

## INSIDE

Minutes of the  
February 17-18  
Provincial Council  
meeting, p. 1

Calendar, p. 8

Updates, p. 8

Necrology, p. 8

## Minutes of the 809<sup>th</sup> Provincial Council Meeting February 17-18, Hales Corners, Wis.

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Fr. Bill Pitcavage, guest of the council; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes.

I. Minutes — Councilors acknowledged that they had voted to approve the minutes of the 808th council meeting during a prior conference call.

II. Personal Sharing — Participants took a few minutes to update each other on themselves and their ministries. Some items of note:

- Fr. Cassidy noted that a snowstorm got in the way of his plans to go to Rome for Fr. David Szatkowski's doctoral defense. Fr. Kurps was able to represent the province.
- Fr. Haaland will be in Mississippi next week to give a mission education presentation for Sacred Heart Southern Missions staff.
- Fr. Kilianski said that planning is underway for the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe's (Houston) 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. There will be a special event in each month of the anniversary year with an anniversary mass on August 18, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first mass. The celebration will end with the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December.

III. Frs. Tom Lind and Bill Pitcavage

- A. Restored to Public Ministry — The Milwaukee Area Review Board (MARB) met on February 14 and agreed with Fr. Cassidy's judgment that the allegations against Frs. Tom Lind and Bill Pitcavage were not established as credible. Fr. Cassidy has restored both men to public ministry.
- B. Reinstatement of Fr. Bill Pitcavage — Fr. Pitcavage resigned from the Provincial Council at the start of the investigative process noted above. Now that he has been restored to public ministry Fr. Cassidy proposed that he be reinstated as a member of the council.

The council voted to reinstate Fr. Pitcavage to the council. The decision needs the approval of the superior general and his council.

IV. Visioning: Continuing Discussion of Leadership — When possible, the council will begin its meetings with time to discuss a theme or an area of concern. The purpose of this is not to arrive at conclusions or decisions but to discuss topics at a deeper level. The council continued its previous discussions on leadership in preparation for the March 1-2 meeting of local superiors (coordinators). The following comments are paraphrased.

A. Membership Input

- Comments from the membership to councilors since the last *Cor Unum* went out have been positive. [In regards to last month's visioning session] Members were

happy to see that issues related to leadership, and in particular, the role of the local superior/coordinator, were being discussed.

- Many SCJs have expressed a desire to return to the use of the word “superior” as opposed to coordinator.
- The members seem ready to have the role redefined.

#### B. Role of Local Superior/Coordinator

- Defining the role is more important than choosing a name for it. There is “baggage” that comes with the word “superior.” Years ago this word often represented an adult-child relationship in local communities. The word “superior” brings more authority with it but it is important that the authority is well defined so that difficulties of the past are not repeated.
- There doesn’t seem to be a job description for the local coordinator/superior.
- It is important to empower the local coordinator/superior, not necessarily give him power. Empowerment would come from the local community.
- The role isn’t just one of authority, it is also a pastoral role. It is essential that the man who serves as local coordinator/superior can be a pastor to the community.
- Animation is important but this is often not addressed because it isn’t canonically dictated. However, the role of local coordinator/superior needs to be more than legal observances.
- The role of local coordinator/superior needs to be ritualized and blessed.
- The title of the local leader needs to have “kick.” “Coordinator” does not have this; “superior” does.
- The requirement of quarterly or annual reports would help to give structure to the role of local coordinator/superior. The report would also force the local coordinator/superior to periodically meet one-on-one with members of his community. The reports would also be helpful to the provincial superior in knowing what is going on in a community.
- The reports have to have purpose or they will feel like a waste of time. Perhaps the reports could be designed to be shared with the province? There could still be a confidential section for the provincial superior. The reports would be a good way to share information in the province about local communities.

#### C. Concerns

- It is a problem that generally no one in a community wants to serve as local coordinator/superior. The role is not embraced but instead often seen as something an SCJ is “stuck with.”
- It is a frustrating role that is not well defined. Often SCJs do not want to serve as local coordinators/superiors because they don’t know what the role entails. Often, it seems like the local coordinator is given problems but little or no authority to deal with them. The local community needs to help define the role so that both the community and the SCJ who agrees to serve as local coordinator/superior knows what is expected.
- We can redefine the role now with checks and balances.

