



ADORATION

in commemoration of the
death of the Venerable
John Leo Dehon
*(Founder of the Priests
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)*

August 12, 2026

ENTRANCE HYMN

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

PRAYERS OF ADORATION

Blessed are You, God,
who constantly offer us Your life
so that we may have life in abundance.

Blessed are You, Lord Jesus Christ,
truly present in Your Sacramental Body,
always available so that we may contemplate Your love.

Blessed are You, Holy Spirit,
who overcomes our fears and moves us
to mission wherever Your breath is needed.

[Brief silence]

INTRODUCTION

As part of the celebration of the centennial of the death of our Founder, Fr. Leo Dehon, the Congregation wished to offer the Lord, in thanksgiving, the opening of a new mission in Cuba. On December 12, 2025, the missionaries arrived in a town in the westernmost part of the island, in the Diocese of Pinar del Río. The town is called Mantua, and its parish is dedicated to Our Lady of las Nieves.



[Three people step forward holding the three symbols printed on sheets of paper—preferably A3, or whatever size is deemed appropriate. A frame is set up to display the three images]

We wish to bring before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament the reality of the Cuban people through three symbols:

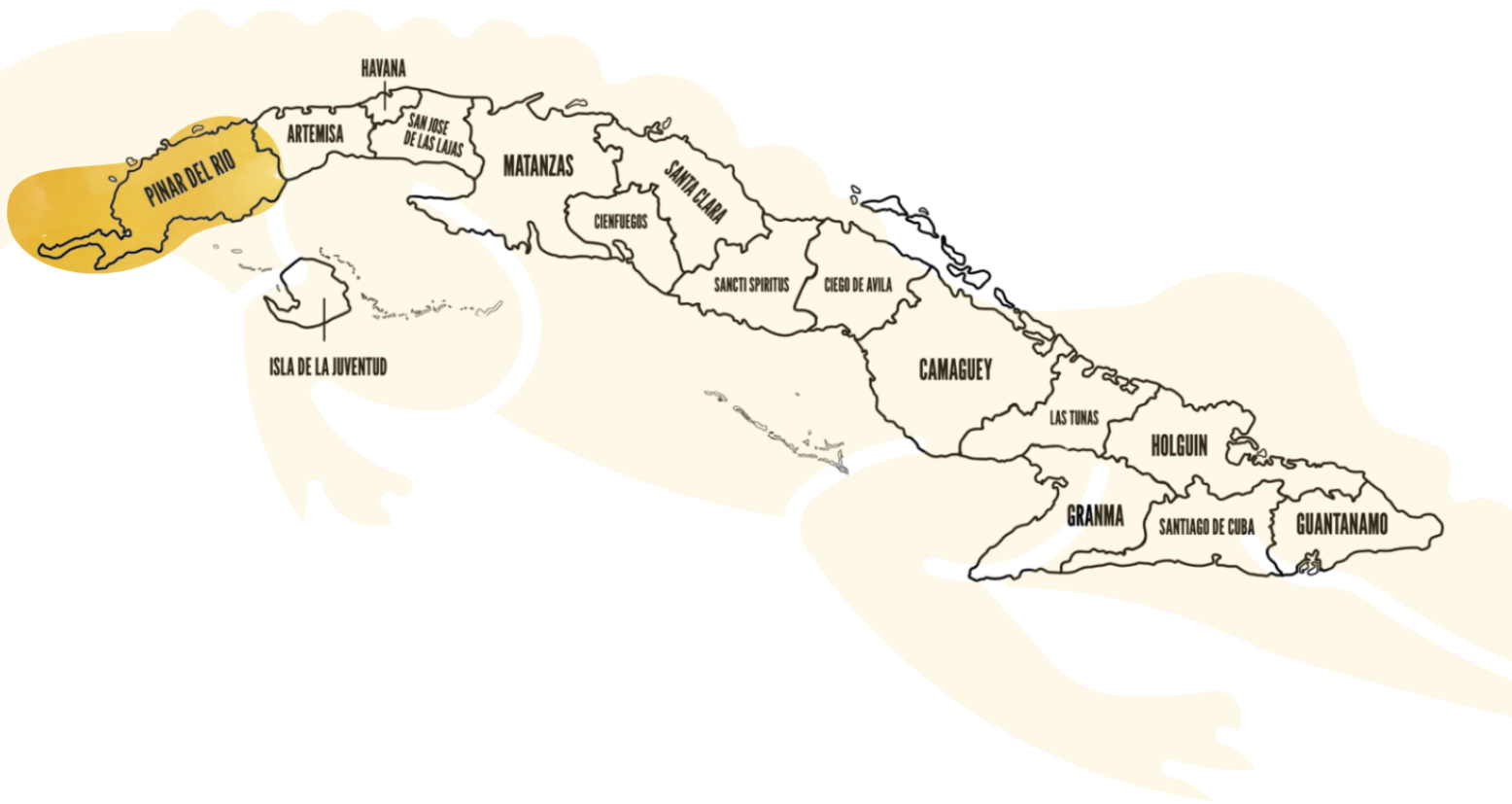
A) The *tocororo* is Cuba's national bird.

