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Minutes of the 850th Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., March 18, 2015

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, minutes. Dn. David Nagel joined the meeting for discussion of financial concerns. Fr. Christianus Hendrik, councilor, was excused.

- I. Local Superiors Meeting – The council discussed the previous day's meeting with local superiors. Overall, councilors felt that it went well and that such meetings have value. They are an opportunity for information sharing between local and province administrations and also a good moment for mutual support in the ministry of leadership. Prayer and reflection was very good.

It would be helpful if local superiors gave more input to the meeting agenda so that it reflects their needs as well as that of province administration. They are invited to do so prior to the meeting.

Having a discussion of the Province Plan was important. It helped local leadership get a sense of the discussions that have taken place as the council has tried to put the plan together.

- II. Finance
- A. Province Development Office — Office staff recently had an extended meeting with consultants from Innovairre. There is much positive information to report on the office since it began its relationship with the organization. The first quarter of 2015 is the best that the office has experienced in the last five years. There has been a 6.4% growth in the file and a 5.3% growth in revenue. The mid-level donor group has shown a 9% improvement.

The Spanish file continues to decline; it was noted that Spanish-speakers are more committed to giving toward ministry as opposed to “bricks and mortar.”

The proposed budget projects a \$7,000 deficit, which is less than previous years. The budget includes support of the province in the amount of \$7 million. Much of incoming revenue will continue to go toward building the donor files with particular focus on reactivating lapsed donors. Evaluation of campaign response is on-going. Campaigns generally are premium focused, devotional or focused on a particular mission or need.

In developing its budget Dn. Nagel said that the office is conservative in its anticipation of revenue.

- B. Capital expenses — Dn. Nagel shared with the council capital expenses that will come with the FY16 budgets:
- Volunteer housing for SHSM: \$1.5 - \$2 million (estimate)
 - Health Center Complex for St. Joseph's Indian School: \$5 million
 - New center for St Catherine's in Big Bend, SD: \$256,000 (some of this may come from a Catholic Extension Society grant)
 - New front driveway for SHSST/SHM: \$510,000 (comes out of the Major Maintenance Fund).

- C. Investment Committee and Stockholders meeting — The meeting was held February 25. The Growth Pool and the Charitable Giving Pool each had a 4.5% return for 2014. The Support and Maintenance Pool returned 3.5%. The Growth Pool Investment Policy Statement is being updated and will be brought to the council for review at its next meeting. Dn. Nagel noted that only one trustee came to the meeting. Dn. Nagel is considering having just one meeting a year and doing more communication on the funds by other means. Councilors appreciated this but also noted legal responsibility that stakeholders have in overseeing the funds. Most of the trustees are in the Milwaukee area. Dn. Nagel will be more active in encouraging them to attend the meeting.
- D. General Finance Commission — The General Finance Commission met in Rome March 9-10 in preparation for the General Chapter. The “committee of experts” met prior to the General Finance Commission meeting. Dn. Nagel and other commission members will attend the first week of the chapter. Dn. Nagel said that the current financial situation of the congregation is good. It is neither a wealthy congregation nor a poor one. While it met the commission authorized funding requests for formation needs, primarily in Africa.
- E. Procedural audit — Dn. Nagel presented the procedural audit of the various investment pools. No areas of concern were cited. Deviation from policy statements was within the appropriate range.
- F. Blue Book — The “Blue Book,” which includes the reviewed budgets and financial statements of the province, is available to councilors.
- G. General Chapter — Dn. Nagel informed the council that the US Province donated \$20,000 toward the expenses of the General Chapter. This is typical of previous chapter donations.
- H. Open floor — Dn. Nagel invited councilors to ask questions regarding financial concerns. The first topic of discussion was SHSST. Dn. Nagel was asked if he thought that the province could continue to sustain the amount that it currently grants to the seminary. Dn. Nagel explained that the province financially assists the seminary in a variety of ways outside of the defined grant. The Province Development Office has the primary responsibility for raising funds for SHSST, finding its greatest success in campaigns for repairs and renovation to the building as opposed to the programs at the school.

In their discussion, councilors asked whether more could be asked of the sponsoring dioceses and religious communities. Are they aware that tuition only covers a small portion of the operating costs of the school? Perhaps a person could be hired for SHSST to do development for the school, focusing on sponsors, alumni, and the dioceses that have alumni serving within them. Could a campaign be sent to parishioners in a diocese with SHSST alumni indicating that “Fr. X serves in your diocese, he studied at SHSST, could you help to prepare more men for such ministry?” If a person was hired to direct such campaigns s/he could utilize the support services of the Province Development Office.

The council also talked about budget needs for World Youth Day 2016. The youth committee led by Fr. Hendrik would like to have 8-10 SCJs (including SCJs in formation) attend WYD with approximately 20 young adults from SCJ parishes. A budget needs to be prepared for this; whoever is organizing the effort needs to be in contact with the Provincial Treasurer’s office. The rough estimate is \$30,000-40,000 for participation from the US Province, including for the possibility of need-based scholarships for some of the participants (though it was noted that most of the young adults will be expected to do fund-raising to help defer costs).

Related to WYD, as preparations are being made the council would like to be informed as to how young adults are chosen to take part in WYD. They emphasized that there needs to be a good representation of the ministries of the province.

III. Administration

- A. Province Policy Handbook (binder) — In reviewing the policies that are to go into the Policy Handbook, local superiors suggested that the original date of promulgation be noted on each policy. Br. Presto said that he would identify as many promulgation dates as he could but that he wasn’t sure if he could do so for all policies.

The policies are primarily ones that are already in effect. The binder is simply a means of putting them in one place. Br. Presto hopes to have the binder finalized for council approval at its next meeting.

- 1. Competencies for Extraordinary Expenditures — The council reviewed this policy. It was noted that the term “local coordinator” needs to be replaced with “local superior.”

The council also voted to approve the addition of the Director of Dehonian Associates with a competency of \$15,000 (the same as other office directors) and the addition of a \$50,000 competency for the executive directors (or CEOs) of C-POSH, SHSM, and the Province Development Office.

