

SCJ NEWS

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

June 2015

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Fr. Stephen Huffstetter was the main celebrant of the liturgy following his election to the General Council. Two weeks later he was busy studying Italian!

A new general administration in Rome... *including Fr. Steve!*

Seventy-eight members of the congregation, representing over 40 entities, gathered in Rome May 17 to June 6, for the 23rd General Chapter of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

One of the primary tasks of the chapter was to elect a new general administration for the congregation. On May 25, Fr. Heiner Wilmer, SCJ, provincial superior of the German

Province, was named the next superior or general. His five-member General Council was in place by the end of the next day.

Among its members? Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, provincial superior of the US Province.

"It is really an honor," said Fr. Steve about his election. "I am excited to have the opportunity to learn more about our international congregation,

to speak with SCJs from around the world and find out how they see God, the Church and our congregation."

Fr. Steve, 56, professed his first vows in 1982 and was ordained in 1989. Prior to his election as provincial superior in 2013 Fr. Steve was executive director of St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, SD.

Originally from South Bend, Ind., Fr. Steve studied at and earned degrees from Loyola University and Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At CTU, he received a Doctor of Ministry in Theology and one in Cross Cultural Ministry.

He has had a long commitment to Native Americans and the people of South Dakota since his initial years with the community. Before completing his seminary studies Fr. Steve worked for two years with the Cheyenne River Pastoral Team in Eagle Butte, SD.

Following his ordination in 1989, Fr. Steve returned to Eagle Butte, where he had also served as a deacon. In 1997, he moved from pastoral work to formation and became the director of the undergraduate program in San Antonio from 1997 to 2001.

He went back to South Dakota in 2001 and ministered with the Lower Brule Pastoral Team until 2004, when he was named president of St. Joseph's Indian School.

In Rome, Fr. Steve jumped into his new assignment quickly. As the rest of the chapter delegates from North America packed up and headed home Fr. Steve was arranging for Italian lessons and preparing for his first meetings with the new council.

A new superior general

As noted above, Fr. Heiner Wilmer was elected to succeed Fr.



Fr. Duy Nguyen and Fr. Ricardo Freire are all smiles before the chapter's audience with Pope Francis.

José Ornelas Carvalho, SCJ, as superior general. He becomes the ninth man to succeed Fr. Leo John Dehon, founder.

Originally from Germany, Fr. Heiner, 54, had been the provincial superior of the German Province since 2007. He was ordained in 1987, and professed his first vows with the congregation in 1982.

Prior to his service as provincial superior Fr. Heiner held a number of positions in education. From 1998 – 2007 he was headmaster of Gymna-

sium Leoninum in Handrup, Germany (a sister school to St. Joseph's Indian School). Before that, he spent a year teaching German and history at the Jesuit's Fordham Preparatory School in New York (USA).

From 1995 – 1997 he served at Liebfrauenschule, a school in northern Germany, as a teacher of religion, history and politics, as well as a school chaplain.

Fr. Heiner has also taken part in several social initiatives with the poor and disenfranchised. In 2006 he spent three months in Caracas, Venezuela, doing catechesis among the city's barrios. From 1996 – 1997 he worked to develop a training initiative for women at a penitentiary in Vechta (Germany).

During his year teaching in New York he served in the Jesuits' soup kitchen. And in 1993 he spent four months in Toronto, Canada, working as a chaplain at "L'Arche Daybreak," a residential home for people with disabilities.

His studies have included French



Fr. Heiner Wilmer, newly elected superior general, and Archbishop Claudio Dalla Zuanna. The archbishop visited with delegates during the chapter.

Philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and Fundamental Theology at the University of Freiburg, where he earned his doctorate. The title of his thesis: "Mystik zwischen Tun und Denken. Zum Ort der Mystik in der Philosophie Maurice Blondels" [Mysticism between doing and thinking. The place of mysticism in the philosophy of Maurice Blondel]

Fr. Heiner is also an author with several published works.



