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Minutes of the 842nd Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., March 19-20, 2014

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, provincial superior; Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Christianus Hendrik, councilors. Present after faith-sharing: Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary and Mary Gorski, minutes. Present for financial matters: Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer.

I. Faith sharing – The council spent Wednesday morning in prayer and faith sharing. The theme: “Called to be more faithful, more compassionate, in the spirit of poverty.” The two reflection questions:

- Responding to our call “To follow Jesus in the spirit of poverty with the poor” we cannot allow our witness to disappear into the popular attitudes around us. What experiences can help us to bring a powerful message of the Kingdom of God to the people we serve?
- How do we better involve our community to build a merciful and compassionate community with the people around us?

II. Administration

A. Provincial Chapter

1. State of the Province

a. Survey — Sixty-seven SCJs responded to the survey for the State of the Province; the results were sent to the membership and they are also in the Members’ section of the province website.

The general “scores” were higher than expected; however, concerns were noted in individual comments. Respondents often cited their own health and sense of well-being as better than the local community, and the local community better than the province as a whole.

b. Statements from collaborators — SCJs at various ministry sites were asked to identify two non-SCJs within the ministry to answer the following question: “How is this ministry Dehonian?” Br. Presto said that he has received some responses but that he will work on getting a wider representation of the province.

The statements have been very positive; there is an appreciation of the work and the witness of the SCJs. Although the statements were originally requested as a part of the preparation of the State of the Province report, it was suggested that they be read throughout the chapter much as the “I am Dehonian because...” statements were read at the last Mission Education Conference in South Dakota.

c. Report — Fr. Huffstetter hopes to complete the State of the Province by mid-April. He will send a draft to members of the council to review. It was suggested that while Fr. Huffstetter prepares the report that he think of possible reflection questions to go with it. The report most likely will be processed at the beginning of the chapter to set the tone for the rest of the gathering. It was suggested that the report be the first topic on Monday afternoon, after a

brief introduction to the chapter is given. That introduction should connect the chapter with the North American Continental Conference.

2. Delegates — All local communities have responded with their delegate elections. The list of delegates will be sent to the province by March 24 and also posted in the Members' section of the website.
3. Chapter Finance Committee — A Chapter Finance Committee must be established as soon as possible; only chapter delegates are allowed to serve. The provincial treasurer is a de jure member; three others are needed. A weighted vote will be used to select members of the committee; prior to the vote delegates will be allowed to remove their names from consideration. Br. Presto will begin this process the week of March 24.
4. Other committees — Various committees will be needed for the chapter besides the mandated finance committee. An email from Fr. Joe Dean, chairperson of the Provincial Chapter Preparatory Committee, will go to all delegates soon after Br. Presto's mailing about the finance committee. Fr. Dean will identify the committees needed by the chapter and ask delegates to indicate which they are interested in serving on.
5. Provincial Chapter Preparatory Committee — Fr. Kurps, a member of the preparatory committee, updated the council on its work. The committee last met by conference call in February; the next call will be April 9. The next in-person meeting will be May 12.

The preparatory committee will continue to function during the chapter. Also, Sr. Bertrand will be presented as the facilitator.

The theme for the chapter is "Dehonians in Community and Mission." The logo combines that theme with elements from the North American Continental Conference logo. The chapter continues the work of that gathering.

6. Theme and other chapter elements — The council received a printed summary of information about the chapter including:
 - a. Hoped for outcomes/goals of the chapter:

That delegates leave the chapter having identified additional steps toward defining what it means to be Dehonian and outline ways to:

 - Experience the self-emptying love of Christ in themselves
 - Live this love in community
 - Bring this love to those who are poor, especially those on the margins
 - Create a direction for the Dehonian charism in the United States

That delegates accomplish each of the mandatory tasks of the chapter, including:

 - Election of delegates and alternates to the 2015 General Chapter
 - Review and accept the State of the Province report
 - Review and accept the Chapter Finance Committee report
 - Respond to the questions of the general administration in regards to the General Chapter
 - b. Distribution of materials — All delegates will receive a binder with chapter materials; delegates will receive more materials for the binder during the chapter.
 - c. Agenda topics — possible topics for the chapter include follow-up to the North American Continental Conference (and areas of concerns identified at it), the General Chapter (including election of delegates), the State of the Province, the Province Finance Report, and possible Provincial Directory decisions.

It was noted that committees may be used to help prepare some of the topics for discussion at the chapter. A councilor asked if community life would be one of those topics. It was suggested that "community life" isn't a topic that a committee can prepare for discussion; position papers can't be written about it. Instead, preparation for good discussion of community life needs to be done by all the members. This can be a part of the local discussion that will take place in preparation for the chapter when the communities address the General Chapter questionnaire. It was

noted that Fr. Hendrik's program for faith sharing, used by the council that morning, could work well in local communities as a way of discussing faith and compassion, key components of good community life.

- d. Draft of the daily schedule — It is anticipated that each day, and in some cases each part of the day (morning and afternoon) will have a different focus. Also, the province will celebrate the 70th jubilee of Fr. Leonard Tadyszak (most likely a morning celebration followed by a luncheon), and the final vows of Br. Clay Diaz.

Morning prayer will stretch across the morning as it did at the North American Continental Conference.

Entertainment will be offered on one or two evenings.

7. Chapter FAQ — The preparatory committee is sending brief FAQ emails (e-blasts) to answer questions about the chapter. The first went to SCJs in early March. A member of the province asked whether the U.S. Province Directory should be changed to allow for an assembly chapter — the General Directory now allows for one. It was noted that the style of chapter the province uses is in line with what the General Directory states. The Provincial Directory does not need to be changed. If there is a desire for an assembly chapter next time there are provisions for doing so.

It was noted that if the province were to have an assembly chapter all members of the province would be expected to attend (unless unable to do so for a significant reason, such as health). The number of SCJs willing to serve as delegates at the 2014 Provincial Chapter would not be enough to make an assembly chapter valid.

8. Tellers — Tellers need to be identified and endorsed (voted on) at the beginning of the chapter.
9. Facilities — The SHST lobby will most likely be under construction during the chapter. Because of this, and the size of the chapter, it was suggested that liturgies take place at the Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake chapel, as was done at the North American Continental Conference. Dinner could also be at SHML.

The location of liturgies and meals will impact the two planned celebrations: Fr. Tadyszak's 70th anniversary and Br. Diaz' final vows. Fr. Kurps will investigate possibilities.

B. General Chapter

1. Questionnaires — The General Chapter Preparatory Commission sent two questionnaires as a part of the preparation for the 2015 General Chapter. One (A) is for individual SCJs and the second (B) is for local communities. Discussions about the latter are to be synthesized by a committee; the questions and the synthesis are then to be discussed at each entity's chapter. The minutes of the chapter pertaining to discussion of the Questionnaire B are to be sent to the secretary general by December 15, 2014.

The questions are to be addressed during the local superiors' meeting on March 21. The superiors will reflect on some of the questions as a way of preparing for similar reflections in their local communities.