The colors of its plumage symbolize the three colors of the flag: blue, red, and white. These three colors, which, since the French Revolution has inspired the desire for equality, liberty, and fraternity among so many peoples. The Tocatoro is a bird that cannot live in captivity. That is why it personifies the yearning for freedom, justice, and fraternity felt by the Cuban people, who have been oppressed for far too long.



B) We present a very common sight on the streets of Mantua: the *yoke of oxen*, which symbolizes backwardness, a lack of resources, the slowness of change, and the complexity of even the simplest daily tasks. The Cuban people live under the yoke of unjust laws, shortages of everything, power outages, water, communication connections, and transportation...

C) We present the **silhouette of the caiman**, which represents the map of Cuba. An island beautiful in its natural setting, rich in resources, yet deprived of them. Its entire geography encompasses its people, their diversity of races, ideologies, and cultures. The caiman is an endemic species that evokes the strength and identity that the Cuban people proudly embrace. They say that the caiman can go many days without eating, which is why we believe it is a fitting symbol of the resilience and endurance of this people, capable of persevering even under the most adverse circumstances.



[Silence]

PART ONE: “COME TO ME”



READING FROM THE GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (11:25-30)

At that time, Jesus spoke up and said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for such was your good pleasure. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

[Silence]

RESPONSORIAL SONG TO THE WORD OF GOD

REFLECTION FOR ADORATION

We invite you to close your eyes and bring before Jesus in the Eucharist all who are weary and burdened. We present them to the Lord, saying silently within our hearts, “Come to you, Lord”.



*[Several readers will read each of the points, pausing briefly between them.
Five unlit candles will be prepared and lit one by one
after each reader reads one of the five points]*

1. May the Cuban mothers come to you, Lord—women who, in most cases, support the family's economy and care for children and the sick. Like Mary, they are mothers in sorrow. Mothers who walk the streets trying to meet today's basic needs, because tomorrow seems so far away. Mothers who rise at dawn to do laundry or cook, because electricity has finally arrived. Women who see that their children or husbands have to emigrate in order to get ahead, and it falls to them to keep the family together. May the women who suffer from mental illness come to you, because they could no longer bear it and broke down under the weight of their pain. May they come to you, Lord.

[Silence]

2. May the young Cubans with no future, no present, and no opportunity to develop their talents, **come to you, Lord**. The young people for whom going to college and gaining access to culture is no longer worthwhile because their professional salaries aren't even enough to buy The basics. Young people who vent their frustration through nights of drunken revelry or by engaging in trivial and irresponsible sexual behavior. "Getting a fetus out," as they say, is easier and more common than getting a tooth pulled. Come to you, Lord.

[Silence]

3. May the the hundreds of people waiting on the side of the roads, or at public transportation stops - that no longer function at all – **come to you, Lord**. They wait and wait for a motorcycle, a horse-drawn cart, or a vehicle to take them a little closer to their destination: the the hospital, home, or workplace... Transportation has come to a complete standstill. The isolation creates the feeling that Mantua is a forgotten corner of the world where no one wants to go and everyone is eager to leave.



