

SCJ NEWS

a newsletter of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart

December 2014

Remembering and honoring all of our SCJ martyrs p. 5

Missionary returns to Africa after 23 years, p. 6

SCJ presents doctoral research on the priesthood, p. 7

Joining in remembrance of SCJ martyrs killed in Congo

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the deaths of 28 SCJ missionaries martyred during the Simba rebellion in Congo. Frs. Stephen Huffstetter, Leonard Elder and Charles Brown from the US Province, and Fr. Claude Bédard of the Canadian Region, represented North America at commemorations held in the Congolese Province.

Fr. Steve kept a journal during his travels that was posted on the province blog. The following are excerpts from it. You can read all of the posts at:

www.scjusa.wordpress.com

NOVEMBER 18 – An eight-hour overnight flight from Atlanta to Paris, immediately followed by another eight-hour leg from Paris to Kinshasa, had me feeling weary. But when Fr. Gabriel approached us after we had cleared customs and said, “Are you SCJ? Welcome to the Congo!!!” I felt a sense of rejuvenated excitement. I am traveling with Frs. Charles Brown and Leonard Elder, both members of the U.S. Province who once served as missionaries in this country.

The main road was quite good but as soon as we turned off to wind our way to the SCJ formation house we had to slow down to cross rugged, uneven surfaces. We received welcome from SCJ confreres from Poland, South Africa and Canada who also came to take part in the celebra-



Thousands of worshippers filled ferries crossing the Congo River to the memorial service for the first group of SCJ missionaries killed during the Simba rebellion. The image of Bishop Joseph Wittebols, the most well-known of the SCJs killed in 1964, is seen on the back of the shirt Fr. Claude Bédard is wearing. The shirts were made for the occasion at a technical school sponsored by the SCJs.

tions. We enjoyed a hearty meal, conversations in many languages, and then headed for much appreciated sleep.

NOVEMBER 20 - Yesterday we toured the capital city of Kinshasa, a city with population estimates ranging from 8-12 million. There is a small downtown business district but much of the city is made of smaller buildings extending many miles in every direction. I was amazed to see so many people on foot. With the average worker earning about \$2 per day there isn't a lot left for transportation.

In preparing for this trip I read up

on the history of the Congo, and the suffering and tragedies from the time of colonialism until today. When we prayed adoration back at the community house I reflected that the problems I face are small compared to the major challenges of the Congolese people. Yet our SCJs here press forward with hope and faith. We have the chance to work together and make a difference.

Today we flew into Kisangani, formerly called Stanleyville. The first event in the commemoration of our 28 SCJ martyrs from the 1964 rebellion was an evening prayer with the rosary at the site of 12 of the graves.

Several sisters working in the area also died; leadership from their communities honored them as well. Fr. Claude Bédard from Montréal hadn't been back to Congo for almost 30 years. When two of the sisters he used to work with recognized him we witnessed a joyful, tearful reunion.

NOVEMBER 21 - After morning mass, celebrated in French, I noticed Fr. Albert, a member of our General Council, chasing what I first thought were dragonflies around the garden. They were instead part of the grasshopper/locust family. He told me they were good to eat and after being in Rome these past months he had a taste for the food he grew up with. With wings and legs plucked, they were fried in oil and did indeed show up on the dinner table that night. I sampled a few and actually liked them. They were salty and crunchy and reminded me of bacon bits, only high in protein and low in fat. John the Baptist's diet of locusts and wild honey now doesn't seem as bad as I imagined.

We walked to Bishop Marcel Utemi's house just a few blocks away to pay our respects. He warmly received us and thanked the Priests of the Sacred Heart for their rich history in this diocese. Monsignor Grison, SCJ, was the first bishop when this became a diocese. He is remembered with a statue in a small park nearby.

Next was a trip to the Procure. It was here during the 1964 rebellion that many people took refuge. Msgr.

