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Minutes of the 828th Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., December 18, 2012

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Bill Pitcavage, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Fr. Terence Langley, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes. Br. Frank Presto was present for discussions regarding the Province Development Office.

- I. Council check-in – Councilors took time to update each other on themselves, ministries and personal concerns. Items of note:
 - Since the last council meeting Fr. Cassidy did a visitation in Mississippi and Texas. Both went very well.
 - Dn. Nagel said that he has been sitting in on meetings at the Province Development Office, as has Fr. Cassidy. This has enhanced communication between the office and provincial administration.
 - The Mississippi community is preparing to host two ESL students for 10 days over the Christmas break.
 - Fr. Haaland recently attended the ordination of an SHST alumnus. In January, he will be giving a retreat for the Mississippi community, and then facilitating an urban retreat experience for second-year seminarians at SHST.
 - Br. Lemke said that it has been a good first semester in the Dehon Formation Community. Many of the students are now on vacation; the novices remain in the house along with Fr. John Czyzynski and himself.
 - Fr. Kilianski noted that celebrations at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston for its patron feast went very well. There was a strong turnout at the Masses on both the eve and day of Our Lady of Guadalupe and good media coverage. Photos and a story are available on the province website.
- II. Administration
 - A. Province Development Office
 1. Preparatory discussion — Before Br. Frank Presto joined the council for an update on the Province Development Office councilors discussed concerns and issues. The office recently completed a search and interview process for a director of development. Councilors discussed the role that the new person would fill in the office.
 2. Br. Frank Presto — Br. Presto updated the council on the activities of the Province Development Office, including income and expense statements.

In early January retirement plans are going to be offered to approximately 10 employees; the plans were just finalized and reviewed by the province attorney. Employees will have 45 days to act on the offer. Tasks in the office are being reorganized to allow it to function with fewer people. Quotas have been instituted in areas such as mail processing. Most employees have been able to meet the higher standards.

The idea of out-sourcing is still being discussed. Br. Presto said that a decision regarding outsourcing will be made before the next budget process begins. Upgrading of IT equipment has begun; money had been set aside for this. It will cost approximately \$66,000 to replace servers and other equipment.

3. New director of fund raising — Br. Presto talked about the process that led to the proposed candidate for director of fund raising. There were 23 candidates from which two were to be presented to the council. Sid Liebenson is the Development Office's preferred candidate. The office informed Mr. Liebenson that he would be offered the position pending the approval of the Provincial Council. There is agreement with him on salary and benefits.

Mr. Liebenson comes from a for-profit background but has done pro-bono development work for two non-profit organizations in Chicago. He is not Catholic and he has minimal background in Catholic fund raising. However, it is thought that he brings marketing, planning and other development skills that could easily be applied to the needs of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. He is currently the chief management consultant and strategist for Personifeye.

Councilors asked if an orientation plan was in place for the new director. He will need to quickly become knowledgeable about the Priests of the Sacred Heart, including the province's other development offices. Br. Presto said that this would be a priority. Councilors emphasized the need for the new director to visit the offices in Mississippi and South Dakota and meet with development staff there. This must be a priority early in the orientation process.

With a new development director (it was emphasized that this should be the title of the fund raising professional, "Director of Development" or "Development Director"), councilors strongly suggested that a new office structure be implemented. The suggestion was that there be a director of finance, a director of human resources and a director of development. These three directors would report to the executive director, Br. Presto. All operations regarding fund raising would report to the development director. He should be given the authority and freedom he needs to establish innovative and integrated development plans.

In the current office structure a development director would be seen as an equal among many managers. The council emphasized that they want the development director to have more authority than what would be found in a manager's position.

Br. Presto said that he would seriously consider what was said. Fr. Kurps said that he would put in writing the office structure that the council is proposing.

Councilors asked about the review process. How and when will the new development director's performance be reviewed? It was noted that he will need some time to make an impact in fund raising; however, there could be a general review of him after three months and then scheduled reviews at later dates.

After Br. Presto left the room, the council discussed the proposed candidate and voted to appoint Sid Liebenson as Director of Development for the Province Development Office. Fr. Cassidy asked Dn. David to inform Br. Presto of the decision.

III. Finance

- A. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Construction of the third wing, or second phase of apartments available for the public, is moving along well. There is significant interest in rentals. Almost all of the apartments in the first phase have been rented. Completion of the second phase is scheduled for July, 2013.