Delegates and guests of the 23rd General Chapter of the Priests of the Sacred Heart pose for a group photo prior to their audience with Pope Francis.

The rest of the team

Fr. Heiner and the new General Council took office on June 6, the last day of the chapter. They have a six-year term. Besides Fr. Steve, the council includes:

Fr. Carlos Enrique Caamaño Martín, 48. Regional superior of Venezuela, he was professed in 1994 and ordained in 1999. Much of his ministry in Venezuela has been in education and formation, including service as the director-rector of Escuela Técnica Industrial Padre Dehon. Fr. Carlos Enrique was a member of the Preparatory Commission for the General Chapter.

Fr. Artur Sanecki, 49, provincial superior of the Polish Province. He professed his first vows in 1985 and was ordained in 1991. He holds a doctorate in Biblical Theology from the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome and speaks six languages.

Fr. Paulus Sugino, 60. This will be his second term on the General Council; he was first elected at the 2009 General Chapter. Originally from the Indonesian Province, Fr. Sugino professed his first vows in 1979 and was ordained in 1982. Prior to his election he served in formation and was provincial superior of the Indonesian Province from 1998–2004.

Fr. Leopold Mfouakouet, 47, provincial superior of Cameroon. Professed in 1988 and ordained in 1995, Fr. Leopold has served in parish ministry, in formation, and as a professor



The new general administration: Fr. Carlos Enrique Caamaño Martín, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, Fr. Léopold Mfouakouet, Fr. Heinrich Wilmer (superior general), Fr. Paulus Sugino and Fr. Artur Sanecki.

at the Catholic University in Yaundé. He was named provincial superior in 2011.

Besides an election

Although much focus was on the election of a new administration, the general chapter involved a lot more than discerning leadership. The chapter theme, "Merciful, in Community, with the Poor," guided the work of the gathering, work that centered on giving direction to the new administration.

"To be merciful, in community, with the poor is an invitation to walk

in an Exodus: leaving ourselves behind in order to meet with the other; leaving behind our search for security and comfort and opening ourselves to being welcoming; planning prudently while maintaining an attitude of expecting the unexpected; walking with the poor toward a land where "mercy and truth shall meet, justice and peace will embrace," states the final document from the chapter.

Chapter delegates spent much of the last week of the chapter working in small groups, giving focus to the themes they chose as priorities for the congregation: Spirituality and Identity



LEFT: Dr. David Neuhold, an assistant professor in history at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, talks about the critical biography of the founder which he was hired to do by the congregation.



RIGHT: African SCJs lead the community in a traditional hymn during liturgy.

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Priests of the Sacred Heart



Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, outgoing-superior general, and Fr. Antonio Panteghini, superior general from 1979-91, witness Fr. Heiner's oath.

ty, Fraternal Life in Community, Formation, the Preferential Option for the Poor, and Mission. Work on these themes gave flesh to the final document.

Joining SCJs in their discussions were two members of the wider Dehonian Family: Grace Escobia, a lay Dehonian from the Philippines, and Silvia Bertozzi, a consecrated virgin who lives the Dehonian charism in Finland. Both are members of the International Dehonian Family Committee. Guests of the chapter, they took part in small group and plenary discussions during the final week of meetings.

On the last full day of the chapter, delegates had an audience with Pope Francis. "From his words we received a confirmation of the place of mercy as the center of our vocation," said chapter members in their final message.

"Mercy is the word that sums up the Gospel; we can say it is the 'face of Christ,'" said the Holy Father to the SCJs.

During the last chapter session delegates heard from superior generals past, present and newly elected. Fr. Antonio Panteghini, SCJ, (superior general from 1979 – 1991) expressed his joy at being with the chapter, a chapter that is much different than those he had presided over when he was superior general. "It is wonderful for me to see the many

colors of the world represented here," he said. "Looking just one or two chapters back we didn't see this diversity in the room. But here there is much youth, there is 'color.' It signifies the broadening of the congregation — its active presence in the world and a great hope for the future."

Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, SCJ, spoke of the fraternal atmosphere of the chapter; he was grateful to those who spent countless hours organizing it, attributing much of the chapter's success to their work.

"This is the last time that I will speak to you as the superior general," he concluded. "I want to tell you what an immense gratitude I feel. It has been a great privilege for me to serve the congregation. I thank you all for your kindness."

The entire hall burst into a long, standing ovation, expressing their own gratitude for the service of Fr. Ornelas during these past 12 years and his dedication to the congregation.

The chapter concluded with a Closing Mass on Saturday, June 6.

Links to other news from the General Chapter:

The final message from the General Chapter is available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/FinalMessageEng>

Photos from the General Chapter:

<http://tinyurl.com/GenChapterPics>

Videos and other General Chapter information:

<http://tinyurl.com/GenChapter>

Fr. Ed Kilianski interim provincial superior

With the election of Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, to the General Council in Rome, Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, becomes the interim provincial superior of the US Province until the province election assembly August 24 -28.

"In a spirit of Ecce Venio and Fiat, I humbly accept this responsibility," wrote Fr. Ed to members of the province. "I promise you that I will do my best to serve each of you and our province."

Early call to priesthood

Fr. Ed Kilianski, 60, has been in vocation ministry, served as province justice and peace director and in parish ministry. He was professed in 1975 and ordained in 1983.



Fr. Ed Kilianski

"When I was seven years old, Pope John XXIII died and on the radio they said that he wanted to be a priest when he was 11 years old," said Fr. Ed. "I said to my mom and dad that, 'I'm only seven and I want to be a priest, does that mean that someday I'll be the pope?'"

"They laughed as everyone does when I tell the story but somehow I knew that one day I would be a priest."

He told that story to parishioners when he introduced himself as the new pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Houston, Texas, in 2008. He came to the assignment after a six-month study sabbatical in Mexico to improve his Spanish language skills. Although he had done several month-long study sessions, it was the extend-

ed time in Mexico that strengthened both his language skills and his call to Hispanic ministry.

"To be immersed in Spanish for six months; to celebrate the Mass and get to know the people; this made a huge impact on me," said Fr. Ed. "I just felt that it was where the Lord was leading me, where I was being called in ministry."

A ministry of service

"For me, I see provincial administration as a ministry of service," said Fr. Ed. "In Spanish, there's an expression that is used everywhere in Mexico which says, 'Para servirles.' in order to serve you. As a Priest of the Sacred Heart, I am here to serve."

In the months ahead Fr. Ed will be serving in two capacities: as pastor of OLG and as interim provincial superior.

"I respectfully ask for your support and understanding as I juggle duties with the parish and the province," he wrote to SCJs. "Be assured of my prayers as I ask for yours during these months of transition. This is a new experience for all of us."

Reflecting on the recently completed General Chapter he wrote that "the General Chapter was an amazing experience of our internationality and interculturality as a congregation. We are young and vibrant in many parts of the world. We can also be very proud of our new superior general, Fr. Heiner Wilmer, and his General Council."



"Good luck with your new job!" Fr. Steve and Fr. Ed ham it up for the camera.

Celebrating and honoring stories of immigration

The challenges of immigration were topics of discussion at the 2013 North American Continental Conference and again at the 2014 US Provincial Chapter. In response to those discussions a committee of SCJs from the US and Canada was established earlier this year.

Its goal?

"To develop a Dehonian action in response to what refugees and immigrants are experiencing," said committee member Fr. Richard MacDonald, SCJ.

One of the committee's first projects centers on people's individual immigration stories. In the past three months they have collected over 70 stories from SCJs and those with whom they minister. These stories will be compiled in a book to be shared later this year.

"When I hear of their [new immigrants] struggle to find a home here, I am reminded of my own father who, when he arrived in Canada, worked in a park selling soft drinks," wrote Fr. Jim Casper, SCJ, of Toronto. "[My father] shared with us that while he was watching a baseball game in the park for the first time, a stranger sat beside him and asked: 'What is the score?' My father did not understand the game, and had no idea how to answer. So the stranger moved to another place.