Fataki, a well loved native Congolese who later became bishop, stood in front of the doors during the rebellion, telling the rebels who wanted to attack the Europeans inside: "If you are going to kill them you will have to shed my blood first." They backed down and many lives were saved. In addition to the 1964 fighting, the Procure and cathedral were shelled as recently as 2000. Bishop Fataki is now buried in the cathedral, which stands next door, overlooking the wide Congo River.

In front of the cathedral stands a statue of the Sacred Heart. At one point revolutionaries were ordered to tear down external signs of the faith. They didn't know the statue was constructed around steel railroad ties and when their wires snapped trying to topple Jesus, they took it as a sign to cease, and the statue still guards the church entrance.

NOVEMBER 22 - We toured some schools today. Saint Edith Stein is the patroness of the school of philosophy run in collaboration between SCJs, Camboni Missionaries, Montfort Fathers and the Carmelites. When we toured the classrooms Fr. Charles Brown told students that he is a professor of Biblical studies. "How will studying philosophy help us in any



The statue of the Sacred Heart that could not be toppled.

way to understand the Bible?" asked one exasperated student. Fr. Charles was very animated when he replied that "It ALL helps you to understand the Bible. You need history, literature, geography, everything!"

We also visited Saint Laurent, a program that houses children in crisis. Some have been trafficked, beaten and abused. Staff members

have no idea who the parents are of some. The children may be at St. Laurent for many years. The sleeping rooms had a dozen or more beds, draped with mosquito netting. They have a wood shop to teach a trade, but complications with the power company cut off their access to electricity. I have worked in poor areas and seen much suffering. Yet this tugged at my heartstrings intensely.

NOVEMBER 23 - Today was the day of our big memorial celebration. It was 50 years ago today that the first group of SCJs was killed in a home a few blocks away from St. Martha Church.

The Congo River is perhaps a mile wide here, and there are no bridges to cross over. People walked onto a ferry that could take several hundred people at a time. As the mass of humanity crowded on board I got a better sense of how overcrowded ferries occasionally have trouble and sink. Yet the chaos quickly dispelled when the religious sisters on board intoned a hymn honoring Mary, and most of the boat started singing along with harmonies that stirred my soul.

We gathered for prayer and reflection and the laying of wreaths at the spot where our martyrs were slain.

The crowd for the Mass was huge, perhaps 3,000 faithful from across the city. An altar was set on the front steps of the church; people still spilled out onto the roadway and surrounding the church.

The opening song and procession



SCJs pray at one of the tombs of the martyrs.

took a long time as the column of servers, priests and other liturgical ministers shuffled and danced to the rhythm of the drum. While so much of Congolese culture is totally new and different to me, the prominence of the drum reminds me of my days working with Lakota people.

I've never been at a mass where the collection took a half hour! Initially ushers placed three-foot high wicker baskets in the middle of the dirt road leading into church and people streamed from all sides to make their offering. The choir sang two or three uplifting songs during the time. When I thought we were finished another group of parishioners lined up to present their offerings in kind – live goats and chickens, bushels of beans and vegetables, and bamboo poles heavily laden with bananas and other fruits from the forest. The need for the priest to wash his hands at that part of the mass makes a lot more sense after handling livestock!

Distributing communion to the faithful is always meaningful to me, and today it was even more of a special honor and prayerful experience. I don't know nor understand the lives of these people and what they've been through. Yet they believe, and it strengthens my own faith.

All in all we were at the altar almost four hours. While I didn't understand the language, I paid attention to the ritual, and the people gathered to pray and remember.

We shared a festive meal afterward. The local food I tried today was a type of fried caterpillar. While it did take me a while to work up the nerve to taste it, it reminded me of smoked oyster, only crunchy.

The ferry was finished running for the day so to get back to the other side we loaded into a pirogue. The boat was perhaps 40 feet long and carved from the trunk of a single tree. About two dozen pilgrims sat on the edges as we motored across the vast river and reflected on an unforgettable day.