A councilor asked if the first stages of SHML had been paid for yet. Dn. Nagel said they were. The first stage went over budget by approximately \$1 million because of problems with the first contractor. The second stage was on budget and finished on time.

- B. Director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — A job offer had been extended to Brian Fitzpatrick on behalf of the Provincial Council. He and the province were unable to come to an agreement on compensation and the offer has since been withdrawn. The council requested that a wider search be done to fill the position.
- C. Financial Report for FY 2012 — Dn. Nagel noted the financial report that he prepared for distribution to the province through the *Cor Unum*. It is attached as Addendum A.

- D. General Finance Commission — The General Finance Commission will meet in Hales Corners February 26-28. Besides discussion of congregational finances, the commission will meet with the directors of the province fund raising offices, tour Sacred Heart School of Theology, meet with the provincial investment committee (or advisor) and hear reports on the finances of the U.S. Province and Canadian Region.
- E. Medical insurance — Dn. Nagel contacted Christian Brothers for a quote regarding medical insurance for SCJs to see if they could provide coverage at a cost less than what the province is now paying.
- F. Support and Maintenance Trust — The council voted to approve the appointment of Br. Ray Kozuch to the Support and Maintenance Trust for a three-year commitment beginning on January 1, 2013.
- G. SHST dishwasher — Dn. Nagel informed the council that Sacred Heart School of Theology will spend \$27,000 from its major maintenance fund to replace its dishwasher. The old machine needs costly repairs.

IV. Administration

- A. January council meeting — The council changed its January meeting dates from January 29-30 to January 30-31.
- B. Our Lady of Guadalupe — A previous council decision called for the Priests of the Sacred Heart to discontinue ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston. The SCJs were to leave the parish following the celebration of its 100th anniversary, which just concluded.

However, several in the province, including the current administration, have suggested revisiting the decision. Although it isn't easy to find Spanish-speaking priests to staff the parish, the province has been able to do so. The ideal, both for community life and for ministerial needs, would be to have at least three SCJs at the parish. Currently, there are two: Fr. Kilianski (pastor) and Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec. There are also other SCJs in the area who are able to offer occasional assistance.

Fr. Kilianski briefly reviewed the parish with the council. There are currently 3,500 registered households; the estimated number of unregistered Catholics is 4,260. Considered the national parish for Mexican-Americans, it draws people from throughout the archdiocese, not just in the parish boundaries. This was evident at the recent celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe where thousands attended nine Masses over two days.

There are over 800 baptisms a year; clearly the parish is growing. The school is the oldest Catholic school in Houston and has a waiting list to get in. The parish serves many needy people who often fall through the cracks of social safety nets.

Fr. Cassidy said that he is open to continuing ministry at the parish but noted the reality that the province's ability to staff it is tenuous, at least at the moment. However, in the future there could be several SCJs ready to serve, including some men in formation.

It is also possible that SCJs from outside of the province could join the OLG community and serve there. Fr. Kilianski and Fr. Morawiec are aware of at least one international SCJ who has expressed interest.

Could OLG become an "intentional" international community, as is being done in Toronto and Berlin? The parish has been called a very "Dehonian" ministry. If this were the case, perhaps the congregation as a whole would be open to maintaining the community there.

The council voted to rescind a previous council decision and to continue ministry, as a province, at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston.

- C. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — In light of the fact that a province JPR director has not been hired, the annual grant process will continue for another fiscal year. However, all grant recipients will be informed that FY13 will most likely be the last year of such grants and that the province is refocusing its Justice and Peace efforts. Money used for the JPR grants will be used to fund the salary and office needs of a JPR director.

It is hoped that a JPR director can be in place by July. Fr. Jack Kurps will contact Linda Church, province HR director, to start the process for a new search. Ms. Church will select a sample of candidates for Fr. Kilianski and the JPR Commission to review. Dn. Nagel will also be a part of the review process for the JPR director.

- D. Rule of Life — Fr. Jim Schroeder's concerns about the recently revised Rule of Life were discussed at the November North American administrations meeting in Toronto (see Addendum B; the summary of the November 14, 2012 North American Councils meeting). He had questions regarding the translation and the format. Regarding the translation, the North American councils suggested that Fr. Schroeder review several passages of the French to help determine whether there are significant differences between it and the English. He has since received a copy of the French Rule of Life.