#### D. Local Communities

- Not only does the role of the local coordinator/superior need to be defined but before that, we need to define what it means to be a member of a community. What are a person’s obligations as a member of a local community? What makes us more than roommates?
- Years ago members of a community had to be more accountable to one another because more was shared – a shared television, shared cars. Now that each man has his own car and television there isn’t the same interaction. One can go days without seeing a member of his community.
- Accountability in smaller communities is especially important. This should be a topic of discussion for the local coor-

dinators/superiors meeting. How do we make small communities work?

- What do you do when an SCJ doesn't have a concept of accountability or see the need to live as an active part of a community?
- In some provinces members of the local community get together not only for dinner, but later in the evening to relax and talk about their days. We need to find a way to share in each other's lives, not just have dinner together.
- What does it mean to be in relationship with those we live?

#### E. House Council

- What is the purpose or role of the house council?
- The role of the local coordinator/superior needs to be defined before the role of the house council is reviewed.
- The local coordinator/superior should animate the local community and the house council needs to help him to do that.

#### F. Accountability

- Accountability needs to be defined. The community and the superior need to define how each will be accountable to the other. Also, accountability cannot be imposed. There needs to be a sense among the membership of wanting to be accountable to one another. Families, roommates — anyone who lives with another needs some accountability. It is simply courteous. Problems develop when there is poor accountability and poor communication. We are a religious family and should have expectations of each other.
- It is a cause for concern — especially in current times — when a member of the community is gone and no one knows where that person is. It isn't a matter of being nosy or intrusive but of having a sense of what is going on with those with whom a person lives.
- We have become very independent and sometimes find accountability to be intrusive.
- I would welcome being asked by another about what I am doing, even about my spending habits.
- "Accountability" has a negative feel about it for many.
- Can individuals change? Can a community change?
- Not everyone is going to change but those who want a better sense of community and religious life must work at it. Communities need to accept that some people may never "come on board" but they still need to be welcoming to them and move forward with those who do want to develop a better community life, including accountability.

#### G. Local Discussions

- The issue of accountability would make for a good discussion on the local level.
- When topics are given, many local communities will gather to discuss them. Could topics periodically be given to communities for discussion?
- A committee could develop topics for discussion and send them out every couple of weeks. Initially, it was suggested that the topics appear in *Fridge Notes*, but there are probably better vehicles for this.
- This could be part of a refoundation effort.
- If communities knew that what they were discussing would have impact on the provincial level they might be more interested in taking part. Perhaps short discussion write-ups could be sent to the provincial administration.

### V. Administration

#### A. Meeting of Local Coordinators/Superiors

1. Fr. Cassidy's Letter — Fr. Cassidy wrote a reflection to be shared with local coordinators/superiors. It speaks to the

role of the local coordinator/superior, but also about local communities and religious life in general. He emphasized that the reflections are his personal observations. Fr. Pitcavage, who is organizing the local coordinators/superiors meeting, will send it by email to participants prior to the gathering. After the meeting the letter will be sent to the rest of the province.

One councilor noted that while Fr. Cassidy spoke of the vows of obedience and poverty, he did not address chastity. Fr. Cassidy agreed but said that he thinks that at this time the main concerns are obedience and poverty. Another councilor noted that poverty in religious life is more than monetary. Celibacy is a poverty of sexuality. In this sense, it is being addressed to some extent.

2. Schedule — Fr. Pitcavage outlined the schedule for the two-day meeting. It will start with a welcome by Fr. Cassidy and a time for participants to share their expectations for the meeting in small groups. There will be a presentation on the challenge of being a local coordinator/superior. There will be time to identify the expectations and role of leadership at different levels. There will be time for input from and to provincial councilors.

Primarily, the gathering will be a time to share and to honor the role of local coordinators/superiors. It is hoped that the local coordinators/superiors will once again meet on a regular basis following this meeting.

3. Participants — All of the local coordinators/superiors will be at the March 1-2 meeting. With the councilors there will be 14 present.

