

Historical memory

March 14th

Anniversary of the birth of Fr. Dehon (March 14, 1843)

ENTRY INTO LIFE

On March 24, 1843, in the small church of La Capelle (Aisne, France), an elderly priest, Abbot Prosper Hécart, baptised a 10-day-old child, a little Dehon, named Léon Gustave. On the first page of his Memoirs Father Dehon writes :

«I was born on March 14, 1843 [...]. I was baptised on March 24 [...]. It was the first Vespers of the Feast of the Annunciation. Later I was happy to unite the memory of my baptism with that of the Ecce venio of Our Lord. I drew great confidence from this union. The Ecce venio of the Heart of Jesus protected and blessed my entry into the Christian life. Our Lord will certainly not be angry with me for seeing it as an attention of His Providence in view of my present vocation as Priest- Oblate of the Heart of Jesus» (NHV 1/1.2).

Prayer (for the beatification of Fr. Dehon)

Lord, our Father,
we thank you;
through your servant Leo Dehon
you have enriched the Church with a new religious family.
May the beatification of your servant be to the praise
of your glory.

Following his example,
make us prophets and ministers
of reconciliation in the Heart of your Son.

May worthy disciples follow in his footsteps and
may they bring the joy of your Gospel
to the whole world.

Heavenly Father,
united to Jesus Christ our Lord
and sanctified in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
may our life be an offering that is pleasing
to you for the salvation of the world. Amen.