

Dehonian Memory 2023

26th November 2023



Venerable Father Aloísio Sebastião Boeing, scj

A religious who welcomed, counseled and blessed

***1913 - †2006**

DEHONIAN MEMORIAL VIGIL

To prepare the place of prayer, you can use various elements that recall the theme of the vigil (photo with the image of the venerable Father Aloísio Boeing, (cross, picture, candles, flowers, incense...). It's important to pay attention to the sensitivity of the recipients. Arrange for a president or main animator to guide the vigil and the various readers. Also consider the possibility of the necessary technical means for projecting images and playing music. All the texts can be adapted to the concrete situation of the group that will be praying, or for three shorter moments of prayer. (Testimonies and the Word of God can be distributed to different readers: 1.2.3.4.)

INTRODUCTION

P. Every year, on November 26, we celebrate Dehonian Memorial Day, in which we remember our confreres who lived the Gospel in a heroic way. Today we present the figure of Venerable Father Aloísio Sebastião Boeing, who heroically exercised the theological and human virtues and who, for this reason, is held up to the Christian community and the world as a living example of total and faithful conformity to Christ and his Gospel.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

- *The priest/minister exposes the Blessed Sacrament.*

Song

P. ACT OF OBLATION

All. *Come, children of God, offer your hearts to be constantly consecrated to God on the altar of the Heart of Jesus* (Thesaurus, pg.7)

Father, almighty and all-loving God,
your Son, Jesus Christ, has loved us
and has offered himself as an atonement for sin
on the altar of the cross.

We have been cleansed in the water
that flowed from his side.

By baptism

we have been buried with Christ,
so that just as Christ was raised from the dead,
we also may walk in newness of life.

Help us to put to death the evil that is still in us:

our selfishness,

our willfulness,

and our fear of surrender to you.

Free us so that we may serve you as a living sacrifice.

Grant us this grace through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who together with you and the Holy Spirit,

lives and reigns forever. Amen.

I. WHO WAS FATHER ALOÍSIO BOEING

P. “He helped thousands of people to be happy and meet God, always with great affection for children, young people, couples, the sick, the afflicted, the poor and the bewildered” (Jornal do Vale, 2006, Instituto Padre Aloísio Archive, Jaraguá do Sul, SC)

1. Biography: The Venerable Father Aloísio Sebastião Boeing, scj, was born on December 24, 1913 in Vargem do Cedro, a district of São Martinho (SC), Brazil. At the age of eleven, on February 11, 1925, he went to the seminary of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Brusque (SC). He was ordained a priest on December 1, 1940 in Taubaté (SP). His first field of work was in Varginha (MG). He stayed there for a year and returned to the seminary in Corupá, teaching and spiritually guiding the seminarians for nine years. He was then appointed master of novices. He held this position for twenty-four years. The "Father Master" taught what he himself lived. He was a friend of God. In 1974, still in Jaraguá do Sul, he founded a community of young women to live the spirit of the Gospel, thus starting the Marian Fraternity of the Heart of Jesus and accompanying them with his firm and sure presence and guidance. He also worked in Pomerode, in Brusque at the Father Dehon House, and in Jaraguá do Sul, at the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, where he lived for the last 23 years of his life.

He died in the odor of holiness on April 17, 2006 in Nereu Ramos, in the municipality of Jaraguá do Sul. His tomb, which is much visited, is in the same place where he lived out his last days. Since then, the beatification process has begun. People spontaneously come to pray at his tomb. On February 21, 2023 he was declared venerable by Pope Francis.

2. WORD OF GOD: (Eclo 44, 1-4. 6)

Let us eulogize the illustrious men who are our ancestors in their lineage. From the beginning of the world, the Lord gave them abundant glory as a result of their magnificence. They were sovereign in their states, they were men of great virtue, endowed with prudence. The predictions they announced earned them the dignity of prophets: they governed the peoples of their time and, with the firmness of their wisdom, gave very holy instructions to the people. They were men rich in virtue, who had a taste for beauty and lived in peace in their homes.

All – Psalm 14 (15) 1-5

LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy
mountain?
Whoever walks without blame,
doing what is right,
speaking truth from the heart;
Who does not slander with his tongue,
does no harm to a friend,

never defames a neighbor;
Who disdains the wicked,
but honors those who fear the LORD;
Who keeps an oath despite the cost,
lends no money at interest,
accepts no bribe against the innocent.
Whoever acts like this
shall never be shaken.