"The message that my father received was that if you do not understand what is happening, you do not fit in here."

Fr. John Czynski, SCJ, a member of the immigration committee, said that "What stands out for me when I hear immigration stories is that often people are not treated as persons with the dignity that is theirs as children of God. They become a

number, a case. I heard stories of people trying to escape terribly dangerous situations and they are treated like dirt. I find myself raging inside because I hear stories of people with power who seem to arbitrarily play with peoples' lives. It is as if they have the power to do something to lift up another, to bring joy and peace to another and they choose to beat the other down."

The following are excerpted from some of the immigration stories and reflections submitted:

Fr. Peter Sanders, SCJ:

Immigration always has an aspect of being in no man's land. One leaves his or her familiar territory, language customs, social contacts, friends and climate to move to a new situation where these elements are different. However it takes time to adapt to the new circumstances. It is a time of being lost. One grieves the loss of the familiar, while trying to integrate the new.

When my parents moved to Canada from the Netherlands with their 12 children in 1956, each one of us lived this experience differently. For me it was the moving from one seminary to another, and even though they were both seminaries, the adaptation was considerable. For my mother it was less severe than for my dad. In the Netherlands she was totally preoccupied with the family, and this was much the same in Canada. For my dad it was more difficult. He had been a prosperous farmer. He



Fr. Peter Sanders

was extremely well respected and appreciated in our village and in the whole region. When he came to Canada, he was a nobody. No one knew him. He worked as a common laborer on the 401 highway, in a fertilizer factory, as a hired hand on farms. It took years to reestablish himself as a farmer, and gain the appreciation and respect that he had left behind in the Netherlands.

Each immigrant lives his or her immigration uniquely; each one has his or her own story.

Fr. Johnny Klingler, SCJ:

When I was in Rome [Fr. Johnny served on General Council], I met many Ethiopians. They came into Rome illegally, hoping to immigrate to the United States, Canada or Australia where members of their families lived. So many of them were living and sleeping outside of the train station. A call came from the Vatican to all religious communities asking them to give them room and board.

"We had seven to ten men living with us in the Generalate. I was able to visit them often. I had parties for them and picnics in a nearby park. I took a few to visit my Roman friends. They told me about their lives and family and their culture. We got to know each other fairly well. Most of them were able to immigrate. I have kept in touch with two of them. I visited one of them in New York and San Francisco. He visited my family in New Jersey."

Frater Joseph Vu, SCJ:

My parents were part of the "boat people" who were refugees after the end of the Vietnam War on 1975. They were part of the last

group of refugees because soon after 1985, the surrounding countries near Vietnam started to not accept any more refugees. My parents found their way to Chicago with only the clothes on their backs and it was a huge struggle for them. By the time I was born, my father was working three jobs. My mom took me with her to her day job, which helped make ends meet. As it is told to me, for the first year of my life, I only saw my dad on the weekends when my mom would take me, because he basically worked nonstop those three jobs. This story humbles me every time I think about it.

A number of parishioners whom I've encountered are also in similar situations. It saddens me that there are policies in place that prevent them from earning a fair wage. The parents of these families are forced to work odd jobs of all sorts and at all hours of the day. I know of one particular mother who has difficulty balancing work and being present to her girls at home. Her husband works long hours and she does too, and they are barely keeping afloat.

Fr. Steve Pujdak, SCJ (as shared with Frater Juan Carlos Rojas Castañeda Rojas):

Fr. Steve's parents were both first generation Americans, his father's family immigrated from Poland and his mother's from Ukraine. During the period in which his parents met, Polish people and Ukrainian people did not usually get along very well. But this particular couple shared something in common: both were deaf and were attending the same school for deaf people. So for his mom and dad nationalities were not a real concern. Their meeting was a beautiful experience because many times when younger people meet, the language they



Fra. Joseph Vu

speak, even their accents, can be a barrier. But in this case the lack of communication via spoken language helped bring together two people who did not care about nationalities; they fell in love and got married.