2. Vehicle Purchase Policy — The council received the updated Vehicle Purchase Policy for review.
3. Continuing Education and Sabbaticals — The council voted to endorse the inclusion of the newly developed policy on Continuing Education and Sabbaticals in the Province Policy Handbook. **ADDENDUM A**

B. Province Planning

1. Province Plan — The local superiors discussed the draft of the Province Plan during their meeting the previous day. It had been suggested that the plan be sent to the membership for review. Councilors agreed, but noted that an introductory note from Fr. Huffstetter is vital. It does not need to be long since there is a good introduction at the beginning of the plan itself. Fr. Huffstetter's note could be a brief text in the email to which the plan is attached. In his introduction Fr. Huffstetter could note the council's desire to address issues raised at the chapter but also the challenge of creating a plan to do so.

He could state that the proposed plan was discussed at the superiors' meeting where there was strong support for a renewal program focusing on Community Life and Mission. The membership would be asked to reflect on the plan and give feedback. The plan will not have traction if there is no province ownership of it.

SEE ADDENDUM B FOR A DRAFT OF PROVINCE PLAN AND FR HUFFSTETTER'S INTRODUCTION TO IT.

2. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — One of the focus areas of the proposed Province Plan is SHSST. Previously, the council established a committee of SCJs with connections to the seminary to meet and raise questions that should be a part of the province discussion about SHSST.

The council would like to see the province reflect on questions such as:

- How do you see the province's role in the training of seminarians for the priesthood and lay people for service to the Church?
- What is the vision of SHSST? What is the province's vision for it?

Also, more people need to be involved in the discussion. The seminary has a significant strategic planning process in place. That needs to be a part of the discussion, as well as representatives from SHSST in general.

Fr. Huffstetter will write to SCJs on the committee to state that the council would like to refocus its task. The committee's work is a first step in the process of creating province discussion about SHSST. As the province tries to look at the wider picture of seminary and lay education for Church ministry and SHSST's role in that, could the committee suggest names of people who might be able to assist in moving that discussion forward?

- C. Statements made in the name of the province — A member of the province asked Fr. Huffstetter if there was a process in place for issuing statements in the name of the province. Fr. Huffstetter brought the topic to the council for discussion.

The council talked about perceptions. An individual SCJ or employee can make a statement that expresses only his/her personal opinion, but if that person is identified as being affiliated with the Priests of the Sacred Heart it will have impact as a statement from the community itself even if that is not the intention.

It is assumed that the provincial superior has the authority to issue a statement that speaks for the province, but is that actually the case if the province hasn't been consulted? Regardless, can there be real ownership of a statement — even if it is made by leadership — if there is no consultation of the membership? In the event that the provincial superior believes that the province needs to make a public statement quickly on an issue, how does he do an adequate consultation? What constitutes an adequate consultation?

The discussion raised many questions that the council felt it needed more time for reflection. The topic will come back to a future meeting.

D. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

1. Board of Directors — The council voted to approve the following to the SHSST Board of Directors: Suzanne M. Felan (SHSST alumna), Sebastian C. Thachenkary (Director of Marketing Communications at Alverno College) and Fr. Robert A. Wild, SJ (Marquette University Principal Gifts Officer, University Advancement).
2. Statues — Fr. Huffstetter was asked by the SHSST President's Council to reconsider the decision of the council to not allow the donated statues of Mary and Joseph to be hung in the main chapel. While he appreciates their concerns, any significant modification of the main chapel must be reviewed by SCJs. The chapel serves as a worship space for the province.

- E. North American Councils Meeting — The US and Canadian councils are to meet in Ottawa beginning the evening of April 13 and then for a full day on April 14. One of the topics of the meeting is preparation for the General Chapter; North American delegates are expected to be a part of these discussions. Fr. Kilianski will check with Fr. Duy Nguyen to find out if he can be available for the meeting.

Fr. Huffstetter will contact Fr. Bill Marvee to make details regarding transportation and housing. Previously, members of the US Province stayed at a hotel that is within walking distance of the community house.

Fr. Huffstetter noted that he leaves Ottawa at 4:40 on Tuesday because he needs to be in Mississippi the next day. It was suggested that the meeting begin on Monday afternoon to make sure that all can be present for discussions.

IV. Membership

- A. International assignments for students — Three of the community's scholastics have expressed interest in international assignments. Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas would like to do his apostolic year in Brazil; Frater Justin Krenke is going to spend the upcoming summer with the formation program in India; and Frater James Nguyen would like to do immigration ministry in Toronto.
- B. Fr. Ed Zemlik — Fr. Zemlik's assignment with the ESL program is due for renewal.
- C. Fr. Quang Nguyen — Fr. Nguyen is reorganizing the vocation office. As a part of that, Keith Burdick's position is being eliminated at the end of the fiscal year. This was a challenging decision.
- D. Fr. Paul Kelly — Fr. Kelly will renew his contract at SHSST for two years.
- E. Fr. Charles Brown — Fr. Brown received a very favorable evaluation for his teaching at SHSST. It was noted that Fr. Brown also serves as Mission Secretary.
- F. Br. Brian Tompkins — Br. Tompkins' father died in Nova Scotia. Fr. Tim Gray will try to go to the funeral. Fr. Haaland will also look at doing so. An extensive snowstorm in the east is making travel challenging.

- V. Conference call — The council will meet by conference call on March 31 at 1 pm to review these minutes and the minutes of the Local Superiors Meeting.

Continuing Education and Sabbaticals

Continuing Education

Introduction

We are privileged to live in a moment of history where technology, scientific development and new advancements in production create new possibilities and opportunities for our lives and our ministries. These advances and changes affect how we relate to each other and to the People of God whom we serve.

As professed members of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, we are professionals in ministry. It is necessary for all of us, active or retired, brother or cleric, to maintain high standards and continue to seek new knowledge and understanding.

The three paragraphs of Canon 279 reinforce this need to broaden one's horizons and experience. It encourages us to seek new information and lines of study that will enhance our ministry, our professional development and our relationships. This policy is designed to assist us in this pursuit.