3. TESTIMONY: (Bishop Virginio Bressanelli, scj, Interview, Instituto Padre Aloísio Archive, Jaraguá do Sul, 16.06.2014)

“Fr Aloísio had a moral and spiritual authority in the life of the BM Province and the Church. His human and spiritual solidity, his sense of the Congregation and the Province, his obedience and willingness to take on the commitments asked of him, his solidity of doctrinal principles and religious life, his firmness and kindness in his human and spiritual dealings, his dedication to pastoral dialogue, listening to and advising many people, his apostolic generosity, etc. made him a spiritual, religious and priestly reference point for many people (religious and lay). He cultivated his spiritual life through prayer. He had a strong Eucharistic and Marian spirituality. His spirituality was apparently very simple and very profound, closely linked to the simple expressions of the people and popular religiosity, where the basic and most beautiful things of a lived faith have their origin in the home itself and in the Christian witness of the family. I learnt that he was a kind and merciful man. I believed in the power of priestly grace and in people's capacity for conversion. I realized that he was very much marked by the centrality of the Eucharist, the practice of Eucharistic adoration (customary in our Congregation), the visit to the Blessed Sacrament, and the daily celebration of Holy Mass. I suppose, moreover, that in everything he was influenced by and manifested the rich spirituality proper to the Dehonian charism. He was an everyday saint, friendly and accessible to everyone. He valued everyday life, the simple things, the small things”.

SILENCE - ADORATION

P. O God, you alone are holy and without you no one can be good. Grant that we may follow Christ, our Master, and live in such a way that we may come to you with our brothers and sisters who have gone before us in the faith. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen!

Song

II. HOLINESS “Holiness is a daily conquest” (Fr. Aloísio Boeing)

MONITION

P. Fr Aloísio lived and died with a reputation for holiness. He embraced and lived holiness with such intensity that it became second nature, manifesting itself even in the way he walked, spoke, smiled and related to others. He communicated God in everything!

1. TESTIMONY: (Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú, scj, Interview, Revista Mensageiro do Amor, Nº4, 2022, Jaraguá do Sul, Father Aloísio Institute Archive)

“Holiness only happens when we allow ourselves to be molded by God’s unshakeable mercy and learn to make ours, as Jesus taught us, an offering to him and to our fellow human beings. Holiness is the result of a life that allows itself to be deeply loved and transformed by God’s good deed in order to place itself at the service of all, guarding the life and dignity of every person. As Fr Dehon used to say: ‘Holiness is truly a beautiful reflection of Our Lord’”.

2. TESTIMONY: (Fr. Osnildo Carlos Klann, scj, Father Aloísio Institute Archive, Jaraguá do Sul, 2006)

“I would also emphasize his spirit of detachment from the things of this earth. He truly lived poverty. His ideal was to truly live the congregational charism, always emphasizing the reparatory dimension. Another characteristic of his life was his availability to others. He was always ready to help people. Even during his long illness. We can apply to him what our Rule of Life asks us to be: «prophets of love and ministers of reconciliation» (Cst SCJ, 7). He devoted himself with love to the ministry of reconciliation, to the sacrament of forgiveness. It can also be said of him that he knew how to unite contemplation with action. I’ll end this statement with the words I spoke during the homily at his funeral Mass, words that reflect my deep conviction: «We have lost a priest, a religious exemplar, but we have gained a saint in heaven!»”

3. WORD OF GOD (Romans 8, 28-30)

“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified”.

SILENCE - ADORATION

P. “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body” (1Cor 6, 19-20).

ALL: O God, enlighten my mind and inflame my heart with love, so that I may discern what is good and have the courage to practice it. Through Christ our Lord

Song

III. THE GREAT VIRTUES

MONITION

P. The three theological virtues are interchangeable. They are three moments of a single reality. In fact, one needs the other and together they form the dynamic of the Christian's response to the call to life in Christ. Faith gives substance to hope. Hope, in turn, activates faith. Faith and hope are expressed through charity. It is a faith that is active in love and justice, because it is faith in a God who is love.

P. FAITH – “Faith is doing what Jesus said, no matter how difficult it may be. And doing it decisively. Believing and having the courage to do it. Living by faith is perfection” (Fr Aloísio Boeing)

1. TESTIMONY: (Sister Neide Girola, FMCJ)

“I can say that Fr Aloísio always exercised all the virtues and did so to a heroic degree. There was no hesitation in his exercise of the virtues. He stood out especially for his faith, fear of God, hope and charity. He was a man of authentic faith and intense prayer. Firstly, he was passionate about the Holy Mass. He was a man who got up early to pray and stayed up late into the night. He prayed the Rosary every day. He was faithful in praying the breviary (...) Father Aloísio was extremely devoted to Our Lady; she was his companion, mother, friend, that maternal presence of a woman, because he always said: *“Without Our Lady, the road to Jesus becomes more difficult”*. He was a great devotee of the Venerable John Leo Dehon”.

P. HOPE – “One of the prayers that pleases God the most is trust. The act of trust leads God to act”. “Let us trust and we will see how much God the Father does for those who hope in him”. (Fr Aloísio Boeing).

2. TESTIMONY: (Fr Léo Heck, The Great Virtues of Venerable Father Aloísio, Jaraguá do Sul, SC, 2023)

“Fr Aloísio Boeing had an unshakeable confidence in God’s action and was able to transmit this to people with his way of being. He was totally sure of God’s mercy and providence. Trust was a hallmark of his life. He abandoned himself into the arms of divine love and mercy and led people to hope in God's goodness: *“Pray, my child, pray and trust in God. Trust leads God to act. God is Lord of everything. God can do anything”* (Fr Aloísio). He always showed a constant and strong spirit of hope and optimism, despite setbacks and trials”.

P. CHARITY: “To love simply, freely, without demanding that the other person change because of our love”. “To make amends is to put in order what is wrong in the other person, doing it in their

name". "God's love provokes a force that is capable of making a hero out of every person". (Fr Aloísio Boeing)

3. TESTIMONY: (Archbishop Orlando Brandes, Archbishop of Aparecida, SP, Archive of the Padre Aloísio Institute, Jaraguá do Sul)

"Fr Aloísio lived and died poor. Rich in God, he was a man emptied of himself, unmoved by praise or criticism, he didn't lose his peace or serenity in the face of setbacks, the loss of his sight or the approach of his sister, death, which for him was just the passage through a door that would lead him to the Father's embrace, to the shining light, to endless glory. Totally taken by evangelical poverty, he educated his temperament and became patient, kind and understanding. On the other hand, he died poor in possessions. He had no money, no car and no material possessions. He was free of all attachments".

4. WORD OF GOD (1 Cor 13, 3-8a.13)

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

PSALM 149

Hallelujah!
Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in its maker,
the people of Zion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise his name in dance,
make music with tambourine and lyre.

For the LORD takes delight in his people,
honors the poor with victory.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,

cry out for joy on their couches,

With the praise of God in their mouths,
and a two-edged sword in their hands,

To bring retribution on the nations,
punishment on the peoples,

To bind their kings in shackles,
their nobles in chains of iron,

To execute the judgments decreed for them
such is the glory of all God's faithful.

Hallelujah!

SILENCE - ADORATION

P. O God, may the Sacrament of charity inflame us with your love and, always turned towards your Son, may we learn to recognise him in every brother and sister. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. **ALL:** Amen!

Song

IV. EUCHARIST “You will find me in the Eucharist” (Fr. Aloísio Boeing)

MONITION

P. Father Aloísio was a Dehonian who identified with the Founder of his Congregation, Father John Leo Dehon. He cultivated a Christocentric spirituality. He preached intimate union with Christ as a path to fidelity. His assiduity and insistence on adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another characteristic of the Founder.

4. So said Fr Aloísio:

“In the Eucharist, Jesus is present to bring us that fire of his human heart. He receives us with great affection and attention. He has all the love of God, he has every possibility of making us happy. He wants to communicate his love to us, but he needs hearts that love and welcome him”.

“Everything is in the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, the perfect explanation and the power to fulfill. In intimate contact with Jesus, we will be confirmed in his words: ‘without me you can do nothing’. What we find in the Eucharist we have to transform into self-giving. I often see us at Mass and adoration, recollected, but then we dissipate. Let’s endeavor to have contact with Jesus and then maintain it in love for our brothers and sisters”.

“Let’s continue to deepen our union with Jesus in the Eucharist. Let’s not remain like stagnant water. Standing still, it rots. We need to pour this water on our brothers and sisters. Jesus said: *‘Whoever believes in me, out of him will flow rivers of living water’ (Jn 7:38)*. That’s the ideal. Living around the Eucharist is our vocation”.

SCJ RULE OF LIFE

- “As disciples of Father Dehon, we want to make union with Christ in His love for the Father and for all the principle and center of our life. [...] Faithful to hearing the Word and sharing the Bread, we are invited to discover the person of Christ and the mystery of His Heart ever more deeply, and to proclaim His love which surpasses all understanding” (Cst 17).
- “Our whole Christian and religious life finds its source and its summit in the Eucharist (cf. LG 11). Celebrating the memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord is for

us the privileged moment of our faith and of our vocation as Priests of the Sacred Heart” (cst 80).

- “In very close relation with the Eucharistic celebration, we meditate on the riches of this *mystery of our faith* in adoration, so that the body and blood of Christ, food of eternal life, may transform our beings more deeply. [...] Thus we respond to a requirement of our reparatory vocation. In Eucharistic adoration we want to deepen our union with the sacrifice of Christ for the reconciliation of all with God” (Cst 83).

SILENCE – ADORATION

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER DEHON

ALL – 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.

Tatum ergo

BLESSING

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF THE VENERABLE FATHER ALOÍSIO.

Father of love and mercy
you have called the Venerable Father Aloísio,
to continue the work of your Son.
As a faithful priest of the Heart of Jesus,
he welcomed, counseled and blessed, like a father and friend,
endeavoring to lead people to meet your Son
Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and the Virgin Mary.
Trusting in his intercession, I ask you for the grace I need (....).
And for the praise and glory of the Most Holy Trinity,
grant that one day he may be counted among your saints. Amen.

FINAL SONG