen.