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Minutes of the 792nd Provincial Council Meeting June 30, 2009, Conference Call

PRESENT: Frs. Thomas Cassidy, Jack Kurps and Vien Nguyen participated by telephone. Frs. James Brackin and Yvon Sheehy with Dn. David Nagel were present in the Council Room. Also present were Br. Frank Presto, Provincial Secretary, and Ms. Lisa Brahm, Recording Secretary.

A. Formation

1. Requests to Renew Vows

- a. The council voted to approve Fra. Duy Nguyen for renewal of vows.
- b. The council voted to approve Br. Clay Diaz for renewal of vows. It was noted that Br. Diaz will be spending this summer in South Dakota as he prepares for future ministry after his graduation in December 2009.
- c. The council voted to approve Br. Long Nguyen for renewal of vows.
- d. The council voted to approve Fra. Greg Schill for renewal of vows.

2. Requests to Enter to Novitiate

- a. The council voted to approve Candidate Luis Fernando Orozco for entrance to the Novitiate.
- b. The council voted to approve Candidate Joseph Son Ngoc Ho for entrance to the Novitiate.
- c. The council voted to approve Candidate Joseph Pham Vu for entrance to the Novitiate.

B. Br. Ha Tran's Petition for Dispensation of Vows — The council reviewed the petition of Br. Ha Tran requesting dispensation of perpetual vows and the votum of Fr. Thomas Cassidy as Provincial Superior. The council voted that the petition and its supporting documents should be forwarded to the General Superior and his council for further action. Dn. Nagel informed the council that the departure package has been negotiated and awaits Fr. Cassidy's signature. It does include provision for one full year of counseling after his departure.

C. Election Assembly

- a. Schedule — Br. Presto presented a tentative schedule of tasks to the members of the council. These tasks are required by previous legislation and need to be completed before the election assembly begins on June 14, 2010. The council approved the schedule as presented. Br. Presto informed the council that the proposed bylaws were being prepared. These will be available for initial study and review for the July meeting in St. Louis.
- b. Moderator — The discussion regarding the election assembly also considered the need for a moderator. The by-laws and protocols used in prior assemblies require that the moderator must be someone who is not a member of the US Province. Unlike the Provincial Chapters and other gatherings, the election assembly must follow the approved bylaws and procedures rather strictly. A moderator's role is to ensure adherence to these documents. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that the province look to our confreres in Canada.

The members of the council were asked for their recommendations. It was noted that Fr. John van den Hengel probably would be present in his role as General Councilor. Other members of the Canadian region who were suggested included Fr. Jim Casper, Fr. Peter McKenna and Fr. Greg Murray. After further discussion, Br. Presto was asked to contact Fr. Murray to inquire if he was available and willing to undertake this task.

- D. Houston Community
- a. Local Superior — The council voted to appoint Fr. Edward Kilianski as Local Superior effective July 1, 2009.
 - b. Local Administration — The council engaged in a discussion regarding First Councilor, Treasurer and House Council. The council voted to appoint Fr. Richard Johnston in this role. The councilor voted to appoint Fr. Robert Tucker as Treasurer. The council then voted to appoint those members assigned to the Houston community as the House Council.
- E. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston — The Provincial has received a request from Fr. Edward Kilianski, pastor of OLG, for a grant and a loan to assist in the rectory building project. This request was tabled until the July 23-24, 2009 meeting. Council members expressed their desire to converse with Fr. Kilianski at that time.

Minutes of the 793rd Provincial Council Meeting July 23, 2009, St. Louis, Missouri

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Yvon Sheehy, Fr. Vien Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Jim Brackin and Dn. David Nagel, councilors; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes. Fr. Ed Kilianski joined the council for discussion of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston.

I. Minutes — The council voted to approve the minutes of the 792nd meeting held by conference call, June 30th.

II. Finance

A. Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Rectory — Fr. Edward Kilianski, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Houston, gave the council information on the rectory project. He provided background on the condition of the rectory and the current living situation of the SCJs in the HUD apartments.

An inspection team reviewed the rectory and its various needs. The team included representatives from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, members of parish leadership and Fr. Kilianski. The team determined that it would cost more money to repair the rectory than it would to replace it. The initial estimate to repair known damage and bring the facility to a livable condition is \$150 per square foot. It is anticipated that further work would be required beyond what is visible.

There is a parcel of green space on the parish grounds on which a new rectory could be built. The archdiocesan representatives said that new construction is preferred and recommended. Projected costs for a new rectory are \$500,000 - \$600,000. Initial plans call for three suites for residents, one guest suite, a living room, parlor, laundry, kitchen and dining room. A chapel is not planned as the community there now uses the church. This arrangement would suit both the SCJs and the archdiocese.

The strong recommendation is to build. Groundbreaking could take place in September 2009, with an anticipated completion in June 2010.

The question of financing arose. Fr. Kilianski had previously submitted a request for a loan of \$100,000 and a grant of \$100,000 from the U.S. Province. He then detailed what the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston is willing to commit to. Fr. Kilianski also provided the council with information regarding the first capital campaign to be undertaken by the parish. That is scheduled to begin in September, 2009.

The council asked Fr. Kilianski's opinion on a number of options that could be pursued regarding the province's contribution to the project. The council thanked Fr. Kilianski for his efforts, information and thoughts.

After Fr. Kilianski left the room, the council discussed the options presented. The council voted to give this building project a grant of \$150,000.

- B. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Dn. Nagel said that the meeting with the Franklin City Council regarding the building project went well. There seems to be good city support. An architect is working on putting the drawings together and it is hoped that construction can begin in November. If all goes as planned, the SCJ section should be ready for occupancy by the end of 2010.
- C. Christian Brothers Insurance — The province recently renewed its coverage with Christian Brothers Risk Management Services.
- D. Chilean Request — The Chilean Province requested \$42,000 to cover 75% of the cost of building an addition to the province's drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. The council voted to approve the request.
- E. Province Investment Advisory Group — The group has been expanded to include Sally Smits of Sacred Heart School of Theology, Br. Frank Presto and Br. Ray Kozuch. John Kuxhause, province accountant, also sits in on the meetings (the group meets four times a year with investment advisors to give input on the province investments). Dn. Nagel chairs the group.
- F. Investments — Dn. Nagel reported that investments have made a good turn-around in the past two months. Each of the province's four investment pools saw a 2% to 12% growth.
- G. Audit — Schenck Business Solutions, the firm used last year, has been re-hired to do the province audit. Dn. Nagel noted concerns with the organization last year, especially the timeliness of its audit, however, the company seems to have addressed these concerns.
- H. Accounting — The Province Development Office has moved to Great Plains software, the same software that the Province Treasurer's Office uses, which should simplify work between the Treasurer's Office and the Development Office.
- I. Fund Raising — Dn. Nagel noted that the Province Development Office is doing well; it gave \$7 million to the province this year, which is \$500,000 more than the previous year. St. Joseph's continues to do well, and Mississippi is doing a bit better than it was. Mississippi has a donor base that may be more significantly impacted by the current financial crisis than the other two offices.
- J. Investment Meeting — Councilors are welcome to attend the next investment meeting on Wednesday, August 12.
- K. Gifts
 - 1. Finland — Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid is going to represent the U.S. Province at the installation of the new bishop of Helsinki. Fr. Cassidy is sending a \$5,000 gift to the SCJ bishop for his diocese. It was noted that the diocese's cathedral roof is in such disrepair that the building is unusable. It was suggested that the province get details of the situation and attempt to help with repairs.
 - 2. South Africa — Fr. Cassidy will attend the installation of the new bishop of De Aar, South Africa (it is tentatively scheduled for late September). He plans to give the bishop a \$10,000 gift toward his diocese (the U.S. Province has long had a close relationship with De Aar).

Fr. Cassidy said that he spoke briefly to Bishop Joseph Potocnak, retiring bishop of De Aar. The bishop's tentative plans are to retire at Sacred Heart Monastery.
- L. General Treasurer — The General Curia has asked for suggestions to fill the position of general treasurer. The council's first suggestion is the current treasurer, if he is open to remaining. The second is Br. Jorge Torres of Chile.

III. Administration

- A. Collaboration — Fr. Cassidy was asked to comment on collaborative efforts that he may have learned about at the General Chapter. He said that some areas of the congregation have growing collaborative relationships, especially in formation. He cited Latin America and Africa as examples. New mission endeavors are also done much more collaboratively than in the past. The United States and Indonesia are expanding their collaborative relationship. Fr. Hendrik is going to South Dakota and will soon be joined by a second Indonesian. Fr. Wayne Jenkins will be going to Indonesia in fall to help the province with its archives.

- B. 37th Street Community — The community needs to name a second councilor; a visitation is scheduled for September 21-23.
- C. Miscellaneous Administration — Fr. Cassidy said that he will be re-arranging some of his visitation dates. Br. Presto will be in Italy for August and September with Fr. Francis Vu Tran studying Italian.
- D. Spanish — Fraters Greg Schill and Duy Nguyen will be going to Argentina to work on their Spanish language skills. Fr. Cassidy said that he chose Argentina because the students are still in formation so he wanted them to live in a formation community. Fr. Eduardo Agüero will be their formation director in Argentina; he is well-regarded and is very familiar with Americans from his studies in the United States (both ESL and post-graduate work).

Councilors asked if Spanish studies would become a mandatory part of the province formation program. Fr. Cassidy said that he thinks it needs to be in the United States. Br. Duane Lemke is currently looking at revising formation policies to reflect the need.

- E. International Vocation Program (IVP) — Fr. Vien Nguyen, chairperson of the IVP ad hoc committee, spoke about the committee's first meeting, which took place July 14. The committee is reviewing IVP in regards to admissions and liability, formation and connection to the community, immigration issues and compliance with Praesidium standards, and internal policies. The committee members listened to and discussed reports given by Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, on how immigration might or might not impact the IVP program; by Br. Presto, province risk management supervisor, on the need to define the program and fulfill the guidelines and safeguards recommended by Praesidium standards; and by Br. Ray Kozuch, director of ESL/IVP, on significant issues that need to be addressed if IVP continues.

The ad hoc committee is made up of Fr. Nguyen, Br. Ray Kozuch, Fr. Francis-Vu Tran, Fr. Michael Burke, Fr. Joseph-Thien Dinh, Fr. Mark Mastin and Fr. Chuck Wonch. The committee will meet again in October for more in-depth study and perhaps to formulate recommendations to the provincial administration.

Mary Gorski was asked to review *Cor Unums* to see what has been published about IVP.

- F. Election Bylaws — Br. Presto presented the proposed bylaws for the 2010 Provincial Election Assembly. He said that they were adapted from the 2007 assembly and had been reviewed by Fr. David Szatkowski, province canon lawyer. The council will further review the bylaws at a later date.
- G. Acolyte and Lector Policies — Fr. Vien Nguyen asked what should be done with the revised policies of acolyte and lector. They should be placed in the formation handbook.
- H. North American Meeting — Councilors asked if the meeting of the North American administrations scheduled for October 8-9 in Montréal is still on the calendar. Fr. Cassidy assumes that it is. A consultation for a new superior in Canada should be done soon.
- I. Vietnamese Ministry — Fr. Francis Vu Tran is scheduled to begin studies in Rome next year. A discussion needs to take place as to how the SCJs will serve the Vietnamese community in Milwaukee in the future.
- J. Province Gathering — The council briefly reviewed the recently completed provincial gathering. There was much appreciation for the work of Fr. Jack Kurps and other members of the Steering Committee, as well as Sr. Barbara Stanbridge. Many SCJs found the experience to be positive but hope that there can be some continuation of the process in-between the gatherings.

Of the proposed possibilities presented on Wednesday, the one that struck many was the need for a province retreat or renewal. Follow-up on the discussion of “possibilities” will be done at the council's September meeting. One councilor suggested that the gatherings have been renewals in and of themselves. It has been good to simply get together; there is value in getting together.

While many SCJs appreciate the spirit of the gatherings and the discussions, some are still yearning for more — a move toward more concrete decisions about the future.

It was noted that some of the SCJs who were very strong about certain ministerial concerns and placements seem to be less focused on these individual areas and more open to looking at the province as a whole.

In the closing session several people gave excellent comments on the process and on who they are as SCJs. However, not heard from were the younger members of the province. It was noted that many of the younger SCJs are in a different place; they don't have the same history of the province as the older members. They are anxious to discuss possibilities for the future and take concrete actions.