During the North American meeting several questions were raised that should be clarified with the General Curia. Fr. Tom Cassidy will soon send a letter to the curia regarding these questions. Fr. Schroeder will be cc'd on the letter.

- E. Director (president) of St. Joseph's Indian School — Within the next two years Fr. Stephen Huffstetter will come to the end of his second, five-year term as director of St. Joseph's Indian School. Councilors agreed that it is important to continue to have an SCJ serve in this role to help to ensure the continuation of the SCJ charism in the school and its related ministries. Lay professionals do much of the operation of the school and development.
- F. Personnel
1. Br. Bernard Taube — Br. Bernard is now 80. He is doing well on his own for now.
 2. Fr. Nick Brown — Fr. Cassidy met with him during his Texas visitation. He found him to be doing well though has some minor health issues. He continues to serve as a hospital chaplain.
 3. Br. Frank Snider — Fr. Cassidy also met with Br. Snider during the Texas visitation. As with Fr. Brown, Br. Snider is also doing well and also has a few minor health concerns. Br. Snider continues to teach and has not discussed retirement. He and Fr. Brown get together one to two times a week.
 4. Fr. Joseph Dinh — He is to graduate from his master's program in May; he told Fr. Cassidy that he is open to any assignment after that.
 5. Fr. Quang Nguyen — Fr. Nguyen completes his doctorate in economics in spring.
- G. China team — Three to four SCJs will be in Hales Corners until June learning English in preparation for anticipated ministry in China. This will also be a time for the group to develop as a community just as the team that began SCJ ministry in the Philippines did. The Philippine-bound group lived at St. Martin of Tours parish while studying English and building community. The group will live at Sacred Heart Monastery.
- H. Admissions Board — Fr. Joseph Dean will conclude his service on the Admissions Board as of August 1, 2013. Fr. Dean, at Fr. Cassidy's request, suggested several SCJs to take his place.
- I. Board of Directors, Sacred Heart School of Theology — The council voted to appoint Fr. Joseph Rodrigues, provincial superior of the Salvatorians, to the SHST board of directors. Because of the Salvatorians involvement at SHST (students and staff) there has generally been a member of the community on the board.
- J. State of the Province — The State of the Province, which includes Fr. Cassidy's report as well as departmental and community reports, will be sent to members of the province electronically on January 3. During the March 13 local superiors meeting a method for processing the report on the local level, prior to province elections, will be reviewed.
- K. Los Jóvenes — Fr. Cassidy will meet in Chicago with younger members of the province at the end of February.
- L. Community Review Board — There are now 15 members on the Community Review Board, the multi-community board developed after the Milwaukee Area Review Board was disbanded by the Capuchins. The goal is to have 21 members. At the beginning of December a training session for the board was held at Sacred Heart School of Theology. A member of the Praesidium staff did the training. Fr. Cassidy said that it went very well. The SCJs have been hosting meetings during the development of the new board and have assumed administrative duties for it. The costs are being split equally among member communities. Ramune Franitza of SHST has been hired to serve as CRB coordinator. Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, developed the legal documentation for the board.

In November, Fr. Pitcavage, Fr. Langley and Ms. Franitza attended a risk assessment seminar in San Antonio.

M. Continental Conference — Following Fr. General’s September visitation of Canada and the United States there will be a Continental Conference for all SCJs in North America beginning in the late afternoon of September 24 and ending at noon on September 27. This is something that is done at the end of each of Fr. General’s continental visitations.

Fr. John van den Hengel, who will be joining Fr. General for the visitation, will be in Hales Corners February 25-26 for a planning meeting regarding the conference. Fr. Kurps is chairperson of the planning group. Representatives from the U.S. Province and Canadian Region will serve on the committee, along with Mary Gorski. Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, has been hired as the moderator. She will also be present at the February meeting.

It was suggested that an SCJ in parish ministry be a part of the planning committee.

The theme for the conference will be “What is the gift that we bring to the Church in North America and how do we sustain it?”

N. Provincial Chapter — The Pre-Chapter Planning Committee will meet January 16. Fr. Langley is to reserve the conference room for this. Mary Gorski will confirm the dates of the chapter with SHST.