Programs and Opportunities

Continuing Education is a broad expanse of options. These options might include attendance at a lecture, participation in a three day workshop, auditing a semester-long course at the local university or major seminary as well as pursuing full-time post-graduate studies. What is chosen would depend on the member, the needs of the province and the dialogue between the member and the provincial superior.

These options might require a member to go beyond the borders of the USA to gain competency in a foreign language in preparation for the challenges of new ministry. These options might be employed as one prepares for specific ministries within the province (administration, formation, development office leadership, etc.) when acquisition of specific skills and abilities would benefit the member, the province and those we serve.

These options also allow for the development of new ideas and the challenging of older methods when one dialogues with others regarding best practices, new insights and current research in our respective fields. The ability to network helps construct new avenues in our own thoughts and environments.

Details

Each of us are challenged to seek out these opportunities and determine what avenues are best suited to our current and future ministries. Short term opportunities such as a lecture or workshop should be arranged in consultation with one's local superior.

Long term endeavors (advanced, post-graduate degrees, extended time of preparation for formation, etc.) need to be developed in concert with the provincial superior and provincial treasurer as applicable. Details regarding the type of program or study, location, duration, living situation and expense must be negotiated before one begins a long-term endeavor as they effect the immediate and extended future of the province and the person.

If one is involved in such an endeavor, it is prudent and required to communicate with the provincial superior about goals, opportunities and provide a record of one's accomplishments during the program. In this way, the needs of the individual and the province continue to be determined and evaluated.

Financial arrangements for long term studies (tuition, room and board, living expenses) are budgeted through the provincial offices. The individual needs to communicate with the provincial treasurer beforehand so that this budget can be incorporated into the province office's budget and then provide regular reports on how these revenues and expenses are being managed.

Members who are pursuing long term, post graduate studies must send their semester grade reports to the Provincial Superior in a timely manner.

Sabbaticals

Introduction

The idea of a sabbatical flows from the ancient Israelite practice of allowing one's fields to lie fallow for an extended period time every seven years. This practice provided the land time to recover and restore its nutrients so that future production would be ensured.

In a similar manner, sabbaticals are an opportunity (not a right) for a person to undertake a new initiative that could help revitalize and re-energize himself and/or his future ministry. This could be an opportunity for travel, research, rest or development of new skills.

This is an opportunity that requires extended time away from ministry and community. Therefore, it is imperative that the person seeking a sabbatical be in conversation the provincial superior before the sabbatical begins.

Time Frames

In keeping with the ancient traditions, the first request for a sabbatical leave could be made seven (7) years after profession of final vows for a brother or seven (7) years after ordination. Subsequent requests may be made every seven (7) years following the initial experience. The provincial superior is the final authority to grant permission for the sabbatical experience.

The duration of a sabbatical may be as few as three (3) months but should not exceed twelve (12) consecutive months.

Details

The member who is requesting time for sabbatical needs to discuss this with the provincial superior, conveying his reasons and needs. Again, this is an opportunity not a right. The member needs to provide the provincial superior with information regarding the program being sought, why this program is being sought including the benefits that could be realized, location and the length of time involve. If one's current or future ministry will be impacted by the sabbatical, this needs to be part of the discussion.

Financial arrangements must be negotiated with the provincial treasurer since these expenditures will be part of the province office budgets. Detailed regular reports are to be provided for proper accounting.

Required Approvals

Long term continuing education programs (more than one year) need the consent of the provincial council especially if the member is living outside a local community. Sabbatical programs that require the member to live outside of a local community need the consent of the provincial council.



Priests of the Sacred Heart

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April 1, 2015

Dear SCJs,

I want to share with you the working draft of the province plan that we have been creating these past few months. Special thanks goes to Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, for helping the Council to focus its thoughts.

The draft follows this letter.

In creating the plan, the council wants to address issues raised at the chapter. However, we also recognize the real challenge of developing a plan that addresses these issues in a practical way. The planning still seems so incomplete. There is much to be done. We have unlimited imagination and hopes, but limited time and human resources. Rather than trying to do everything, we have to prioritize and focus on a few things that will make a difference.

I ask you to reflect on this draft individually, and discuss it in community.

As we make progress on the priorities we define, we may then be able to move on to other issues. We may not be able to address everything, but we must begin to focus on what we can. If we do not start somewhere, there will be no overall progress toward a province "plan." The plan can only move forward with SCJ members' ownership and action.

The Council discussed this draft — again, a work in progress — with the superiors' at their March meeting. Together we tried to identify priorities. Among the superiors we found strong support for a renewal/retreat focusing on Community Life and Mission. Our goal is to offer such a retreat in a few different locations, also inviting our Canadian confreres to participate.

Regarding the plan as a whole, I see our overall goal as threefold:

- Individual holiness and wellness
- Supportive local communities
- Resources and structures on the provincial level that offer support

All of that, of course, needs to be mission-driven and outward focused, as we reach out to build the reign of God in souls and in societies.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Stephen Huffstetter SCS". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stephen Huffstetter SCJ

WORKING DRAFT Priests of the Sacred Heart – Provincial Plan 2015-2017?

Introduction: A significant part of the 2014 Provincial Chapter involved a number of conversations focused on the input and reflection questions taken from Fr. Stephen Huffstetter’s Province Report. Flowing from prayer, reflection, and conversation, the chapter identified desires, concerns, and issues, to be addressed, and possible next steps to be considered. This plan is designed to embrace our emerging future, committing ourselves to that future through the wise use of resources – monetary, properties and buildings, along with our greatest resource of our members, partners in ministry, and benefactors, for the sake of those we most desire to serve along with our senior members, those in active ministry, our newest members, and those yet to join us.

I. Focus Area: Community Life and Mission

Introduction: Community life is a core value of religious life; it must be given priority.