One councilor said that he heard several SCJs state that it is not appropriate for the province to wait for leadership to make significant decisions. The province as a whole needs to take ownership of its future.

There was discussion of the Thursday morning prayer of healing and forgiveness. Councilors commented on the sign of peace that had SCJs rotate through the circle of participants three times. Although the repetitive process seemed a bit much for some, there was significance in having to repeatedly confront people with whom one might have had discomfort. There was good communication and good laughter.

It is hoped that people who have been holding on to pain can acknowledge that they have been hurt but also learn how they can move forward and not be held back by their hurts.

The Steering Committee will soon meet by conference call and look at ways to continue the process between the province gatherings.

IV. Personnel

- A. Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec — A member of the Polish Province, Fr. Morawiec has expressed an interest in ministering in the United States. Previously, he had worked in India: after injuring a leg in a fall, he is unable to return to ministry there. Fr. Morawiec has a licentiate in theology (he has taught in Poland) and is open to any type of ministry. Fr. Cassidy suggests that he come to the U.S. Province on a “test” basis, first taking time to further his English skills through ESL and accent reduction. Fr. Morawiec speaks English fairly well, but further work would enhance his ministry and give him time to get a sense of the culture of the U.S. Province. He is also open to learning Spanish for possible Hispanic ministry.

The council was receptive to Fr. Morawiec coming to the province but stated that his integration into it be done incrementally with periodic review.

- B. Br. Ray Kozuch — The council voted to extend Br. Kozuch's term as administrator of the Sacred Heart Monastery community by two months (through the end of September). A consultation will be done in early August.
- C. Director of Elder Care — Fr. Jim Brackin has asked to be relieved from his position as director of Elder Care. Fr. Cassidy said that at this time he does not have a person in mind to replace him and would like to wait to see how the new administration at Pinellas Park settles before giving the position serious thought.
- D. Fr. Anthony Kluckman — Fr. Kluckman will join the community at St. Joseph's Indian School as of August 14. He will be chaplain as of the start of the 2009-2010 school year.
- E. Fr. Jim Schifano — Fr. Schifano will join the Villa Maria community as of September 1, working with the SCJ support staff who minister to the retired.
- F. Br. Ben Humpfer — Br. Humpfer will join the Pinellas Park community as of September 1. The council voted to appoint Br. Ben Humpfer as superior of the Pinellas Park community as of September 1.
- G. Fr. Greg Speck — Fr. Speck will join the Pinellas Park community as of September 1. The council voted to appoint Fr. Speck as first councilor of the Pinellas Park community as of September 1.

- V. Next Meeting — The council will meet by conference call on Tuesday, July 28 at 11 a.m.

CALENDAR

2009

August 5	Vow Renewals
August 14	Entrance to Novitiate
August 15	Jubilee Celebration
Aug. 31 - Sept. 2	Mission Education
September 15-16	Provincial Council meeting
October 8-9	North American meeting in Montréal
October 26-27	Provincial Council meeting
December 14-15	Provincial Council meeting

UPDATES

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NECROLOGY

BR. NICOLAAS WILLEMSE of the Flemish-Dutch Confederation who died May 28. He was born in 1941 and professed in 1960.

BR. JIM WILLIS, of the U.S. Province, who died June 10. He was born in 1922 and professed in 1949.

FR. ANTONIUS JOANNES VAN DER WEL, a member of the Flemish-Dutch Confederation, who died June 11. He was born in 1933, professed in 1952 and ordained in 1958.

BR. ANTOINE TOUW, a member of the Flemish-Dutch Confederation, who died June 7. He was born in 1938 and professed in 1993.

FR. JEAN HUBERT DEPLUS, a member of the Euro-Francophone Province, who died June 5. He was born in 1916, professed in 1938 and ordained in 1945.

FR. ADRIAN VISSCHER, a member of the Canadian Region, who died July 14. He was born in 1930, professed in 1952 and ordained in 1957.

FR. GINO CORRADINI, a member of the Portuguese Province, who died July 26. He was born in 1921, professed in 1939 and ordained in 1942.

FR. ANGELO CAMINATI, also a member of the Portuguese Province who died on July 26. He was born in 1926, professed in 1942 and ordained in 1950.