[Silence]

- 4. Come to you, Lord, the sick** who cannot find even the most basic medicines: for blood pressure, the heart, circulation... Almost all medicines must be purchased—at exorbitant prices—on the black market. For diabetics, it is easier easier to have a limb amputated than to continue treatment. How many sick people are bedridden on wretched mattresses, their bodies covered with wounds! May those suffering from cancer and mental illness come to you in particular. Come to you, Lord.

[Silence]

- 5. May the migrants come to you, Lord** — those who had no choice but to take to the water or cross jungles and deserts, risking their lives and leaving their savings in the extortionist clutches of criminal gangs. When they arrived in paradise, they found loneliness, longing for their lost homeland, and the impossibility of returning because they are rejected by their own country. Sometimes the days drag on, because they juggle up to three jobs at once — one to survive, another to save, and another to send whatever they can to their families. Come to you, Lord.

[Silence]

HYMN

(Hymn based on Matthew 11:25–30 or Psalm 30)



PART TWO: “I GIVE YOU THANKS, FATHER”

PAULINE READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (1:17–25)

«Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength».

REFLECTION FOR ADORATION: “I GIVE YOU THANKS, FATHER “

Let us now open our hearts to give thanks. For the Father has hidden these things from the wise and powerful and revealed them to the humble and simple. The wisdom of the cross chooses the weak and marginalized to confound the wise of this world. Cuba is a land of blessing. At every turn you encounter the simple people, a living image of God, who never miss an opportunity to bless God, even in the midst of extreme situations

*[With each reading, a bit of incense
may be offered in a censer with burning charcoal]*

1. We thank you, Father, for the image of the Sacred Heart that still presides over the main room of so many homes. An image that has survived atheistic ideology, aggressive religious repression, and the assimilation of many Catholic saints and rites into a religious syncretism that is not always humanizing or transparent. Amid so much difficulty, the Sacred Heart welcomes the visitor with the same kindness with which these people always tell us: “This is your home.” In those homes, we have found anything but a blessing. Thank you, Lord, for revealing these things only to the simple.



2. We thank you for María de Montezuelo, who opens her home so that we may celebrate the Eucharist. When she receives her diabetes medication, the box lasts her only a week, because she shares the pills with her neighbors, who also need them. Thank you, Lord, for revealing these things only to the simple.

3. We thank you, for Goyita, an elderly woman in poor health, mother of seven children, petite and slender, yet immense in her faith and dedication. In the heart of the poorest neighborhood, she opens her home so we can celebrate the Eucharist on weekdays. Thank you for **Alina**, who opens the small chapel in Dimas—a two-hour motorcycle ride away. Thank you for **Milady**, from Arroyos de Mantua, whose sole motivation is to serve the Lord by tending to the church, the sick, and catechism classes, even though she often goes without food. Thank you to Zoraida and her disabled daughter, the seed of a christian community in La Ceja; for **María Julia** and her group of

women thirsting for God in El Roble. Thank you, Lord, for revealing these things to the simple.

4. Thank you, Lord, for the Pastoral Council

and the catechists of

Our Lady of the Snows Parish.

For several years in which they

have not had the services of a priest,

they have kept the liturgical life, liturgical singing, care for the sick and charitable works, and catechesis for children intact.

Since the Dehonians' arrival, they have done nothing but care for us with love and respect. They are always grateful and always open to our spirituality. What a surprise to discover that these people were already living the Dehonian spirituality without even knowing it! Thank you, Lord, for revealing these things to the simple.



5. Thank you, Lord, for the Mother Church of Pinar del Río,

which, through the bishop's fatherly care, has welcomed us and taught us the value of a quiet presence. The Church is the only social institution that does something for the people though it is sometimes tolerated, sometimes attacked. Thank you for Cuban consecrated life, with more than a hundred different nationalities, communities that care for one another as if they were the sole province of the same congregation. Thank you, Lord, for revealing these things to the simple.