Goal(s):

A. *Design resources for use in local communities*

Action steps:

- Create a “resource” (prayer, reflection questions to be used in local communities – focused on various aspects of SCJ life and mission...e.g. living simply)

NOTE: The use of a process adapted from David Schimmel’s Dehonian Spirituality reflections could be used monthly by local communities, with more coming later from Jim Schroeder

Person(s) responsible: Jim Schroeder, with help from David Schimmel

Time line: reflections could begin in 2015, with more to follow from Jim Schroeder

- Explore ways to address the meaning of/ lived reality of Living Simply

Person(s) responsible: John Czyzynski

Time line:

B. *Develop a SCJ renewal program and/or community retreat experience(s)*

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible: Byron Haaland, and possibly a representative from Canada

NOTE: This could include the SCJs in Canada as well

Time line: Spring 2016

C. Promote Health and Wellness

Action Steps:

- Appoint a committee to identify possibilities for promoting health and wellness

Responsible Person(s):

Time line:

II. Focus Area: Life and Ministry

Introduction: It is critical that we consider how to engage in significant ministry, responding to the demands of our ministry commitments with less personnel while also being attentive to quality community life.

Goal(s):

A. Explore what a personnel committee could look like

- Action steps:
Have conversations on a variety of levels (council, local superiors) around such things as how this could be of assistance to the provincial, the best way to approach matching people with people, how the role of this committee could differ from what the council offers.

Person(s) responsible: Initiated by provincial superior

Time line:

B. Take up the challenge of living/working more internationally

- Welcoming people of other cultures to our local communities

Action steps:

- Establish a committee on community life and ministry which will explore ways to respond to the challenge of living and working internationally.

NOTE: grounded in the conversation surfaced at the Chapter of 2014.

Responsible person(s):

Time line:

C. Prepare people in a timely manner for key provincial ministry positions

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible: Steve and Frank and council, personnel committee

Time line: on-going

III. Focus Area: Vocations

Introduction: Vocation Development needs to be not only a priority for the sake of future ministries, but to enhance the community itself. Vocations are the business of all of us.

The staff of the Vocation office will take a leadership role in pursuing action steps

Action steps: Could include the following:

- *Support greater use of social media – promote the SCJ charism*
- *Create prayers and other resources for vocation promotion in families*
- *Develop SCJ resources for parish vocation committee*

IV. Focus Area: Sharing the Dehonian Charism

Introduction: Fr. Dehon's charism is a true gift to the larger church, going beyond the walls of our religious houses. His charism is powerful enough to stir the hearts of many with the love of God.

Goal(s):

A. *Introduce Dehonian Associates training program in US*

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible: David Schimmel, Dehonian Associates Committee

Time line: Fall of 2015

B. *Participate in international collaboration among SCJ Schools*

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible: Schools in Collaboration, Dehonian Associates Committee

Time line: on-going

V. Focus Area: SHSST

Introduction: This can be a unique opportunity to partner with the local church and shape the direction for both priestly and pastoral ministry in a significant way. Together we must chart a course for the future.

Goal(s):

A. *Engage in conversation among SCJs and the Strategic Planning Committee at SHSST*

Action steps:

- Establish a committee to create the "appropriate questions" to be addressed
- Person(s) responsible: SCJs on board – Jim Schroeder, Tony Russo, Jack Kurps; SCJs involved in the school - Byron Haaland, Paul Kelly, Jim Walters, Ed Zemlik, Charles Brown

Time line:

B. *Determine the best option for education of SCJ Students*

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible:

Time line:

VI. Focus Area: INTERNATIONALITY

Introduction: The presence of those from other countries and cultures offers a great richness to our reality. Bringing together people from different cultural perspectives takes hard work, but it is the direction of the future.

Goal(s):

A. *Be more deliberate in our attempts to live and minister from a more international perspective*

Action steps:

- Encourage language training – particularly English-speaking SCJs learning a second language
- Provide international experiences for members
- Contact the Canadian Region about guidelines they use for hosting international students

Person(s) responsible:

Time line:

B. Engage in collaborative efforts with other provinces, countries, etc. in responding to international needs

Action steps:

- Build on theme of next SCJ general conference – *“Toward an Inculturated Charism”*

Person(s) responsible:

Time line:

C. Program review of ESL for SCJs

Action Steps:

Person(s) responsible

Time line:

VII. Focus Area: SENIOR SCJs

Introduction: Senior members are a blessing to our community and we continue to seek ways to provide quality life for those who retire.

Goal(s):

A. Explore on-going ways to attend to the needs of those in retirement

Action Steps:

- Establish a committee to explore such concerns as the following:
 - nursing home options, assisted nursing care within our houses
 - process for making decisions re: needs of individual community members

Person(s) responsible: (see above)

Time line:

B. SCJs Preparing for retirement

Action Steps:

- Design workshops for those nearing retirement, i.e. Richard Johnson Aging with Grace

Person(s) responsible:

Time line:

NOTE: Regarding the time line for each of these focus areas and action plans, unless otherwise indicated, hopefully a DRAFT of a proposal can be shared at the Province Assembly 2015.

NOTE: The following two focus areas – Youth/Young adults and Immigration clearly surfaced at the 2014 Chapter as areas of urgent need which invite a response from SCJs in terms of personnel and resources. Two specific committees are addressing these areas: [see next page]

VIII. Focus Area: Youth/Young Adults

Goal(s):

A. *Focus more efforts and provide resources for youth/young adults*

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible: Young Adult follow-up committee, Hendrik's Group

Time line:

B. *Attend to the needs of youth/young adults in SCJ parishes*

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible:

Time line:

C. *Establish national youth/young adult organization*

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible:

Time line: distant future

D. *Plan Dehonian young adult gatherings, mission trips*

Action steps:

- Philadelphia area Papal visit September 2015

Person(s) responsible:

Time line:

E. *Attend World Youth Day in 2016*

Action steps:

- Identify groups and individuals to participate in World Youth Day in Krakow 2016 July 25-August 1 "Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them"(Matthew 5:7)

Person(s) responsible: Andy Gancarczyk

Time line:

IX. Focus Area: Immigration

Goal(s):

A.

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible: Immigration Committee

Time line:

B.