2. Distribution of General Chapter information — The questionnaires from the General Chapter Preparatory Commission have not yet been shared with the membership. It was suggested that the local superiors bring them to their community after their March 21 meeting.

The questionnaires, as well as other General Chapter documents, are to be put in the Members' section of the province website (www.sacredheartusa.org).

- C. Sacred Heart Southern Missions — The council voted to approve the appointment of Bishop Joseph Kopacz, newly installed bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, to the SHSM board of directors. The previous bishop of Jackson also served on the board.
- D. Meeting of Local Superiors — The council will meet with local superiors on Friday, March 21. Fr. Huffstetter organized and will moderate the meeting. Sharing the schedule with councilors he said that he originally planned on doing faith sharing with the superiors on Thursday evening after dinner but since several of the participants would not be available until late in the evening the reflections would take place first thing on Friday.

Fr. Huffstetter asked if there should be minutes of the meeting. Councilors said that it would be helpful. Mary Gorski was

asked to take minutes at the meeting after faith sharing was done.

Prior to the meeting all participants received the job description of the local coordinator/superior as well as the schedule.

During the superiors' meeting Fr. Huffstetter planned to ask participants' input on future meetings: what would be helpful, how can the council and local superiors support each other? He noted that currently all members of the council are also local superiors so the superiors' meeting has a different feel than years past.

E. North American Councils Meeting, Montréal

1. Follow-up committee to North American Continental Conference — From Canada, Fr. Greg Murray and Fr. Willyans Prado Raposo have agreed to serve on the NACC follow-up committee. From the U.S. Province Fr. Tony Russo, Fr. Greg Schill, Br. Duane Lemke and Frater Juan Carlos Castaneda Rojas will serve. Fr. Kurps is chairperson of the committee. They will meet by conference call within the next two weeks. Sr. Bertrand will be asked to facilitate the first meeting.

2. Chapters — The Canadian Regional Chapter will be August 11-14; Fr. Huffstetter is going as an observer. The Canadians have been invited to send an observer to the U.S. Provincial Chapter.

Members of the Canadian Region will receive a prayer card in French and English prior to the U.S. chapter, asking that the Canadians keep members of the U.S. Province in prayer during the chapter.

3. Communications — The minutes from the Montréal meeting will be published in the next Cor Unum. It was noted that the U.S. Province welcomes news from the Canadian Region. Councilors asked the Canadian administration to share its minutes and other regional information with the U.S. Province.

F. St. Joseph's Indian School — Mike Tyrell, executive director of child services at St. Joseph's Indian School, has been serving as interim president of the school since Fr. Huffstetter was elected as provincial superior. Leadership at the school asked that the council consider naming Mr. Tyrell as president. Fr. Anthony Kluckman would continue as chaplain at the school. Mr. Tyrell has been chairperson of the Dehonian Associates Committee for many years and is well versed in the Dehonian charism and SCJ spirituality.

Although some might prefer that an SCJ hold the position, the school has been doing very well under Mr. Tyrell's leadership.

The council voted to approve the appointment of Mike Tyrell as president of CPOSH (St. Joseph's Indian School).

G. Mission Secretary — Several people have indicated interest in serving as mission secretary.

H. Education Conference, Valencia (Spain) — The general administration is organizing an educators conference in Valencia, Spain, in July. Fr. Kilianski, the principals of province schools and the vice principal of Our Lady of Guadalupe School, plan to attend. Msgr. Ross Shecterle, president-rector of SHST is also expected to take part.

I. Praesidium

1. On-site visit — Br. Presto informed the council that two representatives from Praesidium will be doing the on-site accreditation visit the week of July 21. This will include individual meetings with at least 10% of the province. It is not known who or what locations will be visited.

2. Training documentation — Br. Presto is in the process of obtaining documentation of individual training hours done since the last accreditation. Sixty percent of the province membership needs to update (or document) their training. He suggests that the Jesuit training program be used for this.

Councilors thought that perhaps better communication was needed regarding training and documentation. Not all SCJs know how often they need to update their training or how to access a training program.

All SCJs who do public ministry, including retired men whose only public service is celebrating Mass outside of the community, must document appropriate training hours annually.

It was suggested that at future assemblies (starting in 2015) that a training session be held at province assemblies. This would allow for a large number of SCJs to do their training at the same time.

For now, the priority must be on bringing training and documentation up-to-date for all members. It was agreed that the Jesuit program would be good to use for this. Local superiors should be given a list of their community members who need to update training. Br. Presto said that he would have this list ready for the superiors at their Friday meeting.

3. Review board — The local review board met on March 1 and endorsed the province’s safety plans with minor changes. It also reviewed current policies and recommended changing the phrase concerning physical contact with minors to be more encompassing.

The council voted to change No. 2. c. of that policy to “Holding minors on one’s lap” as an example of affection that is NOT to be used by members and candidates in their role as public, ecclesial ministers (previously it stated “minors who are four years or older”).

The council also voted to add to the Admission to Candidacy Policy the requirement that the vocation director seek and obtain a background check of the National Sex Offender Registry on potential candidates.

Bishops generally require such background checks every five years. Such checks, including civil, criminal, credit and motor vehicle are very important not only for candidates but for professed members. Such checks are a way to monitor concerns such as unreported (to province administration) DUI offenses and inappropriate financial commitments.

Once an SCJ is in final vows such checks are to be done every five years. The formation team will propose a plan for the timing and frequency of such checks when a man is in formation. One possibility is that checks be done when a man enters novitiate and then he starts on the five-year schedule after that.

- J. St. James and St. Anthony parishes — The province will end its commitment to St. James and St. Anthony parishes in South Dakota at the end of June. Fr. Huffstetter will attend Fr. Guy Blair’s last liturgies with the communities. It is thought that there will be a celebration that weekend of the SCJs’ time with the parishes and perhaps a transition ceremony for the new pastor. Fr. Huffstetter will speak with the diocese about this; he does not know if a new pastor has been chosen yet.
- K. Travels — The 25th anniversary of the SCJs’ presence in the Philippines will be in May. Fr. Dominic Peluse will represent the province; Fr. Tom Cassidy will also be there (he is spending several weeks with the student community as a part of his sabbatical).

Fr. Huffstetter said that he would like to eventually get to all of the entities that the U.S. Province supports. He is planning to visit the Philippines and Vietnam in September, spending a week in each country.

He is also considering a trip to Congo for the 50th anniversary of the SCJ martyrs. Fr. Leonard Elder and Fr. Charles Brown are planning to be at the anniversary.

- L. Sacred Heart School of Theology — proposed name change

1. Background — In 2010 the executive committee of the SHST board of directors voted to recommend that the name of the institution be changed to “Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.” The proposal to incorporate the word “seminary” in the name was a part of the school’s strategic planning process.

After seeking input from the membership, the council asked that the SHST board withdraw its request to change the school’s name. There was great diversity in opinion among the membership regarding the name. It seemed premature to consider a name change.

In November 2013, Fr. Javier Bustos, SHST VP for External Affairs, Jonathan Drayna, SHST Director of Communications, and Ruth Markworth, Assistant to the Director of Communications, revisited the issue of the school’s name. They asked: “Does the name of the institution reflect our true identity in a way that enhances our ability to win the trust of potential sponsors?” This question was brought to Msgr. Ross Schecterle, President-Rector. Msgr. Schecterle spoke with Fr. Huffstetter. Fr. Huffstetter asked that a position paper be written regarding the proposed name change.

Councilors reviewed the position paper (it is attached as Addendum A). Among the rationale given in the paper for the

name change: 1) The words “seminary” and “school of theology” are clearly defined terms with a very specific meaning in the eyes of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and 2) Potential sponsors are confused by the term “school of theology.”

The paper noted precedent for the name change and addressed possible concerns, such as confusion with Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

2. Discussion — Councilors discussed the proposed name change. Those who had been on council in 2010 said that the rationale for the name change is now better defined. The position paper was very helpful. The incorporation of the word “seminary” in the name seems very appropriate as a part of the strategic planning process for the school.

Councilors discussed the possibility of including the word “Dehon” or “Dehonian” in the seminary’s name. Instead of “Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology,” would it be better to change to “Dehon Seminary and School of Theology?” This would distinguish the school from other Sacred Heart institutions (especially Sacred Heart Seminary) and provide an opportunity to better share Fr. Dehon’s name and teach others about his charism.

While there was agreement on the council about incorporating the word “seminary” in the name, thoughts were mixed on the change of “Sacred Heart” to “Dehon.” It would be a teaching opportunity about the founder, but would the name cause more confusion than benefit? How would the name change affect fund raising (just as the province fund raising office is rebuilding) and the seminary’s own strategic plan?

Instead of incorporating “Dehon” in the school’s name it was suggested that a program within the school, such as the master’s program, incorporate the founder’s name.

3. Vote — The council voted to endorse Msgr. Ross Shecterle’s proposal that “Sacred Heart School of Theology (SHST)” change its name to “Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology (SHSST).” Fr. Huffstetter will write to the province membership about the name change.
4. Master’s Program — Councilors discussed the institution’s outreach to the laity and suggested that this would be a good opportunity to enhance the master’s program. The MA program is not well-promoted, nor is it convenient for most people outside of those who are retired or in church ministry. The laity are the future of the church, and Sacred Heart could better serve the church (and more specifically, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee) by providing educational opportunities for lay people.

More people could take part in the master’s program if night and weekend classes were offered, or perhaps online teaching.

As a practical matter, more students would bring in more tuition, lessening the subsidy needed by the school.

It was suggested that the Master’s Program incorporate the founder’s name — for example, the “Dehon Master’s Program in Theology” — and use the moment as a catalyst for change. The name change would be kick-off to an expansion of the master’s program.

There might be greater support for an institution that serves the church in a more encompassing way, not just the preparation of men for the priesthood.

The council voted to request that the administration of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology enhance its Master’s Program and in doing so, incorporate “Dehon” into the title of the program.

- M. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation update — The council reviewed the minutes of the February 14 meeting of the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission. The committee is revisiting the decision to end grants from the commission; this had been done in order to fund the JPR director’s position. The discussion will be a part of the budget process.

The commission plans to meet during the Provincial Chapter. Councilors noted that there may be little time for such a meeting; the schedule will be quite full.

Fr. Huffstetter said that he has been meeting with Mr. Peters about once a month to help orient him to his work.

Mr. Peter's is to meet with Fr. Mike Crosby, OFM Cap., regarding corporate responsibility. Corporate resolutions may be an avenue for the commission to take. It was noted that province has had procedures in place for some time regarding socially responsible investing.

III. Membership

- A. St. Louis — Fr. Huffstetter did a visitation of SCJs in St. Louis in conjunction with his attendance at the Region V CMSM meeting.
 1. Fr. Bryan Benoit — Fr. Huffstetter said that Fr. Benoit appears to be doing better and encouraged Fr. Benoit to engage more with the community; for example, he could respond to the questionnaire from the General Chapter Preparatory Commission. Members of the province should be encouraged to visit with Fr. Benoit when they are near St. Louis.
 2. Fr. Jim Schroeder — He is preparing for retirement in October; Fr. Schroeder will move to Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. He hopes to become more involved with community concerns and complete some projects on the works of Fr. Dehon.
- B. Fr. Duy Nguyen — Fr. Nguyen is out of his cast (torn Achilles tendon) and in an orthopedic boot; he is doing physical therapy. He is slowly returning to full-time ministry.
- C. Fr. Mark Mastin — Fr. Mastin is back in the States after serving a tour as a chaplain in Afghanistan.
- D. Br. Clay Diaz — The council voted to approve Br. Diaz for final vows.

IV. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — Lue Hang, the chief accountant at the Province Development Office, resigned. His last day was February 28. It was a challenging time for his departure, another member of the department was working just part time because of an injury.

John Kuxhause, province accountant, has been assisting the office since Mr. Hang's departure.

Dn. Nagel said that he is very encouraged by the results that the office is getting since last year's reorganization. He was recently a part of a strategic planning meeting with Brickmill, an affiliated marketing services company of Quadriga. Brickmill is committed to strategic planning for the office for the next two years.

The priority of the office at this time is to rebuild its donor files; efforts are being made to reactivate lapsed donors. The Spanish file is being reviewed; although individually Spanish-speaking donors are generous in their contributions, the mailing list has diminished quite a bit in recent years.

The office is expected to be able to raise \$6.5 million of the \$7 million that it has been asked to give to the province. This means that the office is operating on a deficit budget, but that overall, its financial future looks much brighter than it has in several years.

- B. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Income from SHML is coming in regularly now; the province should expect to approximately \$500,000 a year from rentals.
- C. Mission budgets — Mission entities have been asked to get their budget requests to the provincial treasurer by mid-March. The Congolese Province is seeking \$150,000 for the Grison Center; the Philippine Region is seeking \$25,000 more in its budget in part because it plans to purchase another property; Vietnam requests \$25,000 more than last year. Other mission entities are seeking the same subsidies as this year (India and South Africa).
- D. Audit — Schenck Business Solutions recently completed its audit of the investment procedures of the Growth Pool and Charitable Gift Annuity Pool for 2013. No abnormalities were found. Stakeholders were sent copies of the report.
- E. Water damage repairs at SHML — The estimated cost for repairs following water damage to the SCJ wing of SHML is \$500,000 (the majority of which is to be paid by insurance). The first floor repairs are to be completed in a week; the overall repairs within two months. Dn. Nagel said that he is pleased to see that each day workers are at the project; there has not been any down time.

Bills for repairs to the third wing were submitted to the insurance company. All work is expected to be covered. The insurance company is pursuing litigation with those who may have liability for the damage.

- F. SHST Major Maintenance — Phase I of the Facility Master Plan for SHST includes the remodeling of the SHST lobby. The SHST Major Maintenance Committee proposes that work on the lobby begin in May so that it can be completed by the fall semester.

The bulk of the cost for the lobby remodeling will address infrastructure concerns including asbestos removal, making rest-rooms handicapped accessible, installing and updating sprinkler systems, and updating windows and lighting to energy-saving products. Cosmetic updating in the lobby will give a much better first impression of the seminary to visitors. This is important in the marketing of the school to potential sponsors and benefactors.

The council voted to approve the renovation of the SHST lobby for \$612,000.

Dn. Nagel said that money is available for this in SHST's reserve maintenance fund.

- G. International students — Fr. Huffstetter asked Dn. Nagel if there is a procedure to be followed when international SCJs request financial assistance to study in the United States. Dn. Nagel said that it is up to the provincial superior to give approvals on a case-by-case basis. The U.S. and Indonesian Provinces have shared personnel and educational expenses; the U.S. has a history of supporting the education of SCJs in the United States. In recent years members of the Indonesian Province have served in the U.S. Province.

When an international student comes to the United States it is expected that he will reside with an SCJ community. The province is fully responsible for the international student; it is important that the student be well integrated into the local community both for his own well-being and the responsibilities of the province.

At this time, international students do not fall under the requirements of Praesidium; however, their actions are still the responsibility of the province while they are in the United States.

Fr. Huffstetter said that he would like to develop a procedure for reviewing international student requests. Dn. Nagel suggested that a first step might be to determine how much money the U.S. Province is able to commit to funding international students. Would it be more cost-effective in some instances for international students to study in Rome instead of Chicago or Milwaukee? The U.S. Province could still fund the education of the international student as a mission expense; such funding does not need to be tied to education only in the United States.

Also, it was suggested that whenever an international student is sponsored by the U.S. Province that he, his provincial superior and the U.S. provincial enter into an education contract that would spell out things such as the frequency of visits home (and how such visits are paid for), study expectations, supplemental needs (use of a car, computer, etc.) and other concerns.

V. Future meetings

- A. Agenda items — Possible agenda items for future meetings include strategic planning for the province (perhaps developing a three-year plan after the Province Chapter), budgets (May meeting), the Woods Road – Rawson Avenue community and its structure, Mission Secretary, and an update on the Provincial Chapter preparations.
- B. Conference calls
- Monday, March 31, at 1 p.m. (central) to review these minutes.
 - April 23 at 1:30 p.m. (central) for council check-in.
 - June 30 at 10 a.m. (central) for formation concerns.
- C. Absent — Fr. Kurps will be absent from the May meeting; he is attending the Famiglia Dehoniana conference in Rome. Mary Gorski will be at the same conference; Br. Presto will take the minutes of the budget meeting.

VI. Evaluation — Councilors noted the importance of taking time for personal check-in at the start of their meeting.

The process of identifying supplemental materials to the meeting by number and color is helpful.

Summary of the Meeting of the Councils of Canada and the United States March 3, 2014 • Montréal, Canada

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter (provincial superior, United States), Fr. Bill Marvee (regional superior, Canada), Fr. Claude Bédard, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Maurice Légaré, Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. Paul Tennyson, Fr. Richard Woodbury, and Mary Gorski (minutes). Not present: Fr. Christianus Hendrik of the US council.

I. Prayer— The gathering began with a bilingual liturgy (French and English) with the Montréal community. At the start of the meeting itself Fr. Bédard led the participants in a brief prayer.

II. North American Continental Conference

A. Synthesis Statement — A synthesis statement from the conference was compiled by Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. Peter Sanders and Fr. Charles Brown at the request of the NACC planning committee. This statement was a reflection of their experience of the conference. It was shared with SCJs in both entities. An English version is available in the Members' section of the US Province website.

B. Follow-up committee — There seemed to be a strong desire from participants to have follow-up to the NACC. In their final discussions several tables asked that the councils of the US and Canada take the lead in developing a follow-up process. Many suggested that a follow-up committee be established.

The US council is in the process of establishing a follow-up committee for itself. Is the desire to have individual follow-up for each entity, a shared follow-up, or a combination of the two? It was agreed that a joint committee would be preferable since the conference was held jointly.

Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Tony Russo and Fr. Greg Schill from the US Province have agreed to serve on a follow-up committee. The following were suggested as additions to it: Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo and Fr. Greg Murray from Canada. Fr. Marvee will contact them. It was suggested that there be a member of the Canadian council on the committee; however, a priority will be on hearing the voices of younger members. If either Frs. Murray or Rapozo are unable to be on the committee Fr. Tennyson said that he would serve. If a councilor is not on the committee the administration will stay informed of the committee's work by reviewing the minutes of its meetings.

Fr. Marvee will contact Fr. Kurps to let him know who from Canada will be serving on the follow-up committee. Fr. Kurps will set up a meeting when membership of the committee is determined. The administrations are open to other names on the committee. Fr. Kurps will update the councils on the final committee membership.

C. Next steps — The follow-up committee is a part of the "next steps" from the NACC. It will propose further steps for the councils to consider.

However, the US and Canada can also make sure that other scheduled elements are done as "next steps." For example the regional and provincial chapters can be designed as steps in the NACC follow-up process. It is important the chapters be overtly referred to as a continuing part of the process, a follow-up to NACC.

Mary Gorski was asked to send councilors the "Next Steps" that came out of table discussions on the last day of the NACC.

D. NACC materials — It was noted that there are several items from the NACC, including Fr. Stefan Tertünte's presentation, available in the members' section of the US Province website. More materials can be posted, and/or a section can be created for follow-up materials.

III. Regional and provincial chapters

A. Joint chapters — It is too late in the process to do so this year, but in the future it might be beneficial for the US and Canada to hold their chapters simultaneously. SCJs would meet together to discuss common concerns and share in prayer, and then take time individually to attend to issues particular to each entity.

Several suggested that this would be a good way for North America as a whole to prepare for general chapters in the future.

- B. Preparations — The councilors briefly talked about the 2014 regional and provincial chapters. It was noted that Fr. Tom Cassidy put together an ad hoc committee to do some of the preliminary preparations for the US provincial chapter. That committee was endorsed by the current provincial administration; it is now the Provincial Chapter Preparatory Committee. They have met several times with Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, who will be the chapter facilitator.

The US chapter will follow a schedule similar to that of the NACC, attending to the tasks of the chapter within the context of prayer. The process style will build on what has been done in previous province gatherings, including the St. Louis conversations.

It is expected that issues raised at the NACC will be topics of discussion at the provincial chapter. Some issues, such as poverty, dovetail with the theme of the 2015 general chapter. The committee is beginning to incorporate the general chapter into the preparation of the provincial chapter. Once the slate of chapter delegates is finalized (March 21) committees will be formed.

Also, the US Province will address the participation level of temporarily professed members at the chapter (whether those in temporary vows will be allowed to vote) and the term to be used for local superior/coordinator.

Fr. Leonard Tadyszak will be honored for his 70th year of profession (most likely with a liturgy and lunch) and Br. Clay Diaz is expected to profess his final vows during the chapter.