[Silence]

PART THREE: INTERCESSIONS



TEXT BY FR. DEHON

«The Sacred Heart sympathises with all our infirmities, both spiritual and physical, with infinite tenderness. He has suffered from them more than we ourselves do. This generous Heart forgets itself, setting aside its own sorrows to think of ours. He tells us this Himself when He says to the women of Jerusalem: '*Nolite flere super me, sed super vos ipsas flete*' [Lk 23:28], that is to say, think rather of your own wretched state than of my sufferings, since I myself suffer more from your miseries than from my own pains. [...]. And all this because he is truly our heart, just as we are his mystical body, and the heart is the organ of all the body's joyful and painful emotions. Jesus lives within us; he suffers, he prays, he rejoices within us; his Heart is truly our heart." (John Leon Dehon, CAM I/ 231-232).

[Silence]

PETITIONS

We Dehonians are aware that our mission in Mantua, Cuba—like that in so many places ravaged by pain and injustice—overwhelms us. It exceeds our capacity, our human strength, and even the intensity of our spiritual life. From this forgotten corner of the world, we feel keenly the power of sin and the cry of the crucified victims who place their hope in God, because they find no other advocate. With the Heart of Jesus opened on the cross, we ask the Father to grant us his saving grace and to attend to the needs of all who suffer. We pray, saying:

R. Into your hands I commend my spirit.

— In your love for the Father and for humanity, you gave yourself up to death for us. Accept the spiritual sacrifice of our lives as a humble response of love, we pray: **R.**

— You call us to “be one” in the Church, so that the world may believe. Make us witnesses and promoters of communion among people, interpreters of charity toward our brothers and sisters, we pray: **R.**

— Father, hear the fervent plea of all who have no other refuge but your mercy, we pray: **R.**

— May your Spirit instill in us apostolic zeal and a spirit of self-giving, so that we may bring your Gospel to every corner of the earth, we pray: **R.**

— Lord, we entrust to you especially the Cuban people and, with them, all the Christian communities that are accompanied by the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus throughout the world; support them in their sufferings, strengthen their hope, and kindle in them a living faith. We pray: **R.**

— Lord of the harvest, we ask you to grant us vocations to the priesthood, to the Dehonian consecrated and lay life. Awaken in us the missionary spirit so that no one may remain unaware of the abundance of your love, we pray: **R.**

— God, Father of life, we pray for all the sick, especially for Mr. Cruz, the father of our brother Dennys, who had to withdraw from the mission in Cuba to care for him. Bless his family and the families of all the religious of the Congregation, we pray: **R.**



OUR FATHER

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
present in this Eucharist,
you offer us your body and blood
so that we may consecrate ourselves
ever more fully to you.
We entrust to your Heart
all the Dehonian communities
scattered throughout the world.
May they be a witness of hope
wherever life is humiliated;
sustain them with the strength of your Spirit
so that they may never lack joy.
You live and reign for ever and ever
Amen.

HYMN

BLESSING WITH THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

HYMN OF THE DEHONIAN JUBILEE



He lives in us

Music: P. Simão Pedro Claudino dos Santos SCJ
Lyrics (English version): International Commission

1. A

Vi - va - t Cor I - e - su... per cor Ma - ri - e.

2. A

... e. (1.) Our Foun-der was born in the small La Ca-pe - lle, and soon in his life he was

cho - sen by God. De - hon al-ways wondered what God wi-shed to tell, his heart was inflamed by the

power of his love (2.) Then look-ing at Christ and his gift on the Cross_, he

found in his side a vo - ca - tion to bear. For all who are suf-fering, a-ban-doned and lost_, it's

Je - sus who cries: Come to love and re - pair! **Praised be! Praised be! Praised be!**

The Sa-cred Heart, the Sa-cred Heart of the Lord! Vi - va - t Cor I - e - su...

per cor Ma - ri - e.

3. One hundred years ago he returned to the Father,
now remains alive in his own Congregation.
In union with Christ, we desire to go further
as Prophets of love and of reconciliation.

Praised be! Praised be! Praised be!
The Sacred Heart, the Sacred Heart of the Lord!

4. For over a century Dehon's dream goes on
for Jesus we live, and He lives in us.
Together we carry it in our daily mission,
his Heart is the center of the entire world.

Praised be! Praised be! Praised be!
The Sacred Heart, the Sacred Heart of the Lord!