V. Future meetings — Monsignor Ross Shecterle, president-rector of SHST, will meet with the Provincial Council at its January meeting to update councilors on the seminary.

The council will meet by Conference Call on January 2, 2013, at 1 p.m. (central).

Addendum A

DATE: October 23, 2012

TO: Province SCJs

FROM: Dn. David Nagel, SCJ

RE: Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2012

The Provincial Council on October 11, 2012 reviewed the financial audit for the Province and approved it. The Statement of Activities is summarized here:

Support, Revenue, & Other Gains:	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total Support & Revenue	\$ <u>10,838,457</u>	\$ <u>10,371,723</u>
Expenditures:	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total program services	\$9,598,658	\$8,452,570
Administration and general	1,399,570	1,161,366
Total expenditures	\$ <u>10,998,228</u>	\$ <u>9,613,936</u>
Transfer, net	\$ <u>-820,209</u>	\$ <u>-772,049</u>
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ <u>2,688,285</u>	\$ <u>2,702,547</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ <u>1,708,305</u>	\$ <u>2,688,285</u>

Expenses for most Province operations were slightly higher than the previous year. As of June 30, 2012 the Province Ministry Fund was \$ 5.9 million which is down from \$7.1 in Fiscal 2011. The Provincial Council approved the use of the Ministry Fund to finance a portion of the Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake Retirement Project and \$3 million was moved to cash for the project. The Province Ministry Fund is the reserve fund for the operation of the Province.

Phase I, Stage II was completed in July of 2012 and seniors from the general public began moving in on August 1st. The cost for Phase I, Stage II was \$8.3 million. The work began on Phase II in August and will be done by July of 2013. The cost is \$6.7 million and is covered by the Province investments from a variety of funds.(\$4 million loan from the Support & Maintenance Trust; \$1. million from the Province Ministry Fund; and \$1.5 million from excess in the CGA Pool)

Worries over the economy and donors vulnerability to financial difficulties has slowed the annual contributions received by the Province. The Priest of the Sacred Heart Development Office in Hales Corners gave \$7.2 mil-

lion to the Province for operations and overseas missions but the Office removed \$2.6 million from the reserves to cover operating costs. The Sacred Heart Southern Missions and St. Joseph's Indian School have raised their contributions to the Province. Contributions from other sources also increased Province income from investments helped to offset the expenses but still ended the year with a deficit of \$802,209.

The SCJ Medical Fund expenses exceeded contributions due to increased costs as the Province membership continues to age.

Medical Fund Activity 2012:

Starting Balance:	\$ 254,691
Contributions:	\$ <u>814,175*</u>
Total Income:	\$ 1,541,111
Expenses:	\$ <u>1,523,142</u>
Gain/ (Loss):	\$ 272,301

The present monthly contribution is \$725 per SCJ member. *Contributions from the SCJ membership equaled \$816,111 while the remaining \$725,000 was taken from the Province Ministry Fund. The projection for expenses for the upcoming year puts the needed monthly contribution from each SCJ at approximately \$1,336. The SCJ monthly contribution is half of what it actually costs the Province for medical coverage. The SCJ Medical Plan has stop-loss insurance of \$50,000 per member so the liability is limited to that amount and expenses over \$50,000 for an individual are reimbursed by the insurance carrier. The stop-loss covered \$50,641 in expenses but in the previous year covered \$469,273 in claims.

The Priests of the Sacred Heart Support & Maintenance Trust continues to support those members of the Province who are not active in ministry. The Trust provides support to retired SCJs for a total of \$1.6 million per year. The monthly support contribution from SCJs active in ministry is \$200 per person.

The investments for calendar year 2011 returned -.75% or breakeven. Investment returns for the third quarter in 2011 was down -11.63% which wiped out the gains in the other quarters. The investment markets have rebounded but projected returns are uncertain. As of the end of the third quarter of 2012 the return rate was 11.8% which is good. Quarterly meetings are held with the investment consultants to review the investment activity. Monthly reports and frequent phone conversations are also used to manage the investments.

These are a few of the financial highlights of the finances for fiscal year 2012. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this information.