In a humorous way, Fr. Steve remembers that in his fifth year of school the curriculum had a class in the Polish language. Because Fr. Steve came from a Polish background, it was easy for fellow students and teachers to assume that he had some knowledge of the Polish language and many people were surprised that neither Fr. Steve nor his brother knew Polish. Fr. Steve used to answer: "Well my parents did not speak Polish, in fact they did not speak even English because they are deaf." Because of this story, Fr. Steve explained that his first language was not Polish or English but sign language. They were immigrants to the hearing world.

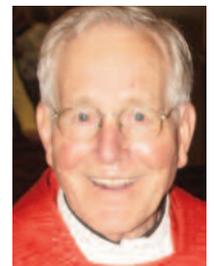
Fr. Jan de Jong, SCJ

After lengthy negotiations between the US Province and the US Department of Immigration I was finally able to board a Pan Am flight from Amsterdam to Chicago. It was September 2, 1969. In June of that year I had obtained my doctoral degree in Moral Theology at the Alphonsianum in Rome. At that time I was invited to replace Fr. John O'Connor, SCJ, who had been teaching moral theology at Sacred Heart Monastery [now Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology]. He was elected to the General Council in Rome. The invitation appealed to me. I was young (32 years old). I thought that Milwaukee was not too far from New York, maybe a two-hour bus ride.

How mistaken I was! I recall go-



Fr. Johnny Klingler



Fr. Jan de Jong

ing to the American consulate for my visa application. In the waiting room there was a magazine about the particularities of the 50 states and I found out that Wisconsin was the dairy state of the USA! I had seen enough cows in my home country. But I left Holland full of excitement and expectations about going to the New World.

After a 10-hour flight with a stop in Shannon, Ireland, I arrived at the busy airport of Chicago. Soon I discovered Fr. Jack Nitzki, SCJ, who came to pick me up to bring me to Hales Corners. But first we were to go out for supper. That was my first shocking experience. It was a steak house. I had my first Brandy Manhattan and my first T-bone steak. I was overwhelmed. Dead tired, I arrived at the monastery with Fr. Jack where I was welcomed by the whole community. I was dressed in a nice blue suit and tie. Right away the superior offered me a fresh clergy shirt, American style.

Fr. Richard MacDonald, SCJ

When I grew up in Detroit, born of Canadian parents, there were no stories about immigration or "border issues" in my family. We went through the tunnel between Detroit and Windsor or we traveled the Ambassador Bridge, and no one seemed anxious or nervous about the things that were hidden in the diaper bag to bring to my French Mimi or to take back to our house.

I can honestly say that my passion and concern for what was going on here in the United States began to surface when I came to South Texas in 1975. I was 36 years old. Suddenly I saw behavior that was so different from the ports of entry in Michigan and Ontario. The "white folks" like myself were waived through the border crossings but the "brown skins," the Mexican people, were questioned at the airports, in stores, on the street, etc. And as I came to learn, the majority of the Hispanics living here were



Fr. Richard MacDonald

born in Texas.

I went to get my glasses checked one day and the Irish-born optometrist, heavy accent and all, told me that he was in the United States illegally with no papers but no one

ever spoke to him about it.

I say all this, to share with you how it happened that I became much more passionate about the unjust and offensive behavior that I was observing. In recent years I became even more aware of problems in other international situations. I also realized that there was much for me to learn. In the last two years, to have nearly 70,000 unaccompanied children enter the United States and to realize that so many of these children are now con-

finned to some kind of detention or prison situation is maddening. I feel embarrassed that we see so much apathy and indifference when it comes to caring about these realities. It is not an easy reality to analyze nor can it be easily fixed. I pray that I can turn my own feelings into something that might be helpful, at least in the opportunities that I might have.