NOVEMBER 25 - With our travel plans east canceled [due to impassable

roads from rain] we made a trip north on red dirt roads to the village of Banalia. This was one of the early SCJ missions staffed by the Dutch Province; Fr. Hermann Bishops, SCJ, was killed here on this day in 1964.

Along the way we saw many homes made of mud brick with leaf roofs. Pigs, goats and chickens constantly crossed the road. We saw many children in uniform walking to school. We also saw many children working or playing, obviously not in school. When I asked about this I was told that education is mandatory, but many of the children cannot afford the \$5 per month of school fees and thus don't attend.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary church in Banalia stands tall and proud, though weathered and aged. The mission has been turned over to diocesan priests; the three of them hosted us for lunch and a tour. Also passing through the area was Bishop Joseph Banga Bsne of the Buta Diocese. He serves as vice president on the Congo Bishops Conference. We sat in a circle of chairs around the courtyard and discussed Church and political issues.

After lunch we went into the village and visited the only hospital for many miles. It was brightly painted and well kept. The waiting room was an open brick building with spaces to build fires. Families cook food there to take to their sick relatives. Staff said the most common problems are malaria, typhoid, TB and pneumonia. Since most women prefer to work with midwives, the hospital may not get a woman in labor until the delivery has already begun and complications have set in. They try to do a good deal of education and preventative health care.

NOVEMBER 30, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - We celebrated Mass this morning in the Kisangani prison. A thousand inmates were crowded into a facility meant for 300. Most were



Fr. Steve with SCJ deacons in Kinshasa.

young men, their crimes I never actually learned about. We were here to pray with them as our brothers in need. We tried to bring hope and light in a difficult place where it is needed the most.

The brick walls and barracks enclosed a dirt courtyard. Those attending mass crammed into a picnic-pavilion type structure in the middle of the yard. Parts of it were covered with patches of corrugated iron for shade from the merciless sun. One man sat on the roof looking down. I thought of the paralyzed man who watched Jesus from the roof and had to be lowered down; that gospel passage came alive for me in a new way.

I scanned the crowd and saw faces with scars and bruises from a rough life. Despite the bleak surroundings, once the drumbeat began, and inmates started singing in

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Fr. Charles Brown took this photo of SCJs with diocesan radio and television personnel in Kisangani. The Priests of the Sacred Heart have financially assisted the broadcast center. Fr. Stephen Huffstetter was among those interviewed during the visit. "I spoke of what being here at the commemoration of the martyrs has meant to me, and offered some words of encouragement to the youth of the diocese," said Fr. Steve. "Then Fr. Claude Bédard took his turn at the mic and had them laughing as he recounted some of his adventures of coming back to Africa after 30 years.

soaring harmonies, I felt a tangible sense of God's spirit. The opening song was in the Lingala language, but one repeated word stood out among the rest – "Emmanuel!" Advent has begun, and in this time and place we yearn and pray for a Savior to be with us. Advent counsels patience when we want instant solutions, hope when we are ready to give up or give in. O come o come Emmanuel.

Fr. John Pierre, one of our young Congolese confreres, presided and preached. I didn't understand the words, but watched the faces and nonverbal interaction of the prisoners. They nodded. They laughed. They looked inside and reflected as he connected with the realities of their struggles. We all hope to hear the Word of God in that way.

DECEMBER 1 - I changed my domicile last night to the Monsignor Grison center. Fr. Kiki, the director, wanted me to experience life here for a few days. Still in Kisangani, it lies more on the outskirts, on the banks of the Congo River. The setting is more peaceful, and as I looked onto the river I could see ancient tree trunk

pirogues taking villagers floating downriver. Rather than the hustle and bustle of urban life around us, last night I drifted off to sleep to the chorus of frogs.

Part of the year the center is dedicated to retreat needs, as spiritual development is essential in renewing and revitalizing any church. When the war destroyed so much infrastructure there were really no other centers that could host spiritual searchers. It's a needed and appreciated service to God's people.