Addendum B

Summary of the Meeting of the Councils of Canada and the United States November 14, 2012, Mississauga, Ontario

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Cassidy (provincial superior, United States), Fr. Bill Marvee (regional superior, Canada), Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Terry Langley, Fr. Maurice Légaré, Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. Paul Tennyson, Fr. Richard Woodbury, and Mary Gorski (minutes)

I. Introduction— Fr. Marvee opened the meeting with prayer and a few introductory comments. He said that he had been recently appointed to another three-year term as regional superior; the council is still being discerned.

It was noted that Fr. Claude Bédard was ill so would not be at the meeting; Fr. Bill Pitcavage and Dn. David Nagel from the U.S. Province were also unable to attend.

II. General visitation — Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, general superior, and Fr. John van den Hengel, vicar general, are scheduled to do a visitation of North America in September, 2013. Most likely, they will spend the first week in Canada and then move to the U.S. Province. They plan to visit all of the regions in North America, namely Montréal, Ottawa and Toronto in Canada, and Wisconsin, South Dakota, Mississippi, Florida, Texas and Illinois in the United States.

III. Continental Conference — Following the general visitation, there will be a continental gathering. This is being done at the end of all the continental visitations. Each conference is to have a theme. In Europe, the theme was “secularity.” In Africa SCJs will examine what it means to be a religious there.

A. Date and location — The general administration suggested that the North American conference take place September 26-27, 2013. North American councilors said that it instead be September 25-26, a Wednesday and Thursday, to make it easier for men in parishes to take part. Dates are still tentative.

Although Sacred Heart School of Theology is in session at that time, councilors said that the conference should be held in Hales Corners. There are several housing options and meetings can take place at the Provincial Conference Center. Mary Gorski called Sacred Heart School of Theology to inform them of the dates. She learned that the Cultural Fair will be on September 25; councilors thought that this would be a nice addition to the continental gathering.

B. Topics — Councilors surfaced several topics for the assembly:

1. What impact do we, as SCJs, want to have on North America?
2. Aging. It was noted that the impact of an aging and smaller SCJ presence in North America will impact HOW the SCJs can make an impact.
3. How do SCJs in North America empower their younger members to take ownership and leadership of the SCJ entities? How do older SCJs who are in leadership begin to let go and transfer the identity of the province and region to the next generations?
4. What does it mean to be a religious (in general, not just an SCJ religious) in a North American context where we all are marked by the individualistic and materialistic culture of our time? How does one live poverty in, as one person said, the “land of plenty” (for some)?
5. Immigration.
6. The role of the Church in politics.

Later in the meeting the following theme was agreed upon for the continental gathering: **“What is the gift that we bring to the Church in North America and how do we sustain it?”**

C. Attendance — All SCJs in North America will be encouraged to attend the congress.

D. Organizing committee — Fr. Kurps agreed to develop and chair an organizing committee of approximately five people for the congress. Representatives from the United States and Canada should be a part of it.

The committee’s task will be to plan for the gathering, but not necessarily do presentations at it.

E. Outside facilitator — Councilors are open to having an outside facilitator for the conference.

IV. Rule of Life

- A. Fr. Jim Schroeder's comments — Fr. Jim Schroeder sent a letter to members of both administrations with concerns about the recent edition of the Rule of Life. He has questions about some items of translation and the current format. The General Directory and the Constitutions run together throughout the book, differentiated by color. The edition for the U.S. Province also includes the Provincial Directory in a third color.

Previously, the General Directory and the Constitutions ran on separate, facing pages. The Provincial Directory was in its own volume. Fr. Schroeder suggested that this is a better format for many. There are more frequent changes to the Provincial Directory so this is also good reason to keep this in a separate edition.

- B. Format — Councilors discussed concerns regarding the format of the Rule of Life. It was noted that Br. Frank Presto, when he served as provincial secretary, received guidelines for the design from the general administration. Mary Gorski did the layout according to this design. She shared drafts of it with members of the general administration before it was completed.

There are mixed opinions regarding the new format. In some instances, having the three texts running together (in the U.S. edition; two texts in the international version) is helpful. However, in other instances the previous format is easier to use.

It was suggested that the three texts be separated and that an electronic version of each be made available. If SCJs find this to be useful, limited numbers could be printed. Mary Gorski said that she would investigate how this could be done. Br. Lemke said that he would send her a Word text that he developed in which he separated the documents.