The Canadian Region is just beginning to prepare for its chapter. Sr. Marjory Gallagher, who has worked with the region before, will be the facilitator. All members are invited to attend. Generally, all members do attend regional gatherings with the exception of those whose health impedes travel. The Canadian Region gathers as a group for feast of the Sacred Heart as well.

Fr. Marvee said that he hopes that issues raised at the NACC can also be a part of the Canadian chapter, in particular, immigration and economic justice. For both entities, these are significant topics of concern; how is the SCJ response to immigration and economic justice a part of the Dehonian witness in North America? Who are the “fringes of society” in North America and how can the SCJs be present to them?

It is expected that the local communities in Canada will discuss the questions from the General Chapter Preparatory Committee and report back to the regional council. These discussions will most likely form the bulk of the Canadian chapter’s work.

Fr. Huffstetter asked if the reports from the local community discussions could be shared with him.

Other issues of concern in Canada (though not necessarily to be discussed at the upcoming chapter): vocations, and the status of the house on Daly in Ottawa (is it appropriate for the community to maintain a house of this size for the number of people who utilize it; if yes, how can the house be better utilized).

The Canadian Region does not yet anticipate legislative concerns for its 2014 chapter.

Each entity will also select delegates for the 2015 general chapter. The US Province will select two delegates, the Canadian Region selects one.

Mary Gorski was asked to send the minutes of the US Chapter Preparatory Committee to both administrations.

- C. Observers — Fr. Huffstetter will attend the Canadian chapter as an observer (August 11-14). The Canadian administration will send a member from the region to be an observer at the US chapter (July 7-11). It was noted that observers will have voice but not vote at the chapters.

- IV. General Chapter — Fr. Légaré said that prior to previous general chapters the administrations of Canada, the United States and the British Irish Province met, along with general chapter delegates from the entities, to prepare for the general chapter. It would be beneficial to do this in early spring, prior to the 2015 general chapter.

Among the topics for discussion: surfacing a possible candidate for general council.

- V. General visitation — The councils spoke briefly about the general visitation. Internationality was a significant topic of conversation during the visits. Fr. Ornelas often speaks of it and he seemed pleased experience international efforts in North America as are found in Toronto, South Dakota, Houston, Montréal, and many other locations.

Neither administration responded to the visitation letter they received; there did not seem to be a need for a response. A draft of the letter was read to the administrations of each entity for their input before the end of the visitation (it was noted that the entire Canadian Region in attendance at the NACC heard the draft of their letter).

The follow-up visitation letters from Frs. José Ornelas Carvalho and John van den Hengel were printed and shared.

- VI. Communications — Members of the US council asked to be added to the mailings from the Canadian administration, such as Fr. Marvee's letters to the membership and minutes from their meetings. Members of the Canadian Region currently get the US Cor Unum, as well as other province communications. It was agreed that each entity should make it a priority to share information about itself with the other.

- VII. Open floor — Councilors discussed a variety of topics in an "open floor" style.

- A. Sacred Heart School of Theology — Canadian SCJs asked about SHST. It is an apostolate that requires a considerable amount of resources. The Canadians asked how the seminary is viewed by the membership of the US Province. Is it well-supported?

Members of the US administration, including Fr. Huffstetter and Fr. Haaland (who is a part of SHST administration), talked about the seminary. They said that many SCJs in the province believe that SHST offers a significant service to the Church; the seminary is a way for the congregation to imprint future priests with the Dehonian charism. When evaluated by accrediting agencies the seminary receives high marks.

However, a seminary is an expensive and personnel-intensive commitment. The current facility was built in 1968 and needs extensive updating to remain competitive in today's education market. There is also the question of personnel. The current rector is not an SCJ; he is a diocesan priest. He is thought to be doing an excellent job. However, there is always the question of what the impact is of having a diocesan priest heading an SCJ seminary.

During the past year several people retired from the seminary and it has been difficult to find replacements. Most of the positions that are open have to be filled by priests, which makes filling them even more challenging.

The province's own men in formation do not attend SHST; they do their theology studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. It had been thought that CTU better prepared people for *religious* priesthood, whereas SHST was preparing men more in a diocesan model, and often men who were pursuing their vocation later in life. Now, the median age of seminarians is lower with the attendance of students from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. And, CTU's student body now has more lay people than those preparing for religious life and/or priesthood.

It was noted that SHST's ESL program has been very well-received and supported. It is thought to be an excellent service to the Church and the congregation.

There are currently 103 seminarians at SHST. This is in addition to master's students and those in ESL.

- B. Toronto — Prior to the Montréal meeting members of the US council asked for an update on the international community in Toronto. The community itself is international and intergenerational and its ministry is the same. Since accepting ministry at St. Thomas More and Our Lady of the Rosary parishes the Toronto community has split into two residences with three SCJs at Sacred Heart House and three at St. Thomas More.

The Toronto community prepared a four-page paper to describe its experience for the councils. In it they noted both the pros and cons of their community. Among the pros listed was the fact that the community developed a Dehonian Pastoral Plan with a common thread of the accompaniment of immigrants whether through UKI (Indonesian Catholics), the parishes (both are very international) or at Becoming Neighbours. Although there is a significant distance between the residences the community is committed to coming together at least once a week.

Challenges include misunderstandings that can develop because of cultural differences, the geographic distance between the

two residences, and the amount of work divided between a small number of people, especially at the large parishes.

Councilors from both entities were impressed by what they learned in the report, and the commitment of the Toronto SCJs to the international community (their own, and beyond). They were especially impressed by the report's comments about the witness value of what they were doing: living internationally and intergenerationally. They noted the story told about St. Thomas More parish – staff there said that it was so good to hear laughter at the dinner table again, to see a more team-centered approach to ministry.

“In a multicultural parish and multicultural city it is absolutely necessary that the leadership team model for the parish by being accepting of one another,” wrote Fr. Jim in the community's report.

Other international communities and ministries were mentioned such as at Christ the King in northern Mississippi (growing Spanish-speaking population), Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston (traditionally a Spanish-speaking parish, it is ministered to by an SCJ community that includes people of American, Vietnamese-American and Polish descent), South Dakota (Indonesian SCJs are vital to this ministry) and the Dehon Formation community in Chicago in which five different first-languages are found among its members. Chicago is also an example of an intergenerational community.

In the future it is hoped that more SCJs can join the Toronto community, and that an Indonesian SCJ is able to join the Montréal community to minister to the Indonesian community there. The Montréal community is looking at the possibility of taking on a parish near the SCJ community house. If this is done, it is important that the parish be taken with the mindset of ministering to it as an SCJ community, not just maintaining the parish Mass schedule.

- C. Variety in ministry — For many years, most SCJs were involved in teaching. When the seminaries began to close, those who taught often went into parish ministry. However, now there is an emphasis in SCJ formation in helping young religious realize that being a priest doesn't necessarily mean that one will be involved in parish ministry. There are a wide variety of possibilities as a religious. The SCJs need to continually be more creative in looking at how to serve the Church in North America. There are many talents and many resources among SCJs in the US and Canada: how can they best be utilized in North America?