Other times of the year the center rents out rooms to civic groups for conferences and meetings. Again, there are few other places in the city that can offer such space. The rental income helps the center pay its bills. Two SCJ priests and two interning seminarians oversee the operation. Another two priests serve the needs of St. Gabriel parish next door. It is the first and oldest parish established in the area.

Fr. Zenon invited his Provincial Council and staff to have a wrap-up meeting with us. They laid out their overall vision for programs and building projects they dream about

developing. Boldest is to build a new school to serve the needs of the abandoned children who come through the St. Laurent Center that would also serve the needs of that area of the city as it grows in that direction. Fr. Jonas, the provincial treasurer, was able to clearly break down the costs of each project. The small amounts they are able to raise locally, coupled with the amount of grants that might come in from other provinces, will determine whether these can happen sooner or remain but a distant dream. But the young and growing province is not afraid to dream big as its members try to meet the many social and spiritual needs of the areas entrusted to them.

In the evening 27 area SCJs gathered for a farewell supper. We've been hosted and shown around by many of them individually, but it was nice to have everyone together at the provincial house. Tomorrow we travel back to Kinshasa, so tonight was a time to exchange laughter, stories and email addresses, and wonder when we might next meet again.

DECEMBER 3 – Yesterday was a long travel day, with more waiting than actual time on board the two-hour flight from Kisangani to Kinshasa. When we went through customs and security I was surprised that nothing was computerized. The agent asked a few questions about where we were staying, then entered our passport numbers with pen in a ledger book. I wonder if there is any check or follow through.



Fr. Charles Brown and Fr. Simplicie, a recently ordained member of the Congolese Province. Fr. Simplicie is doing studies in the New Testament at St. Augustin in Kinshasa.

Overcast skies prevented much of a view from above except for the period close to take off and landing. Coming into Kinshasa you certainly see what a huge and sprawling urban center of the world it truly is.

Today we had some time to explore part of the city. As we drove around town the air was choked with smog. All the vehicles run on diesel fuel, and my eyes were itching and burning after a while. Electrical power is cleaner, mostly coming from hydroelectric dams. But there are substantially long brown-outs throughout the city. Our house had electricity for only a few hours these past two days. Fr. Gabriel can use a generator when needed, as in the evening when students need light to study. But their budget is strained every time they must buy more fuel for power that most of us take for granted.

The SCJ house in Kinshasa has a small chapel for daily mass that seats about 50. At 6 am today it was full to overflowing, with people spilling over to plastic chairs set on the lawn outside. Songs were in Lingala, and the mass in French. The music was quite spirited with drum, rattles, keyboard and tambourine. The crowd was an even mix between men and women from a variety of ages and walks of life. The SCJs incorporate the prayers of the Divine Office into the Mass, and people pray along with them before going off to start their day.

DECEMBER 6 – Over breakfast Fr. Simon and Fr. Gabrielle remembered an American SCJ who had a huge impact on their families and their vocation. Fr. Dave Maher devoted many years to serving in the Congo before he took ill and died. They are two of four SCJ priests from his parish, inspired by Fr. Dave's hard work, dedication and deep spirituality. From that same cluster of parishes he served, there are many vocations to the diocese and to women's religious communities as well. One person's witness can inspire many to follow.

This whole journey has been one of generous and gracious hospitality, and much to inspire as we wrap up and head home.

The 28 men killed in Congo during the 1964 rebellion are among a total of 49 SCJ martyrs. They include Blessed Juan María de la Cruz who was executed during the Spanish Civil War, SCJs who were killed in Nazi concentration camps during World War II, and 11 members of the congregation who died in a Japanese concentration camp in Indonesia. We remember all of those SCJs who gave their lives as martyrs:

Blessed Juan María de la Cruz, SCJ

Executed during the Spanish Civil War on Aug. 23, 1936.

Fr. Franz Loh, SCJ

Died in a Nazi prison camp in Germany in 1941.