- C. Translation — The English translation was done from the Italian. Councilors asked which was the official text of record, the French or Italian (previously, it had been the French). Several assumed that it was now the Italian because the language used for approved changes to the General Directory at the last General Chapter was Italian. Were those changes then translated into French for the “official” edition? Or, had the official edition become the Italian?

The secretary general was contacted by email. He indicated that the official text of the Rule of Life is the French.

This raises the question of which text should be referred to for questions about the English edition? Should it be the Italian because it is the language in which changes were made? French, because it is the official edition?

Mary Gorski will get a copy of the French Rule of Life for comparison with the English edition. Fr. Woodbury said that he was aware of differences between the two.

Perhaps Fr. Schroeder can review several passages of the French to help determine whether there are significant differences between it and the English.

Fr. Cassidy will contact Fr. Schroeder to let him know of the councils' discussions. Fr. Kurps said that he would also be in dialogue with Fr. Schroeder.

V. International gatherings

- A. General Conference — The theme of the General Conference in Neustadt, Germany, was “Educare.” This was a term used to describe ways in which SCJs, as well as those who collaborate with the community, can have an impact on the formation of youth from a Dehonian perspective. Several lay people, including two school principals from schools in North America (Michelle Cyr of Sacred Heart School in Quebec and Kathleen Donohue of St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota), joined SCJs at the conference.

Fr. Cassidy said that while he preferred a different topic for the conference, he thought that the Educare theme was well-done. There were good presenters and good sharing. Fr. Marvee agreed. Michelle Cyr told Fr. Woodbury that she also thought that the conference was very good. The two North American principals met with the other lay people present in Neustadt. They want to find ways to collaborate in the future. In particular, it is hoped that Sacred Heart in Quebec can be added to the SCJ Schools in Collaboration group.

- B. Aging — A councilor asked if there had been further meetings regarding aging in the congregation; Fr. Schroeder is on a committee that has met several times to discuss issues and concerns of aging SCJs and provinces. Fr. van den Hengel is chairperson of that committee. It was thought that there had been good dialogue but the status of the committee's work is unknown.

Councilors discussed concerns related to aging provinces. How is the congregation preparing for the shifts that are taking place? Entities that have traditionally been able to raise finances for the congregation are diminishing while those that are not yet self-sufficient are growing. This is a challenging situation, but it was noted that the general treasurer has been working with younger entities, training its members in financial management and looking at ways of self-sufficiency.

- C. Major superiors meeting — The congregation's major superiors met for two-and-a-half days after the General Conference. It was primarily a time to get an update from the general administration on the general plan and for dialogue between the entities and general administration.

Among those who spoke at the major superiors' meeting was Fr. Thomas Vinod, superior of India. He said that the Indian District is young and benefits from interaction with older SCJs. He encouraged the superiors to send men to the district, even for a brief period of time, to share their knowledge and work with the Indians. Fr. Cassidy said that he hopes to do a short-term assignment in India when his term as provincial superior is done.

- VI. Canadian regional meeting; province gatherings — In October SCJs in Canada held a gathering to review what has taken place in the region since the convergence of the English and French-speaking Canadian Provinces; in particular, the SCJs looked at how the region addressed the convergence statements that were developed over ten years ago.

During their assembly, which had a professional facilitator, SCJs talked about the three distinct communities in the region: Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal. How do the communities interact with one another?

A renewed emphasis on community life was adopted and each community went home with a commitment to do things to enhance their community life.

A significant challenge to the convergence is language. The region, as is Canada itself, is bilingual. Yet, the fact that English is spoken by most SCJs in the region does result in a dominance of the language over French. When the two entities merged into one region there had been a commitment to being fully bilingual; those who did not speak French were encouraged to learn the language.

During the October meeting, Canadian SCJs reviewed the language issue. The ideal would be that all members of a bilingual region speak both languages of the region. But Canadian SCJs noted the significant challenge a person in his 50s, 60s, or 70s faces in trying to learn a new language. To become competent in the language, time would need to be taken from ministry.

The dialogue that took place during the October gathering helped SCJs get a better sense of the challenges that both English and French-speaking SCJs face. There is a continued commitment to be a bilingual region — new members will be expected to learn both languages (it was noted that students in the U.S. Province are also expected to be bilingual, generally learning Spanish) — but SCJs left with a better sense of their challenges.

One of the Canadian councilors said that he did not have much enthusiasm for the gathering before he went but that he left it feeling energized and positive.