"All people are deserving of respect and justice, and they have a basic right to enjoy, here on earth, the conditions which nourish their intellectual, moral, and spiritual life. They have a right to daily bread for themselves and their family. They have a right, equally and even more so, to humane treatment, to a sufficient degree of education and liberty, and to the opportunity to worship and serve God."

-Fr. Leo John Dehon,
The Christian Social Manual

Remembering Fr. Frank Clancy

Fr. Frank Clancy, 83, died May 17, 2015, in Franklin, Wis. He had been struggling with health issues for a number of years.

Originally from Chicago, Fr. Frank and ministered first as a brother with the community in assignments at St. Joseph's Indian School and Divine Heart Seminary.

His next assignment was also at a school, but this time as a student. He was a seminarian at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and ordained in 1974.

Fr. Frank served in parish ministry in South Dakota, Wisconsin and Texas. As a parish pastor he often did visits to the sick and found that it was something to which he felt he had a special call. Fr. Frank enrolled in CPE

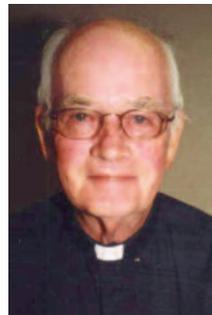
(Clinical Pastoral Education) and served as a hospital and prison chaplain in Willacy County.

For the past several years he had been a member of the Sacred Heart community at SHML, though last year he returned to Texas to celebrate his 82nd birthday with parishioners at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Raymondville.

In 2013 Fr. Frank celebrated his 60th anniversary of vows.

Besides funeral arrangements for Fr. Frank at Sacred Heart Monastery, the community at OLG Raymondville held a Memorial Mass for him on

feast of the Sacred Heart, June 12. "He was so loved by the community there," said Fr. Richard MacDonald, SCJ, who concelebrated the Mass.



Fr. Frank Clancy

SCJ NEWS

Teaching by example

In the May 1 issue of *Dehonian Spirituality*, a weekly newsletter published by the Dehonian Associates Office, Fr. Christi Peter, SCJ, of India, wrote about those who have influenced his life and how he tries to pass on what he has learned to others in formation (preparation for religious life):

[As a formator] "I try my best to live and make use of these fine pearls that I gathered and treasured from my family, culture, tradition, and Dehonian communities. I try to give them to my companions with whom I live and my younger brothers. I try to teach them through the example of my life to love one another without expecting anything in return, to be available for others, to be one with the other in both his sufferings and good times, to

be one among the people where we are placed, and to become signs and servants of reconciliation, which means to become a prophetic sign for our time, for our community, and for the world."

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Feast day celebrates "the very love of God"

I think this is one of the greatest feasts in the church year and certainly my favorite, because this solemnity celebrates not just an historical event but the very love of God, the Heart of God, as present in the Heart of Jesus," said Fr. Jim Schroeder during his homily at the Feast of the Sacred Heart liturgy at Sacred Heart



Fr. Jim visits after the feast-day Mass

Monastery.

"His love calls us to open our hearts to others as He does," he continued. "Our new General Superior, Fr. Heiner Wilmer, preached on this in his Mass of Thanksgiving. He quoted Bishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, whom Pope Francis just beatified: 'It is unconscionable for anyone to call him or herself Christian and not have a preferential option for the poor' – and he meant poor in the full spectrum of the word. Our Rule of Life says that 'Christ identified with the lowly and the poor.' Fr. Dehon lived that love 'for the humble, the lowly, the workers and the poor.' Can we love like that? Does our love move us to such reparation?"

Over 6,000 books given away

By the end of June St. Joseph's Indian School's Bookmobile gave away more than 6,000 books to children on South Dakota's Indian reservations. The bookmobile program has been in operation for over 30 years.

The bookmobile stops in church and school parking lots, parks and lunch programs. This year the bookmobile visited 32 communities. At sites where summer school was in session, teachers were able to choose up to 10 books per classroom.