B. Province Plan — Councilors briefly reported on their areas of responsibility.

1. Formation and Vocations — Br. Lemke has formed a Formation and Vocation Committee that includes Fr. Joseph Dinh, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, Dn. Duy Nguyen, Br. Long Nguyen, Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Frater Joseph Vu. The formation team and the director of the vocation office are ex officio members. The committee has a variety of functions, including serving as a sounding board for the province vocation office and formation team, brainstorming on ways of communicating the SCJ charism, and assisting the formation team with future revision of formation handbooks.

Each member of the committee commits to attending at least one national gathering of the National Religious Vocation Conference or the Religious Formation Conference.

2. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — Fr. Kilianski reported that the Justice and Peace Committee met the day before. Those in attendance included Br. Lenny Zaworski, Dn. Duy Nguyen, Dn. Greg Schill, Fr. Bob Bossie, and Fr. Kilianski. Serving on the committee but not available for the first meeting: Fr. John Klingler, Br. Clay Diaz and Fr. Wayne Jenkins.

Each participant brought materials about immigration. The hope is that the committee can develop a strategy to educate the membership about immigration issues. The commission would like to have time at the July assembly to begin a conversation on immigration.

Councilors suggested that a full morning of the assembly be devoted to immigration. Fr. John van den Hengel is to present the statistics of the congregation. Perhaps in doing so he can lay the groundwork for a discussion on immigration.

Br. Zaworski is going to review the grant procedures. There will be a conference call in March to review grant requests.

3. Ministries — Fr. Kurps said that he has talked to Mike Tyrell and Mike is willing to continue to be the chairman of the Dehonian Affiliates Committee. Fr. Kurps noted several mission education efforts, including having representatives of St. Joseph's Indian School at last October's in-service for Sacred Heart Southern Missions. Representatives from SHSM will go to St Joe's to do a similar in-service. He also noted that instead of having a summer Schools in Collaboration activity that there were plans to do something during the school year. The next Province Mission Education gathering will be in 2012.

C. Provincial's Travels and Concerns — Fr. Cassidy briefed councilors on his recent activities and upcoming plans as well as future issues of concern that the council will need to address. He invited Fr. Kilianski to talk about his visitation to the 37<sup>th</sup> Street community, which he did in place of Fr. Cassidy, who is a member of the community. Fr. Kilianski said that he

enjoyed the visitation and was impressed by the openness of the members of the community. He noted that his approach might have been a little different if he knew at the time that the community would not be moving until late spring. The 37<sup>th</sup> Street community will remain in place for several months because of construction delays of the new development.

D. South Dakota

1. C-POSH Board of Directors — The council voted to endorse the C-POSH board recommendation to appoint Sandra Albertson and Doug Knust to the board for a three-year term beginning in April, 2011.
2. Hall of History — The council voted to endorse the C-POSH board recommendation that St. Joseph Indian School begin to spend the \$700,000 budgeted for the development of text, displays and contents for the Hall of History. The council gave this consent with the understanding that all text for the Hall of History will be reviewed by the council and/or whomever the council delegates to do so.

- E. Praesidium Reaccreditation — Br. Presto distributed the list of SCJs who have gone through the Jesuit training program mandated by the Provincial Council. Just about the entire membership has been trained and plans are in place to train the few remaining. Members of the community in the ESL program will be required to go through the training if they are staying for an extended period of time. In the future it is anticipated that all priests in the ESL program will have to file a “letter of worthiness” with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Br. Presto shared the schedule for Praesidium’s Christy Schiller who will be doing on-site visits as a part of the reaccreditation. Mississippi is the representative sample community.

A councilor asked about the cost of the reaccreditation. It is estimated that expenses related to reaccreditation will be between \$13,000 - \$15,000. Praesidium and CMSM are considering changing the reaccreditation review period from every three years to five. This will cut down on costs, which can be a significant burden for some communities.

- F. Calendar — The council set the following meeting dates:

June 22: conference call at 10:30 a.m. to review formation requests.