Fr. Joseph Stoffels, SCJ

Died in a Nazi gas chamber in Austria on May 25, 1942.

Fr. Nicolas Wampach, SCJ

Died in a Nazi gas chamber in Austria on Aug. 12, 1942.

Fr. Nicolas Capelli, SCJ

Executed in Italy during World War II in 1944.

Fr. Petrus Cobben, SCJ

Fr. Andreas Gebbing, SCJ

Fr. Wilhelmus Hoffmann, SCJ

Fr. Franciscus Hofstad, SCJ

Fr. Theodorus Kappers, SCJ

Fr. Isidorus Mikkers, SCJ

Br. Mattheus Schulte, SCJ

Br. Theodorus van der Werf, SCJ

Fr. Petrus van Eyk, SCJ

Fr. Franciscus van Iersel, SCJ

Fr. Heinrich van Oort, SCJ

Died in a Japanese concentration camp in Indonesia from 1944-1945.

Fr. Kristiaan Muermans, SCJ

Died in a Nazi concentration camp in Germany on Feb. 12, 1945.

Fr. François Musslin, SCJ

Murdered in his mission station in Cameroon on Aug. 30, 1959.

Fr. Laurent Héberlé, SCJ

Br. Valentin Sarron, SCJ

Shot and beheaded at their mission station in Cameroon on Nov. 29, 1959.

Fr. Franciscus ten Bosch, SCJ

Fr. Amour Aubert, SCJ

Fr. Hermanus Bisschop, SCJ

Fr. Gerardus Nieuwkamp, SCJ

Br. Henrik Vanderbeek, SCJ

Fr. Henricus Verberne, SCJ

Br. Martinus Brabers, SCJ

Br. Jozef Paps, SCJ

Fr. Jean Trausch, SCJ

Fr. Joseph Conrad, SCJ

Fr. Henricus van der Vegt, SCJ

Murdered during the Simba Revolution in the Congo on Nov. 25, 1964.

Bishop Joseph Wittebols, SCJ

Fr. Jacques Moreau, SCJ

Fr. Clément Burnotte, SCJ

Br. Jozef Laureys, SCJ

Fr. Jeroom Vandemoere, SCJ

Fr. Karel Bellinckx, SCJ

Fr. Christian Vandael, SCJ

Fr. Leo Janssen, SCJ

Fr. Josephus Tegels, SCJ

Murdered during the Simba Revolution in the Congo on Nov. 26, 1964.

Fr. Henricus Hams, SCJ

Fr. Joannes Slenter, SCJ

Br. Wilhelmus

Schouenberg, SCJ

Fr. Joannes de Vries, SCJ

Fr. Petrus

van den Biggelaar, SCJ

Fr. Arnoldus

Schouenberg, SCJ

Fr. Wilhelmus Vranken, SCJ

Murdered during the Simba Revolution in the Congo on Nov. 27, 1964.

Fr. Aquilino Longo, SCJ

Murdered during the Simba Revolution in the Congo on Nov. 3, 1964.

Fr. Paulo Punt, SCJ

Assassinated by organized crime in Brazil on Dec. 15, 1975.

Remembering all of our SCJ martyrs

Missionary returns to Africa after 23 years

From 1982 – 1991 Br. Leonard Elder, SCJ, was a missionary in Zaire. In November, he returned for the first time in 23 years.

Much has changed during his absence, even the name of the country. Since 1997, Zaire has been known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a return to its historical name.

And BROTHER Leonard is now FATHER Leonard. One of the reasons he returned to the United States was to pursue a call to the priesthood.

“God, through the voices of many people [in Africa], called me again to pursue studies for the priesthood,” said Fr. Leonard.

He first came to the SCJs with the desire for ordained ministry. After graduation from the minor seminary (Divine Heart in Donaldson, Ind.) he entered the novitiate.

“But I then I decided that I didn’t want to be a priest,” he said.