Members of the U.S. administration briefly talked about the three gatherings the province had at the beginning their term. They said that one of the best things to come from the meetings was a greater desire of members of the province to simply be together. This sense continues in province functions and there also seems to be a greater commitment to community life. That's not to say that there are not challenges, but the spirit found in many communities seems better.

The three gatherings were also an excellent opportunity to dialogue with the province about the newly developing Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

Regarding the Canadian gatherings, several members of the region said that they were pleased with the consistently strong commitment by members to attend regional functions.

A member of the U.S. council said that it seems that SCJs in their 30s and 40s in the U.S. Province do not have as strong of a commitment to such gatherings. He said that he has challenged members when they do not attend.

- VII. Internationality — Both Canada and the United States host international SCJs; some in ministry, some as students. This has been a positive experience in many ways and speaks to what it means to be an international religious community. The younger SCJs

from other countries bring a lot of life and energy to the communities. Their presence is well-appreciated.

However, both administrations said that challenges do arise. Regardless if an international SCJ is present as a student or in ministry, expectations need to be developed and put into writing. For example, if an SCJ comes for study, a formal agreement needs to be made with the SCJ's entity of origin regarding academic and financial expectations, timelines and other needs. If an SCJ is on a long-term ministry assignment, it is best to have him formally join the region or province in which he ministers. If and when he returns to his country of origin he can easily transfer back.

It would also be helpful if a more formal process of accompaniment were developed for international SCJs.

Regarding internationality in general, Fr. Marvee talked about the Toronto community's focus on being an international community. Currently a Brazilian and two Indonesian SCJs are a part of the community and it is hoped that more international SCJs can join them. Ministry by these men is to the Portuguese and Indonesian communities in Toronto. Also, Fr. Peter McKenna's ministry focuses on the concerns of immigrants.

VII. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — A member of the Canadian administration asked about Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake: now that it has been operational for some time, how is it going? Fr. Cassidy was very positive about both the SCJ portion and the apartments for the general public. There is a good spirit in the house and a general satisfaction with the structure. Most of the apartments for lay residents are rented and the third wing is expected to be ready next summer. The residence offers a new option for ministry; there is a good response among the laity to Mass and other possibilities for prayer at the residence. The chapel gets good use.

It is hoped that operation of the lay residence can pay for the structure in several years.

Br. Brian Tompkins is doing well and making a good contribution to the Sacred Heart retirement community.

XI. Next Meeting — It was suggested that SCJs from both administrations take part in the April 8-9, 2013 Mission Education Conference in South Dakota. A short meeting could take place in South Dakota in conjunction with this.

CALENDAR

January 30-31: Provincial Council Meeting
March 13: Local Superiors Meeting
March 14: Provincial Council Meeting
April 8-9: Mission Education Conference, St. Joseph's Indian School
April 30 – May 1: Provincial Council Meeting (budgets)
Week of June 3: Province Election Assembly
September: Fr. General's visitation to North America followed
September 24-27: North American Conference, Hales Corners

2014:

July 7-11 Provincial Chapter

UPDATES

Fr. Mark Mastin

95-1022 Meahou St.
Mililani, HI 96789
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Fr. Yulius Sunardi

St Titus Parish
3006 Keenwood Rd.
East Norriton, PA 19403
610-279-4990 (home)
610-518-2301 (work)

NECROLOGY

Fr. Elio Carlassare, a member of the North Italian Province, died on December 2. He was born in 1925, professed in 1943 and ordained in 1952.

Br. Fortunato Tomás Cabezón Contreras, a member of the Spanish Province, died November 20. He was born in 1924 and professed in 1949.

Br. Giuseppe Patrizio Carobbio, a member of the South Italian Province, died November 5. He was born in 1920 and professed in 1939.

Br. Joseph P. Tormey, a member of the British-Irish Province, died October 28. He was born in 1918 and professed in 1956.

Fr. Lucjan Mazur, a member of the Austrian-Croatian District, died October 31. He was born in 1936, professed in 1953 and ordained in 1961.

Fr. Marcel Deloddère, a member of the Franco-European Province, died October 23. He was born in 1923, professed in 1947 and ordained in 1952.

Fr. Edoardo Pezzotta, a member of the North Italian Province, died October 16. He was born in 1920, professed in 1942 and ordained in 1947.