Regardless of the ministry one does, how can ALL ministries be ministries of the community, not just that of an individual? SCJs visiting from other countries will often say “What are WE doing in the United States?” How do SCJs in North America create a better sense of “We the Congregation?” in regards to ministry?

- D. Development — Councilors spoke briefly about fundraising and how the different offices in the United States reach out to different audiences. Only 30% of the donors to St. Joseph's Indian School are Catholic. Outreach to Native Americans transcends religious affiliation.

Fundraising is going through a transformative period. The donor care center for St. Joseph's Indian School is in response to that. Fr. Bédard said that it is challenging for him to think of development in new ways. For many years benefactors of the Canadian Region were very responsive to devotional materials but that audience is aging and shrinking.

- E. Engaging young SCJs in leadership — Members of both entities noted the need to find ways to better engage the younger SCJs in North America. There has to be a continual effort to make this a priority. Putting younger SCJs on the NACC follow-up committee is an important step toward this.

The younger generations have much talent, and much to offer. If they feel that they are not being heard, ways need to be found to help others hear them. If they simply choose not to voice their opinions or if they feel indifference, then that needs to be challenged.

It was noted that several younger SCJs have taken on leadership positions in local communities when asked but they said that had they not been asked, they would not have done so.

There may be more older SCJs than young but the voices of the senior members should not drown out the voices of the younger.

- F. Poverty and simplicity — What does it mean to live simply? What does poverty mean in the different contexts of the congregation? Being “poor” in North America means something much different than in Africa. What is the impact when a wealthier entity assists members in an economically poor one to the point that it raises the standard of living well beyond

that of others in that culture? Is it appropriate?

How does one live in a spirit of poverty if he always has a safety net (the religious community)? Pope Francis can give witness to a certain point but he can never really be poor. How do religious develop a spirit of poverty as he has?

- G. Collaboration — Should the Canadian Region and US Province look at developing a more collaborative relationship, perhaps moving toward a joint structure? Continental groupings seem to be the way of the future in the congregation.

This is an issue that can be further developed once the follow-up committee to the NACC begins its work.

Both entities need to continue to find opportunities to include each other in things such as retreats and workshops.

- H. Thank you — Fr. Huffstetter extended his thanks for the work and presence of Fr. Wayne Jenkins and Br. Brian Tompkins in the US Province. They are both well appreciated in the United States.

- V. Future meetings — When possible, the two administrations would like to continue to meet twice a year, alternating between the US and Canada.

- **October 20-21:** The North American councils will gather for dinner on Monday evening, October 20 and meet all day on Tuesday, October 21. It was noted that the US council has its meetings on October 22-23. The meeting will take place in Milwaukee (Hales Corners – Franklin).
- **Spring, 2015:** The councils will meet in spring, 2015, to prepare for the general chapter.
- **Summer, 2015:** It was suggested that the US and Canada have a joint gathering in the summer of 2015. One of the topics of the assembly can be the general chapter, which will have recently concluded.

Local Coordinators/Superiors Meeting March 21, 2014, Hales Corners

Note: The local coordinators/superiors will simply be noted as “superiors” in the minutes.

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, Fr. Jack Kurps, Dn. David Nagel, Br. Ben Humpfer, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jim Brackin, Fr. Jim Walters, Br. Frank Presto and Mary Gorski (minutes). Joining them for updates on their particular areas of concern were Sid Liebenson, Mark Peters, David Schimmel and Mark Wenzel.

- I. Faith sharing — The day began with faith sharing. The questions:
 - What is a rewarding part about your ministry as superior?
 - What is a difficult or challenging part about being superior?
- II. Job description — Prior to the meeting Fr. Huffstetter shared with participants the job description that was on file for local superiors. He asked for input on it.

One of the first things noted was that the job description was written in 1988, and last reviewed by the Provincial Council in 1995. Some of what is in the description seems outdated. Communication technology has changed greatly as have communities themselves. With the exception of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, there are no more large communities.

Installation ceremonies were noted. Some superiors were formally installed, others simply began their duties at the start of their term. There was agreement that the need for ceremony is important. The local superior is an important role in a religious community; a formal installation, even if it is a small event, is necessary to help celebrate the moment in the community. There was agreement that such ceremonies are not necessary for term renewals.

At least once a year, or when a new member joins the community, it would be helpful to review community schedules. When should community prayer be? What times are best for meals?

Previously, quarterly reports were required of the superior; this may be outdated. With smaller communities (locally, and as a province overall) as well as the ease of communication with internet and cell phones, contact with the provincial superior is much easier. If there is a concern locally, most likely the local superior will be in contact with the provincial as soon as possible. A quarterly report for many seemed like busy-work.

Instead, it was suggested that each community send to the provincial superior its yearly schedule for the life of the community: common prayer times, meals, community meetings and perhaps community social and/or spiritual events. This would help the provincial superior determine good times to meet with the community (and perhaps take part in some of its events) and help the community members be accountable to each other in their shared schedule.

It was suggested that the Provincial Council review the job description for local superior and revise as necessary.

- III. Title — The common term for “local superior” in the U.S. Province has been “local coordinator” for approximately the past 25 years. However, in recent years there has been a return to the use of the original term. Fr. Huffstetter asked the superiors for their input on the terms.

Participants generally agreed that the term “coordinator” developed out of a different understanding and general “feel” about the word “superior.” However, that has changed. There is a better sense in the province that the “superior” is a role in the community where as a “coordinator” simply describes a function.

Nowhere else in the congregation is the word “coordinator” (or its equivalent) used. There is a common understanding in the congregation of what a “superior” is, not a “coordinator.”

There was agreement on the return to the use of “local superior.” The next question: does this change need to come before the chapter?

Meeting participants (local superiors and provincial administration) did not know if the term “coordinator” had been officially defined by a previous chapter or if it had just been identified as a common term for the role.

Br. Presto was to research previous provincial chapter documents to find out the history of the term. If there is no documentation of an official change of “local superior” to “local coordinator” the province will just revert to the use of superior.

If “coordinator” came from a chapter decision, then a process will be developed to address the terminology change at the chapter.

IV. Provincial Chapter

- A. Participation of those in temporary vows at chapter — At the last Provincial Chapter the issue of allowing those in temporary vows to participate in a chapter as full delegates was brought forth. There was a call for a vote on the matter. Some felt that the vote may have been taken prematurely in the discussion of the issue. The majority of delegates voted in favor of giving those in temporary vows full delegate status. However, the threshold was not high enough to pass the measure.

It has been suggested that the issue be brought back to the 2014 Provincial Chapter. However, if it does come back, more preparatory work needs to be done on the local level. Chapter delegates need to be in dialogue with their local communities so that they have a good sense of the community members’ views on the topic.

If at the chapter delegates prefer to discuss the issue without those in temporary vows present they can call for an executive session of the chapter.

It was noted that there are strong opinions on both sides of the issue. Those in favor feel that once a person professes vows he is a full member of the community and thus, should have the same rights as anyone else in it. Others believe that when votes on the direction of the province, votes that could significantly affect its future, are taken, they should be reserved to those in perpetual vows.