Instead of professing his first vows, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. In some ways, his time of military service was an extended period of discernment. After four years with the Air Force “I asked to return to the community as a religious brother.”

Fr. Leonard professed his first vows in 1967.

He volunteered for the missions when the U.S. Province was preparing a team to serve in Lesotho, a small country surrounded by South Africa. At the time, he was the assistant novice master.

The Lesotho project was indefinitely postponed but Fr. Leonard was

still open to the missions. When asked to consider going to Zaire he quickly said “yes!”

Fr. Leonard joined a group of SCJ priests and brothers from 11 countries. They included Fr. David Maher and Br. Jerry Selenke, American SCJs who have since passed away.

His first assignment was at the Centre Monsignor Grison in Kisangani where “I was asked to repair the building and turn it into a functioning retreat center.”

He later served at the mission in Babonde in the Diocese of Wamba.

Fr. Leonard says that what he enjoyed most about his years in Africa “were the challenges; learning new cultures, languages, and the daily struggles to overcome the lack of almost everything I was accustomed to using.

“However, joined with those challenges was discovering a people eager to celebrate God’s love and to share in their lives and struggles.”

A turning point in Fr. Leonard’s vocation came when he was recuperating from a back injury suffered while repairing a

bridge. Orange cones and DOT repair crews are not frequently seen on Congolese roads; often missionaries do necessary repairs themselves.

During his convalescence Fr. Leonard began to once again discern a vocation to ordained ministry.

“My time in the Congo certainly helped in preparing for ministry as a priest,” he said. “The first-hand experiences in the mission chapels gave me many insights into the working of



Fr. Leonard Elder (red hat) and Fr. Johnny Klingler during a celebration in Badadeka, Congo (then Zaire). Fr. Leonard served in Congo from 1982-1991.



Fr. Leonard speaking at the Provincial Chapter.

God’s graces.”

He had hoped to return to Zaire after ordination, but an escalation of the country’s armed conflicts made it difficult to do so.

As noted in Fr. Stephen Huffstetter’s journal, it was in remembrance of the country’s conflicts that Fr. Leonard returned to Africa. He joined SCJs from around the world who came together to remember and celebrate the lives of 28 members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart who were martyred during the Simba Revolution.

A bittersweet moment for the congregation, this year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Congolese Province. The Priests of the Sacred Heart have had a presence in the country for 117 years but it wasn’t until 1964 that a province was formally established.

When Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, provincial superior, asked if someone would like to represent the U.S. Province at the commemoration, Fr. Leonard saw the perfect opportunity to return.

“I looked forward to seeing a few of the men I worked with and assuring them by the visit that they and their ministry were not forgotten by me,” said Fr. Leonard

Fr. Yulius Sunardi presents his doctoral research to SHSST seminarians

“How do we create ways for priests to share their struggles, to create a sense of community and support?”

-Fr. Yulius Sunardi, SCJ

What factors predict whether a man will stay committed to the priesthood? This has been Fr. Yulius Sunardi's question for the past two years as he researched the theme of his recently defended doctoral thesis: “Predictive Factors for Commitment to the Priesthood: Insights for Seminarians and Priests in their Vocation Journey.”

On November 19th he presented the results of his research to seminarians and faculty at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

The single most significant factor in a man's commitment to the priesthood?

Loneliness.

It isn't the only predictive factor, but it is a critical one.

Fr. Nardi didn't just name the issue and move on. In bringing it to the seminarians' attention he said that “I

am giving you responsibility for it. If you don't act on this information, if you don't give this priority, you will struggle. Loneliness is a part of the vocational journey and it is up to YOU to determine what you do with it.”

But not “you” alone, as an individual.

“Loneliness cannot be handled alone,” he continued. “We must work

together, not just to be happy, but to survive.”

Bishops, religious superiors and fellow priests need look at ways of helping priests feel less lonely. “Loneliness is a vulnerability that we all need to acknowledge,” said Fr. Nardi. “Now the question is, what do we do with that? How do we create ways for priests to share their struggles, to create a sense of community and support?”