August 30-31: council meeting

October 4-5: council meeting

December 14-15: council meeting

- G. Mexico — At a previous meeting Fr. Cassidy suggested that the province collaborate with the Canadian Region to establish an SCJ venture in Mexico. He further suggested that the Spanish Province and Venezuelan Region be contacted for assistance. The council was open to the idea and sent a request to the province membership for feedback. Fr. Cassidy contacted Fr. Bill Marvee of Canada to get his input. Fr. Marvee told Fr. Cassidy that he discussed the suggestion with his council. He noted that the region is tight on personnel, which might make participation difficult. However, he did suggest informing the region of the idea to see if there might be a Canadian SCJ interested in participating.

The Canadian and U.S. administrations will discuss the Mexico project during their joint meeting in May.

- H. Training Course for Local Superiors — At the 2010 Major Superiors meeting it was suggested that a workshop be developed for local superiors. Fr. Claudio Dalla Zuanna, vicar general, sent a letter to major superiors asking for input on a proposal which outlined the purpose and content of such a course. It is suggested that the course last ten days and be offered in a variety of areas and in different languages.

Councilors noted that a shared language is vital for such a workshop, but that there would be significant cultural differences that might affect how the role of local superior is viewed in various entities. Perhaps there could be two English workshops, one for SCJs from the United States, Canada and Great Britain, and a second for Asian SCJs

Regardless of the format, councilors hoped that the province could be represented at the workshop, though it was noted that taking two weeks out of a schedule could be difficult for many.

- I. Mississippi Request — Bishop Joseph Latino of the Diocese of Jackson has asked the SCJs to consider staffing several parishes in the Mississippi Delta. The region is one of the poorest in the United States and has the highest concentration of African Americans in Mississippi. As with much of the state, the Hispanic presence is growing in the area.

Fr. Kurps reported that the local community in Mississippi is in favor of taking on ministry in the parishes, centered in and around Clarksdale. There are many possibilities for ministry in the area, especially with the poor.

- J. Jubilees — The date for the province jubilee celebration is set for July 11, starting with a 4:30 mass.
- K. Future Positions — Positions that should be reviewed (to determine if they can or should be filled) are personnel director and province director of senior care.

## VI. Finance

- A. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — The province and Mark Carstensen Construction came to an impasse regarding significant aspects of the construction project which is now 30% over budget. Mark Carstensen met with Dn. Nagel on January 20. Mr. Carstensen ordered a work stoppage on SHML after that meeting. The province attorney believes the work stoppage to be a breach of contract. On January 27 the Priests of the Sacred Heart took possession of the construction site and began the process of hiring a new contractor (Horizon) to finish Stage 1 and build Stage 2.

The council voted to engage Horizon Construction to finish Stage 1 and complete Stage 2 of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

The transition process to the new contractor should take about a month; March 14 is the tentative start date with the new contractor. It is hoped that construction of Stage 1 can be completed by June 1. Horizon's bid is slightly more than Carstensen's original bid of \$12.8 million for both stages; however, that is still in negotiation.

There are financial issues to be resolved with Carstensen concerning its work with SHML. It was noted that Mr. Carstensen has retained a bankruptcy attorney for other legal matters.

- B. South Dakota — As of the February council meeting only two capital items have been brought to the treasurer's attention for FY 2011-12: \$2.4 million for the Hall of History at St. Joseph's Indian School and \$1.5 million for campus updates at St Joseph's.
- C. Treasurer's Updates
  - 1. Personal Accounts — Dn. Nagel noted seven SCJs who had contacted him regarding personal bank accounts. Fr. Cassidy had sent a letter requesting such information after the last council meeting.
  - 2. Investments — Dn. Nagel reported that the investment return for 2010 was 16%, which is very good. The investment committee met on February 15; stakeholders met with the independent investment consultant and the consultant from Merrill Lynch on February 16.
  - 3. Employee Retirement Trust — Fr. Mark Mastin will need to be replaced on the trust (he is now in the military). Also, the process is underway to move the management of investments for the Lay Employee Pension Trust to the Principal Financial Group.