Action steps:

Person(s) responsible:

Time line:

Tentative schedule for the July 6-10, 2015 Province Assembly

Please note that there may be items from the General Chapter that will need to be addressed at the assembly. The schedule may change slightly to allow for these and other topics.

Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life

Look to the Past with Gratitude

Live the Present with Passion

Embrace the Future with Hope

Monday, July 6

- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:30 Introductory session on **Consecrated Life**
- 4:30 Eucharist celebrating our Jubilarians (Fr. Stephen Huffstetter)
- 5:30 Social
- 6:15 Supper

Tuesday, July 7

- 8:30 Morning prayer in assembly room leading into reflection on the **Vow of Poverty**
- 11:30 Adoration (Fr. Gary Lantz)
- 12-2:00 Lunch
- 2:00 **Look to the Past with Gratitude**
Remembering deceased SCJs & places we have been
- 5:00 Mass – (Fr. Ed Kilianski)
- 6:00 Supper

Free evening with suggested activities

Wednesday, July 8

- 8:30 Morning prayer leading to reflection on **Celibate Chastity**
- 11:30 Eucharistic Adoration (Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh)
- 12-2:00 Lunch
- 2:00 **Live the present with passion**
- 5:00 Mass (Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec)
- 6:00 Supper

Thursday, July 9

- 8:30 Morning prayer leading into reflection on **Obedience**
- 11:30 Mass (Fr. Quang Nguyen)
- 12-2:00 Lunch
- 2:00 Afternoon session - **Embrace the future with hope**
- 5:00 Holy Hour (Fr. Ed Zemlik) with reconciliation available
- 6:00 Supper
- 8:00 Social

Friday July 10

- 8:30 Morning prayer
- Closing session
- 11:00 Mass (Fr. Christianus Hendrik)
- 12:00 Lunch and departures

Local Superiors Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., March 16-17, 2015

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Duane Lemke, Br. Ben Humpfer, Fr. Jim Walters, Fr. Anthony Kluckman (representing South Dakota in Fr. Christianus Hendrik's absence), Fr. Robert Tucker, councilors and/or local superiors; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; and Mary Gorski, minutes. Fr. Ed Zemlik briefly took part during Fr. Walters' absence.

I. Faith sharing – Participants did faith-sharing the evening of March 16.

II. Updates — Local superiors updated each other on their communities and ministries.

- A. South Dakota — Fr. Kluckman noted that students and teachers are back from spring break at St. Joseph's Indian School. There are 200 children at the school this year, including 45 high school students. Fr. Hendrik is in Indonesia until mid-June for a home visit. Fr. Gary Lantz, retired, continues to do a variety of part-time ministries. One of the religious sisters on the Lower Brule Pastoral Team is away for an extended period to attend to health concerns; her community has been sending others to support the team in her absence. Members of the SCJ community have a lunch meeting each month with Donna Dean, Kory Christiansen and Mike Tyrell of St. Joseph Indian School; this has been a good way to exchange information.
- B. Pinellas Park, FL — Br. Humpfer said that members of the community are doing well though most are dealing with health challenges. Br. Gabe Kersting, in particular, is having increasing difficulties with his memory. There is an influx of new members: Fr. Paul Grizzelle-Reid (who has been of assistance to Br. Humpfer with rides and other tasks) and Bishop Joseph Potocnak recently moved in. Fr. Greg Speck and Fr. Pat Lloyd will be joining the community later in the year. Several members of the community no longer drive; those who still have licenses have been helpful in assisting those without. Br. Humpfer will have cataract surgery in April.
- C. St. Joseph Community (Sacred Heart Monastery Lake, 4th floor) — Fr. Haaland said that the community recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the "Great Flood" (when a mechanical problem caused significant flooding and damage in the SCJ wing of SHML). A few members of the community are dealing with health concerns but overall they are well. Fr. Francis Vu Tran recently returned from Rome and Fr. Andrzej Sudol from the Philippine Region is spending part of his sabbatical with the community while taking classes at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.
- D. Sacred Heart Monastery — Fr. Walters said that there are four permanent members of the SHM community and currently three international SCJs who are students at the school. The community also has responsibility for eight candidates in the master's program at SHSST (they are sponsored by the province) and one in the M.Div. program. The last of the masters' students is expected to graduate in 2016 and the M.Div. candidate in 2018. The health of community members is good but Fr. Walters did note the stress of being the host community to international members and other visitors to the monastery. Added to the challenge is the fact that SHSST is far from public transportation so students and/or visitors without a driver's license need rides, often from members of the SHM community.
- E. Mississippi — Fr. Tucker said that Mississippi is in a time of transition. Fr. Greg Speck is on sabbatical and preparing for his move to Florida. Bishop Joseph Potocnak recently left the community and Fr. Leonard Elder is preparing for retirement. Because of these changes, parish ministry has been reconfigured into two zones: east and west. The east includes the parishes of Queen of Peace in Olive Branch and St. Joseph's in Holly Springs. The west includes Christ the King in Southaven, Good Shepherd in Robinsonville, Holy Spirit in Hernando and St. Gregory in Senatobia. Fr. Tucker said that the new configuration is working well and allows for coverage more easily in the event that a member of the team is away for the weekend. Community members in general seem to be doing well.
- F. Houston — Fr. Kilianski spoke about the three retired members of the community. Fr. Frank Wittouck is quite active, assisting with social service agencies, prison ministry, Marriage Encounter, pilgrimages and at local parishes. Fr. Peter Mastrobuono does a great deal of sacramental ministry. Fr. Richard Johnston assists at a parish in Fort Worth; he regularly visits the Houston community. There are five SCJs living at the community house next to Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. This is the limit of what the house can accommodate; there is no guest space. It is a very international community with SCJs from Polish and Vietnamese ethnic backgrounds (Fr. Duy Nguyen and Frater Joseph Vu are first generation Americans from Vietnamese families). Fr. Kilianski noted the different styles of community and ministry that are expressed in the community.