- B. Type of chapter — Some in the province have asked whether the province should have an open chapter in which all members of the province can be a delegate. Currently, anyone in final vows who wants to serve as a delegate can if his community affirms him by vote.

It was noted that if the province chose an assembly chapter, instead of one with elected delegates, then the entire province — with minor exceptions — would be expected to take part. The number of delegates to serve at the 2014 chapter would not meet the minimum level of participation for an assembly chapter.

- C. Delegates — Br. Presto said that the list of Provincial Chapter delegates would be emailed to the membership on Sunday, March 23.

V. General Chapter

- A. Delegates — Delegates from the U.S. Province to the General Chapter will need to be elected at the Provincial Chapter. The province can send two elected delegates plus the provincial superior.

- B. Questionnaires — The General Chapter Preparatory Commission sent two questionnaires as a part of the preparation for the 2015 General Chapter. One (A) is for individual SCJs and the second (B) is for local communities. Discussions about the latter are to be synthesized by a committee; the questions and the synthesis are then to be discussed at each entity’s chapter.

Fr. Huffstetter invited the local superiors to reflect on the word “merciful,” from the theme of the General Chapter: “Merciful, in community, with the poor.” He asked them to comment on it and their experience of it within their own context. Comments from the discussion, paraphrased:

- My sophomore year of college I was in postulancy and was having many doubts about my vocation. During a day of recollection I shared my doubts with an SCJ. He told me that it took strength to be weak. That gave me a lot of freedom and lightened my spirit. It was a great experience of mercy in community.
- What strikes me when I think of “mercy” is when people reach out in simple ways. They share themselves by supporting and walking with me when I am dealing with something challenging. We show mercy in subtle ways, such as reaching out to people.

When I stepped into my role as local superior there was a gentleness and willingness to help me as I learned my role. That was an experience of God’s mercy. Even when someone just asks me how I am doing — that is God’s mercy.

- My strongest experience of mercy was when my mother was dying of cancer. I felt the support of the community in many ways. My mother said some very negative things toward me, things that came from her because of her illness. However, they were hard for me to hear. It was very difficult.

A member of my community suggested that I talk with a psychologist about what I was experiencing. I never would have done that if someone hadn't suggested it but it was very helpful.

The whole community was so supportive. They stepped up and did things for me, supported me. I don't know if "mercy" is the right word for that, but it is what I experienced and I was grateful for it. This kind of support is what we are about as a community. Fr. Dehon may not have articulated it as "mercy" but it is what we do for others and each other.

We need to remind ourselves to be sensitive to others in pain. I do that as a superior. I try to see people struggling and help them, or just be present to them. There are those who do not accept this, but that is their choice.

- I think that we need a definition of "mercy" if it is to be a theme of the general chapter. My definition: mercy is receiving more than I have a right to expect and in an overabundance.

When I was in first grade it was a very challenging time. I had a teacher who spent extra time with me, who did more than just be a teacher. She gave me more than I had a right to expect and I received in abundance.

When I give to another, I know it because I have experienced such giving.

I was disappointed that the General Chapter Preparatory Commission did not define the word "mercy."

An aside: Sue Monk Kidd's book "The Secret Life of Bees" is an excellent story of mercy.

- Reflections on mercy, for me, are tied to a community discussion of poverty. I started with the idea of "simplicity." What is in my wallet? What is the lifestyle I lead?

Then I reflected on the Constitutions. This took me aback. Our sense of poverty is based in the Beatitudes and I realized that poverty is actually about power.

This dovetails with my experience of mercy. It calls me to dialogue. I used to think that it was enough to simply let the other person be heard. But it is much more. Mercy means stepping aside and letting the other person challenge me. I don't just hear his/her side. I am challenged to not make conclusions before hearing the other person.

This is hard for me. I want to know how a meeting is going to end before it begins. It is hard to be truly open to dialogue with another.

I was surprised that my reflection on the vow of poverty led me to that place.

- Jesus is the best example of mercy. He was the Son of God but also emptied himself in obedience. In the same way, I have to give more than people expect of me. And when I do, they are grateful. I can always offer more.

Doing more than what is required is being merciful. Doing more than what is expected is offering mercy. I empty myself to be with others. I help people feel accepted and heard. That is mercy and that is powerful.

That is also what I expect from others. We must both give and receive mercy.

- I think of "Lady Justice." She is blind, representing objectivity. However, the statue of mercy would be one with her eyes wide open; large eyes.

Mercy is God's way of saying that our concept of justice is overrated and vengeful. Mercy is the kindness of God. It is sacramental.

Mercy separate from justice is paternalistic, patriarchal. Justice is blind; mercy sees everything.

- Mercy isn't a word we use a lot. There are a number of times when I have felt the mercy of God. But I wouldn't use the word "merciful" in my relationship with others.

When I think of the mercy of God, there is such an imbalance in the relationship. God is merciful; he has shown me his love.

I don't think that I would use the word "mercy" when I think of my dealings with others. When I think of "merciful" I visualize an inequality. It isn't an even playing field. A teacher is merciful to a student. A parent is merciful to a child.

I have difficulties with the use of the word "mercy" in this context.

- I think of the model of Jesus when he caught the woman in adultery. There was no judgment. He presented her with the truth and simply said, "Sin no more."
- I know when I have been treated with overabundance. It is impossible for me though to say that I am being merciful to another; only the person receiving the mercy can experience that.
- Understanding the concept of the word is a stumbling block to discussion of it. This is a challenge in a multilingual congregation. The concept of "mercy" may be different in various areas. It is hard to find the right context.
- This discussion reminds me of Jesus' use of parables. When he was asked what the Kingdom of Heaven was like, he would tell a story. I think that is what we are doing here. When we are asked what mercy is like, we talk about our experience with a teacher, or when someone was kind to me.

In some ways, we are using parables to express what mercy is.

VI. Staff reports — Four recently hired members of the provincial staff were invited to introduce themselves to the local superiors and update them on their work.

A. Sid Liebenson — Mr. Liebenson, development director of the Province Development Office, started work with the office in January, 2013. He comes from an advertising and marketing background and has worked with both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

He spoke of the major changes that have taken place at the office since he was hired. Labor-intensive work such as donor-processing has been outsourced and there is more direct collaboration with Quadriga and its affiliated marketing services company, Brickmill. The office is working with Brickmill to develop a strategic plan.

One of the results of the reorganization is that the office workforce was reduced by approximately 30 employees. Some took volunteer retirement packages. This was emotionally challenging, but current staff has adapted well. There is a better sense of collaboration than in the past and a greater focus on the mission of the office: to raise funds for province ministries and commitments.

The focus of the development office at this time is on growing the donor lists, especially by revisiting lapsed donors. There has also been a significant re-evaluation of campaigns. Some long-term donors were receiving too many campaigns while other potential donors were allowed to remain lapsed. The behavior of donors is being studied more thoroughly: what types of campaigns meet the needs of different people. Some donors appreciate cards and memorials, others would rather give to a specific campaign.