## VII. Personnel

- A. Dn. Greg Schill — The council voted to approve Dn. Greg Schill for ordination to the priesthood. He hopes to have the ordination on May 21 in San Antonio, Texas; he is currently in contact with Bishop Oscar Cantú, auxiliary bishop of San Antonio.
- B. Dn. Duy Nguyen — Dn. Duy is preparing to request permission for priesthood ordination. He tentatively plans to be ordained at Sacred Heart Monastery in June.
- C. Fr. John Czyzynski — The council voted to extend Fr. Czyzynski's term as novice master through the 2012 academic year.
- D. Fr. Jan de Jong — The council voted to extend Fr. de Jong's term as president-rector of Sacred Heart School of Theology through the 2012 academic year.
- E. Fr. Lenny Elder — Fr. Cassidy extended Fr. Elder's term as pastor of St. Joseph's in Holly Springs for a year; Fr. Elder turns 70 this year and so his assignment will need to be reviewed on a yearly basis. His term as coordinator is up in December, 2011. A consultation will need to be done at that time for local leadership.

- F. Fr. Paul Kelly — Fr. Kelly will complete his assignment at the Province Development Office in June. He will then take a year-long sabbatical.
- G. Fr. Jack Kurps — The council voted to approve Fr. Kurps for a second five-year term as executive director of Sacred Heart Southern Missions.
- H. Br. Duane Lemke — His term as coordinator/superior of the Dehon Formation Community comes to an end July 1. A consultation will need to be done.
- I. Fr. Richard MacDonald — Fr. MacDonald is now retired.
- J. Fr. Dominic Peluse — The council voted to appoint Fr. Peluse to a five-year term as spiritual director of the Province Development Office beginning July 1.
- K. Fr. Bill Pitcavage — His assignment ends in July; Fr. Cassidy will speak to him in March regarding future plans.
- L. Fr. Bernie Rosinski — Fr. Rosinski is going to the Philippines in April as a part of the district's effort to improve students' English skills and give them a sense of the worldwide congregation.
- M. Fr. Mark Mastin — Fr. Mastin has completed the physical part of his military training.
- N. Juan Carlos Castaneda Rojas — His options for re-entry to the United States are exhausted. He is pursuing candidacy with the Spanish Province.

VIII. Conference Call — These minutes will be reviewed during a conference call on February 23 at 2 p.m.

## CALENDAR

2011

March 1-2:	Local superiors (coordinators) meeting
March 21:	Deadline for SCJ feedback on proposed Mexico project
March 29-30:	Provincial Council meeting
May 9-11:	Provincial Council meeting (budgets)
May 23-24:	North American councils meeting (Chicago)
Week of July 11:	Province Assembly, Hales Corners, Wis.
July 11:	Province Jubilees
August 30-31:	Provincial Council meeting
October 4-5:	Provincial Council meeting
November 14-16:	SCJ Retreat, Pinellas Park
December 14-15:	Provincial Council meeting

## UPDATES

FR. BRIAN BENOIT

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FR. CHARLES YOST

New email: charlesyost10@gmail.com

## NECROLOGY

FR. FERNANDO FERREIRA PINTO, a member of the North Brazilian Province, died January 19. He was born in 1948, professed in 1977 and ordained in 1978.

FR. WILHELMUS JOHNNES MARIA PORRE, a member of the Flemish-Dutch Confederation, died January 22. He was born in 1921, professed in 1941 and ordained in 1948.

FR. JOZEF STOSZKO, a member of the European Francophone Province, died February 2. He was born in 1925, professed in 1946 and ordained in 1953.

FR. HENDRICUS MARIA MERKS, a member of the Dutch Province, died on January 30. He was born in 1924, professed in 1947 and ordained in 1953.

FR. FRANCESCO DONADONI, an Italian member of the Mozambique Province, who died February 8. He was born in 1920, professed in 1938 and ordained in 1946.

FR. VINCENT BENIGNO GARCÍA ERCILLE, a member of the Spanish Province, who died February 13. He was born in 1927, professed in 1945 and ordained in 1952.

FR. STANISLAUS ROOSMAN, a member of the Indonesian Province, died February 15. He was born in 1942, professed in 1962 and ordained in 1971.

FR. DORVALINO ELOY KOCH, a member of the Central Brazilian Province, died February 15. He was born in 1920, professed in 1943 and ordained in 1948.

FR. GIOVANNI AGOSTINO CHIAPPA, a member of the North Italian Province, died February 21. He was born in 1914, professed in 1932 and ordained in 1940.