G. Dehon Formation Community, Chicago — There are 12 people in the house, including a non-SCJ priest who is staying with the community during his studies (he is to graduate in May), an Indonesian SCJ doing graduate work (his studies are also nearing completion), two retired SCJs, and students (professed and candidates) attending one of four schools (DePaul, Xavier, Catholic Theological Union and Loyola). There is the possibility that an SCJ from Congo will join the community in fall. Fr. Czyzynski is in the process of moving out of the community to SHML; Br. Lemke noted that his presence will be greatly missed. There are two new candidates in the house, which has added much life to the community; both are adjusting to community life well.

H. Sacred Heart at SHML — Fr. Jim Brackin, local superior of the Sacred Heart community, was absent from the meeting due to a family death. In his place, Dn. Nagel updated superiors on Sacred Heart at SHML. There have been several family deaths in the community. Fr. Frank Clancy's sister and Br. Brian Tompkins' father recently passed away, as did the great niece of Fr. Brackin. Some members of the community are traveling: Fr. Johnny Klingler is with family in New Jersey; Fr. Ed Griesemer will be leaving soon for visits. Most retired members continue to do help-out ministry. Fr. Huffstetter noted that Br. Tompkins received a renewal of his R-1 visa, allowing him to continue ministry in the US Province.

III. Year of Consecrated Life — Fr. Huffstetter asked the superiors if they had done anything on the local level in regards to the Year of Consecrated Life. The community in Chamberlain held an open house as a part of a community-wide tour. Fr. Kluckman estimated that 75 people visited. In Lower Brule, and its adjoining pastoral locations, there are tentative plans to host something in conjunction with Feast of the Sacred Heart. Fr. Kurps suggested that in Mississippi something regarding the Year of Consecrated Life could be incorporated into the Sacred Heart celebration. It was noted that holding an open house may not work well in a strictly residential community.

Br. Lemke said that in Chicago the formation community regularly holds open houses and other gatherings that welcome people from the area, as well as the schools and other religious communities with which the SCJs interact. Dn. Nagel said that each month an SCJ gives a presentation to lay residents at SHML about his vocation; approximately 20 attend these sessions.

IV. Province Policy Handbook

A. Introduction — Br. Presto spoke about the Province Policy Handbook. Previously, the policies have been assembled in a variety of formats. Br. Presto is in the process of preparing the policies to now be placed in a three-ring binder. This method will allow for easy updating (an old policy can simply be replaced with an updated one in the binder).

Br. Presto, Dn. Nagel, Fr. David Szatkowski and Mary Gorski assembled all of what they believe to be the current policies. Br. Presto emphasized that the purpose of the project is not to create new policies but to simply gather policies that are in use in one place. The handbook is a collection of the day-to-day operational policies of the province, not chapter decisions. They include policies on things such as car purchases, check writing, personnel folder content, and admissions criteria. The only new policy being proposed is one on continuing education and sabbaticals.

B. Comments — The superiors were invited to comment on the handbook before it is published. Several superiors asked about how handbook information is disseminated. Some of the policies were unfamiliar to many. Br. Presto said that is one of the reasons why the binder is being assembled. Although the policies are promulgated after they are established or updated, they are not always noticed when they are attached to the minutes of a council meeting.

Br. Presto was asked if the original date of a policy's approval could be included with each, not just the date that the council approves the assembled binder of policies. Br. Presto said that he will attempt to find the dates upon which each policy was established but is unsure if he can find all of the dates. In the future, the date of a policy's establishment will be noted, as well as the date(s) upon which it is updated.

Fr. Huffstetter will write an introductory letter to the Province Policy Handbook. In it he will note that what is assembled are policies already in place, and that when it was possible, the date of the establishment of each is indicated.

C. Corrections and suggestions — Suggestions were made regarding the text of some of the policies. Br. Presto noted the suggested changes but reiterated the fact that what is represented are policies already in place.

D. Protecting the People of God — The largest section of the handbook includes the group of policies under the heading "Protecting the People of God." Among the policies is one on screening and background checks. Br. Presto explained that there are four such checks. The first two are in response to requirements from the US bishops: 1) a criminal background check and 2) a national sex offender registry check. The second two are for the protection of the province and its assets: 3) a

driver's license and motor vehicle safety record check and 4) a credit check.

Br. Presto informed the superiors that over the next three months members of the province will receive documentation that must be filled out and completed so that the province can do these checks. Superiors were asked to inform the members of their communities about this and encourage them to cooperate in a timely manner. Br. Lemke asked that the formation community receive the forms soon so that students can fill them out before leaving for summer ministry.

In regards to the policies on Protecting the People of God superiors voiced their concern about the severity of response toward all allegations. Some suggested that it is too easy to destroy a person's reputation with an unfounded allegation and little recourse. This is a challenge that Church as a whole is reviewing.

- V. Statements made on behalf of the province — Occasionally a statement is made by an individual or by a group on behalf of the province. One of the local superiors asked that a policy be established regarding this. In particular, who gets to speak for the province and how are statements vetted? The council will discuss this at an upcoming meeting.
- VI. Province Plan — Fr. Huffstetter talked about the council's attempt to develop a "province plan" based primarily on the areas of significance identified at the province chapter. Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, facilitator at the chapter, facilitated a discussion with the council regarding the planning process. The draft that was given to the superiors to review is the product of that discussion.
- A. Priorities — Fr. Huffstetter said that the province needs to be realistic in what it can accomplish. He asked each superior to identify what he views as the two top priorities from the plan on which the province needs to focus. Comments on the priorities identified:
1. Community Life and Mission
 - In general, we always need to be concerned about community life, it affects everything, including ministries and vocations.
 - Community life is the core of who the SCJs are.
 - If we don't work on community life and mission there is no reason for the SCJs to be here in ministry.
 - Everything we do must flow out of community life. If our plans for the future aren't based in community and mission then we will simply allow circumstances to dictate where the province is and what it does.
 - How do we live our spirituality in community?
 2. Vocations
 - We will continue to eliminate ministries if we don't increase our vocations.
 3. Senior SCJs
 - There has not been a director of senior life for many years, yet the province membership is aging.
 - No preparation is taking place for SCJs transitioning to retirement age. It would be good to have a workshop for upcoming seniors as was done in the past.
 4. Sharing the Dehonian charism
 - As the number of SCJs decreases it is vital that the values of the Dehonian charism be shared more intentionally so that it can continue and thrive.
 - The Dehonian charism is a gift to the Church, not just to the SCJs. It is something that must be shared.
 - Collaboration based in the Dehonian charism will allow our mission to continue.
 - Everything flows from the Dehonian charism.
 5. Youth/Young Adults
 - There is a need to focus on youth in parishes, but also in SCJ schools. Develop more resources on the

Dehonian charism. This could be a tool to assist in vocational development.