The office is taking a strong look at its Spanish file, which has gone down significantly in recent years. However, Spanish-speaking donors individually are often quite generous.

The internet is being used more effectively. Next month the office will begin to redesign its website; it is hoped that the new site will be up and running by July. The site is to be more in line with the province website and there will be more of an effort to use information put on the province site. The newly designed site will be optimized for mobile devices.

B. Mark Wenzel — Mr. Wenzel works for Sodexo, the organization that provides food service to Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology as well as Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. He is a facilities manager, dedicated to concerns related to province properties in the Hales Corners – Franklin area.

Much of his time is currently taken up with the renovation of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake following the water damage, as well as with short and long-range planning regarding the facilities at Sacred Heart School of Theology. The seminary is in the midst of developing a Master Plan for the complex. In May, the first phase of that proposed plan will take place: the remodeling of the SHST lobby (both infrastructure and cosmetic remodeling).

He is a contract employee for the province so he does not supervise other employees. His affiliation with Sodexo makes its wide net of resources available to the province.

- C. David Schimmel — Mr. Schimmel was hired in January, 2014, as director of Dehonian Affiliates. His task is to work with the Dehonian Associates Committee to promote the Dehonian charism beyond the Priests of the Sacred Heart. This includes employees, parishioners and friends of the community. In the future, it might also take the form of an oblate program.

He shared his job description with the local superiors and noted some of his recent work. This includes the redesign of the “Prayer” section of the province website. Each week he will post several reflections that are then archived on the site for later use.

He prepared information about Fr. Dehon and a bulletin insert for use by parishes and other province entities in commemoration of Founder’s Day on March 14.

Mr. Schimmel has been in communication with the Schools in Collaboration group and is developing a poster (Spanish and English) about Fr. Dehon that would be appropriate for school use. In the future he hopes to develop a curriculum for teaching about Fr. Dehon on the primary school level.

He has also been in dialogue with Mark Peters — Justice, Peace and Reconciliation director — about common issues and ways they can work together.

If the future he hopes to utilize text and photos from banners about Fr. Dehon and the congregation that were created by the Franco-European Province. The text has been translated into English. The banners were hung at a province assembly several years ago.

- D. Mark Peters — Mr. Peters was hired in January, 2104, as province director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation. He is working with the JPR Commission to develop his job description more fully and has spent much of the past two months learning about Fr. Dehon, the Priests of the Sacred Heart and the history of the province’s JPR efforts. He has been meeting individually with SCJs and has begun visits to local communities.

When the Provincial Council decided to create the JPR director’s position, it did so with the understanding that it would be funded, in part, by money that had once been distributed by the JPR Commission as grants. Many of the grant recipients no longer had direct SCJ involvement.

Grant recipients were informed last year of this change. Mr. Peters has been in contact with them to try to maintain a relationship between the province and the organizations. He visited the Benedict Center and offered to serve as a board member. He has also met with the 8th Day Center staff.

He noted that there is a social justice organization at St. Martin of Tours parish with which he is familiar. Mr. Peters is open to helping to redevelop the organization.

In learning about the province, he noted that one of the issues cited as a concern for SCJs in North America is immigration. He named several organizations with which the province could plug into to more actively address this concern.

Mr. Peters has met with representatives from the SHST Social Justice Committee and offered assistance. He is helping them to find a speaker for a program in April. Fr. Mike Wheldon, who oversees the committee, is leaving at the end of the year. Mr. Peters said that he is open to taking his place if needed, or assisting the committee more directly.

Two weeks ago Mr. Peters sent his first JPR News and Views mailing; this will go out periodically to SCJs in the US and Canada.

He said that he has appreciated learning about the province, its ministries and concerns. Mr. Peters said that he has identified two directions in which his work can go: 1) disseminating JPR information to the membership, employees, parishioners and

others connected to the community, and/or 2) working with different entities to find ways to add a social dimension to their work/ministry, including the vocation office, formation, parishes and schools.

The superiors noted various concerns in their local areas, such as human trafficking. The membership and its ministries need help in finding ways to address these concerns. It would also be good to find ways for the SCJs to promote the social teachings of the Church. Perhaps there could be space created on the province website, or on a separate site, to address social issues.

VII. Finance — Dn. Nagel gave a brief update on some of the financial concerns of the province including:

- A. Renovations and repairs at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Work following damage from a broken water pipe is expected to cost approximately \$500,000 and take up to two months to complete. Movement on the repairs is going well; insurance will cover most costs.
- B. SCJ Medical Plan — The monthly contribution for each SCJ is increasing from \$800 to \$900. The plan continues to be self-funded, but there is a stop-loss policy for costs over \$50,000.
- C. Cars — Local superiors were encouraged to have their men consider program cars — those which are slightly used — and to put more miles on their cars before trading them in. The cost limit for a new car is \$20,000.

Dn. Nagel asked that titles for all vehicles be kept at the treasurer's office. This is helpful for insurance purposes, and for other needs.

He distributed the Province Driving Policy booklet.

VIII. Evaluation — Fr. Huffstetter asked the superiors if the meeting was helpful. Should it be held again? How often and when? It was agreed that the meeting is helpful and that gathering once a year is sufficient. Meeting again in spring is good. Next time the group will plan to begin its gathering with dinner and faith-sharing the first night and then meet through the next day for business and/or in-service items.

The date for the next meeting will be set approximately four to six months ahead of time and the superiors will be invited to give input on the agenda.

The superiors were reminded that they need to discuss the questionnaire from the General Chapter Preparatory Commission on the local level. It would be good to do this prior to the Provincial Chapter.

Fr. Kurps will speak with Sr. Bertrand, facilitator, for a suggested process for discussing the questionnaire on the local level.

CALENDAR

May 14-15:	Provincial Council meeting
June 27:	Feast of the Sacred Heart
July 7-11	Provincial Chapter
August 19-20:	Provincial Council
October 22-23:	Provincial Council
December 16-17:	Provincial Council

UPDATES

Fr. Frank Wittouck

3306 La Branch, Apt 5
Houston TX 77004

Fr. Mark Mastin

95-510 Wikao Street, Apt. F105
Mililani, HI 96789

Vocation Central office staff have new email addresses:

Fr. Quang Nguyen

frquangscj@wi.twcbc.com

Br. Long Nguyen

brlongscj@wi.twcbc.com

Keith Burdick

keithburdick@wi.twcbc.com

Vocation Central main email

vocationcentral@wi.twcbc.com

Dennis Cetnarowski (IT)

scjhelpdesk@wi.twcbc.com

Note, **Br. Ray Kozuch's** email will remain the same:

brrayscj@wi.rr.com

NECROLOGY

Fr. Rudolf Kazimierz Krakowczyk, a member of the Polish Province, died March 17. He was born in 1933, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1959.

Fr. Blaise Appolinaire Tagne, a member of the Cameroon Province, died on March 18. He born in 1976, professed in 2002 and ordained in 2012.

Fr. Francis Calnan, a member of the British-Irish Province, died March 15. He was born in 1930, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1957.