A seminarian asked about religious life — was Fr. Nardi suggesting that priests in religious communities might have less of a sense of loneliness than diocesan priests living on their own, covering two or more parishes?

Just as a marriage counselor reminds couples that a person can be married and still feel lonely, Fr. Nardi said that living with others in community isn't an inoculation from loneliness.

“People can live in the same house and still feel lonely,” he said. It takes commitment to build and maintain community regardless if the community lives under the same roof or if community support is found among people in several locations.

However, in stating that, Fr. Nardi also noted the practice of many bish-

ops in his Indonesian homeland who encourage their priests to live in community. It's not uncommon in Indonesia to find mixed houses of diocesan and religious priests living together.

“Community doesn't necessarily happen when you put people together in the same house, but it helps,” said Fr. Nardi when questioned after his presentation.

“Loneliness cannot be handled alone,” said Fr. Nardi. “We must work together, not just to be happy, but to survive.”

Other topics that Fr. Nardi touched on included variables identified by personality tests such as the MMPI (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory). Surprisingly, he said, those who are identified as having a strong sense of “defensiveness” often have a better commitment to the priesthood.

“What has been defined in the MMPI as ‘defensive’ may instead be a sense of resiliency,” said Fr. Nardi, “something that is a positive predictor in commitment to the priesthood.”

Fr. Nardi received his doctorate in psychology from Marquette University on December 13th. Soon after he was on his way back to Indonesia. Starting in January, he'll work with seminarians at a theological institute in Yogyakarta. Fr. Nardi plans to eventually replicate his doctoral study in Indonesia to learn if cultural differences will affect the results. He also hopes to open a counseling practice, focusing on priests and religious. He did such work in Indonesia after earning his master's degree in clinical psychology from Marquette in 2004.

Is he anxious to go home?

“Yes, but I will miss the USA,” he said. “The US Province has been very generous to me during my time of study. It has been a long, slow journey and I am grateful to many here for their support — SCJs and others who are a part of the community.”



Fr. Nardi presents his research.

SCJ NEWS

SHSM staffer honored posthumously

Each year the Shelby County Health Department in northern Mississippi presents the "Light of Hope Award" to individuals, businesses and organizations that increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS in the Memphis metropolitan area.

This year the department posthumously presented its award to Sr. Betteann McDermott in recognition of her efforts to bring awareness to and fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS in Shelby County in northern Mississippi.

Sr. Betteann died of a heart attack May 5; she had been coordinator of Sacred Heart Southern Missions HIV/AIDS ministry since 2005.

"We join with the Shelby County Health Department in remembering

and honoring the ministry of compassion Sr. Betteann had with individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS," said Fr. Jack Kurps, SHSM executive director.

Our formation community

Each year members of the Dehon Formation community in Chicago introduce themselves with autobiographies on the province website. Among this year's introductions is one from Patrick Skahill, the newest member of the community.

"It's only been a couple of months since I joined the formation community here in Chicago, so my discernment has just begun," he writes. "It was difficult leaving everything behind as I am sure it is for most candidates. However, I'm very pleased and happy I made the move. I have met many interesting people so far who have shown nothing but hospitality, kindness, and patience."

Go to the following link to read about all members of the community:

www.tinyurl.com/2014formationbios

Email subscriptions

Each week prayers and reflections based in the Dehonian charism are posted on the Dehonian Spirituality page of the province website.



The 2014 Dehon Formation Community

The updates are now available as an email, similar in style to the e-blast that is done for the *Fridge Notes* (weekly news of the U.S. Province).

If you would like to be added to the subscription list of either the *Fridge Notes* or *Dehonian Spirituality* send an email to scjcommunications@gmail.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject heading. Please indicate in the email to which list you are subscribing: *Dehonian Spirituality*, *Fridge Notes* or both.

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