- B. Priorities vs. time commitments — In preparing for the discussion of the Province Plan Fr. Huffstetter said that he identified three priorities: 1) health and well-being of members, 2) care of seniors (including discussion of expanded in-home care), and vocations.

However, he then identified the areas in which he, as provincial, devotes much of his time. These include: preparation for chapters (provincial and now general), congregational concerns (including visits to the missions), issues related to the ESL and MA program at SHSST, and personnel issues regarding SCJs.

The challenge is always to find a way to focus on what has been identified as a priority while also giving sufficient time to issues that he, as provincial, must address.

- C. Moving forward — How can the province plan move forward? If not the full plan, how can priorities be addressed?

“Community and mission” was a priority identified by many of the superiors. Some suggested that the province, or perhaps North America as a whole, undergo a renewal program. Before taking action on any of the other issues cited, it is vital that SCJs have a strong and shared sense of who they are as Dehonians today. A possibility for this would be to have a large renewal gathering (or regional gatherings) with monthly or bi-monthly follow-up activities on the local level. David Schimmel and Fr. Jim Schroder were suggested as resources for preparing such activities. There was a good spirit at the St. Louis gatherings; a renewal could take that a step further.

Prefacing activities on the local level with a province-wide (or continent-wide) gathering would help to create a tone and language for future activities.

The 2015 US assembly could be a start toward reflections on community life and ministry.

Other priorities were noted, including the desire of some to discuss where province formation is done (should the province revisit the idea of sending its students to SHSST?). Also, senior life — are there other models of community living and care that the province might look at? Some congregations hire lay staff to do much of the day-to-day administrative and care-giving tasks, freeing the local superior to focus on issues of the religious community.

Although internationality wasn't cited as a priority by superiors, most acknowledged that it is a significant issue for the province. Not only are there international SCJs among province membership, but the province hopes to further welcome SCJs from other entities to join them in community and ministry. What does it mean to be an international community; how is it lived? How can international SCJs be inculturated to the US Province (community life and ministry)? How can the province better allow itself to be changed by those from other cultures who become a part of it? How can it be more welcoming to international members? Fr. Huffstetter said that the Canadian Region is also looking at these issues. During the upcoming North American councils meeting he will ask about guidelines that they are developing.

In regards to internationality it was stressed that more Spanish-speaking SCJs are needed in the US Province for ministry.

And finally, how does the province ensure that the major decisions made regarding it are based in the Dehonian charism? How does the province keep that charism alive in the United States?

- D. Action – It was suggested that a draft of the province plan be shared with the membership.

VII. Province Assembly — Fr. Huffstetter talked about the July province assembly. Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life, it will focus on the vows. There will be time for remembering the deceased and sharing stories. Time is also being set aside to share information from the General Chapter, and to attend to issues that might arise from it.

It is hoped that the schedule can be a leisurely one, allowing for quality time and reflection. The assembly will begin Monday, July 6 with lunch. The first session will begin at 1:30 p.m. The jubilee celebration will be at 4:30. Optional activities will be planned on the other evenings.

VIII. General Chapter — The North American councils will meet in Ottawa in April. One of the topics will be the General Chapter, including general elections. It is a good time to surface names for consideration for general administration. The superiors briefly

spoke about the qualities needed for general leadership, as well as the challenge an entity faces in making one of its men available for extended ministry in Rome. Instead of promoting any particular SCJ for general administration, the superiors stressed the need for delegates to be open to discussions that take place at the chapter and resulting outcomes. Members of the province are asked to keep the chapter in their prayers.

- IX. Local community orientation/review — Fr. Huffstetter asked the superiors to share the process of welcoming new members to their communities. Most said that they give a basic orientation to the community, including housekeeping items (where to find things, etc) and the community's schedule. It was suggested that when a new member joins a community it would be a good time for the community as a whole to gather and talk about expectations and schedules, evaluating them to see what is working well and what might be changed. It was noted that this is a way to be intentional in how religious life is lived and how the community respects all who are a part of it (acknowledging cultural and generational differences).

In the past, some communities would take a day to be together and talk about expectations and schedules for the upcoming year.

- X. Other items — The superiors were invited to ask questions or bring up topics that had not yet been discussed. One participant asked about the art studio/workshop to be built on the Woods Road property. Originally, it was hoped that studio space could be made available in or near SHML. Will it be difficult for retired SCJs to utilize the studio if it is at Woods Road? Other locations were considered but for various reasons, they couldn't be used. The price of the building was also questioned. It was noted that the structure will be a simple one — an adapted garage that will be built on the location of the current garage on the Woods Road property. That garage has fallen into disrepair. It was suggested that if the Woods Road property is later sold that the studio could be converted into a garage.
- XI. Next meeting — The group agreed that it is helpful to gather both for information sharing and for support as superiors. Local superiors will be contacted with possible meeting dates for 2016 after next year's Provincial Council meeting calendar is finalized.
- XII. Evaluation — Participants said that they especially appreciated the time they had together for prayer and sharing; reflecting on authority and obedience as a part of oblation was good. It was very helpful for the superiors to hear that others were dealing with concerns similar to their own. Discussion of the handbook (province policies) was good.

Fr. Huffstetter concluded the meeting by expressing his gratitude to the superiors for their ministry

POSTSCRIPT RE: ESL STUDENTS: After the meeting concluded Fr. Walters asked the superiors to consider hosting ESL students in their communities during school breaks in June and in December. It is a nice way for the visiting students to learn more about the province and contribute to it in ministry assistance, and it is a good way for the local communities to learn more about the international congregation.

Notes from Justice Peace & Reconciliation Commission Meeting March 20, 2015

Present: Fr. Bob Bossie, Fr. John Czyzynski, Fr. Wayne Jenkins, Mark Peters, Fr. Greg Schill (by phone)

Excused: Br. Clay Diaz, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Johnny Klingler

- 1 Meeting began at 9:30 AM with prayer from “This Day of God” and member updates.
- 2 Mark gave his **director’s report**, which included working with Frs. Paul Kelly and Byron Haaland on the January social justice retreat for SHSST, with WIM/CRI on corporate responsibility, and with Common Ground at St. Martin of Tours. He also noted that he would be attending Notre Dame’s Gaudium et Spes 50th Anniversary conference the following week. He listed as his priorities for the coming year to continue to work with the aforementioned groups, to continue to strategize and receive direction from the JPR Commission, to engage with and report to the province about our grant partners, to regularly update the JPR website and continue other communications and alerts to members of the Province, to stay abreast of social justice issues, especially immigration and economic justice, and to do further research and writing about Fr. Dehon and the social question. Fr. Greg encouraged him to contact Fr. Bob Tucker about possible ways to resource our parishes in MS. Mark will also talk to Fr. Byron and Fr. Paul about ways to resource SHSST.
- 3 A discussion ensued on **public statements**. We want to distinguish between major statements, which would be issued in the name of the Province after full consultation with members of the Province and ratification by the Provincial Council, and occasional statements on issues of concern to the Commission which would be issued in its name only. The former are dealt with in great detail in the Council’s 1995 policy on “corporate stances on social justice.” Mark and Fr. Wayne will look these over to see if they can be simplified in any way, but the Commission feels this policy still makes sense for major statements. However, because of the consultation process involved, it is *not feasible to issue more than one such statement a year*. We regularly receive requests to sign on to letters or other statements, often multiple times in a month, and they usually have an urgent deadline. We would like to be able to sign on to these statements as a Commission, requiring only that the full Commission is polled and that there is consensus that the group wants to speak to this issue. Even here, we want to exercise prudence and only sign on to statements on issues we feel are of great importance and have potential impact. The Commission directed Mark to first contact a number of other congregations to see how they handle such statements. We will then draft a proposal to guide these decisions and send it to the Provincial Council.
- 4 At 10:30, we were joined by members of **Common Ground** of Southeastern Wisconsin – Bob Connolly, President, Kathleen Patron, South Side Organizer, and Trish Waldron, St. Martin of Tours parishioner. Bob reported on Common Ground’s purpose and its campaigns and victories since its founding in 2008. Kathleen reported on her work in organizing the south side of Milwaukee County, especially the Hispanic population. She has done over 400 individual meetings since starting this position last year. Trish is a member of Martin of Tours’ Common

Ground Core Team, and she talked about how they are working with Mark to do one on ones in the parish and respond to the concerns they surface there.

Common Ground has already had major victories in getting 5 international banks to put \$33 million into a fund for housing rehabilitation on Milwaukee's north side and establishing a health care cooperative under "ObamaCare" for which approximately 30,000 Wisconsinites have signed up, and they are now working on a new campaign to get public monies set aside from the planned new professional basketball arena for the repair of decaying public school and civic sports fields and facilities. At Martin of Tours, they are hoping to work with parishioners who are concerned about evangelization and retaining young people and families. Bob Connolly mentioned that they have been in touch with the Dominican Center (another funded partner) at Mark's suggestion, and that a new staff person there has been to one of Common Ground's trainings. When asked how Common Ground (an IAF organization) responds to the broader systemic questions, such as the power of these international banks to wreak havoc by their investment decisions not just in Milwaukee but nation- and world-wide, Bob said that a number of IAF entities here and abroad are now engaging in such conversations.

- 5 We then looked very briefly at the **applications for funding** that came in by the deadline for consideration for 2015-16. Members agreed to look them over before our next meeting in early June, which will be in Chicago to enable us to visit the Br. David Darst Center and Port Ministries, our two newest partners. Final decisions on these requests will be made at that time.
- 6 Before concluding with prayer and lunch, we also looked at Mark's **proposed budget**, which included small cuts in supplies and travel, but also asks for \$30,000 more for funding of social justice groups in WI, Chicago and TX. If approved, we would now be able to fund these groups at a level 75% that of previous years (it was 50% last year). We also included a request from Common Ground for \$150,000 loan at 0% interest for five years to enable them to refurbish more foreclosed homes.

CALENDAR

2015

April 13-14:	North American Councils meeting, Ottawa
April 28-29:	Provincial Council Meeting
May 15 - June 7:	General Chapter, Rome
June 30:	Provincial Council Meeting, conference call (advancement in formation)
July 6-10:	Province Assembly
July 6:	Province Jubilees
August 3-4:	Provincial Council Meeting
September 15-16:	Provincial Council Meeting
October 20-21:	Provincial Council Meeting
December 15-16:	Provincial Council Meeting

NECROLOGY

+Fr. Jacobus Cornelis Maria de Raaij, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died March 26. He was born in 1928, professed in 1949 and ordained in 1954.

+Fr. Theobald Ruholl, a member of the German Province, died March 14. He was born in 1938, professed in 1962 and ordained in 1967.

+Fr. Onorio Matti, provincial superior of Mozambique, died March 7. He was born in 1951, professed in 1973 and ordained in 1979.

+Fr. Germano Toninato, a member of the Argentine Province, died on March 1. He was born in 1935, professed in 1953 and ordained in 1963.

+Fr. François le Penven, a member of the Franco-European Province, died February 22. He was born in 1914, professed in 1935 and ordained in 1943.

+Fr. Piero Todesco, a member of the North Italian Province, died February 20. He was born in 1937, professed in 1960 and ordained in 1966.

+Fr. Joseph George Coppens, a member of the Canadian Region, died February 14. He was born in 1920, professed in 1942 and ordained in 1947.