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U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

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February 2017
Vol. LVIII, No. 1

Minutes of the 870th Provincial Council Meeting February 7-8, 2017, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Duy Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Excused: Fr. Quang Nguyen.

I. Formation

- A. Visit with Dehon Formation Community — On the evening of February 6, Fr. Kilianski and members of the council visited with the formation community to talk about future possibilities for the program. The community was divided into small groups, each meeting with a member of the administration as follows: Students in temporary vows (Fr. Kurps), candidates (two groups, one lead by Br. Presto and one by Fr. D. Nguyen) and those in final vows (Fr. Kilianski and Fr. Hendrik).
- B. Next academic year — The council has decided that the undergraduate and theology formation programs will remain in Chicago for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- C. Formation Committee — Councilors felt that it would be helpful to have a committee, perhaps on an ad hoc basis right now, to discuss possibilities and needs of the formation program. The committee would be advisory to the Provincial Council, perhaps with a member of the council leading it. Topics to be fleshed out include the development of a program and/or curriculum for the formation programs, minimum guidelines for meetings between formators and students, processes for advancement in formation, summer ministry programs and the integration of new candidates into the community.
- D. Formation team meets with the council — The formation team, including Fr. Byron Haaland, will be asked to join the council at its March 15 meeting. The purpose is to have dialogue between the formators and the council.
- E. Novitiate — A house has been purchased by the province in the town of Raymond, WI (about a 15-minute drive south of Sacred Heart Monastery). The council voted [unanimously] to request a transfer of the US Province Novitiate to this property. This request will be forwarded to the General Council.

Fr. Kilianski will write to Archbishop ListECKI to request the establishment of a religious community at the new house in Raymond, indicating that it will become the novitiate.

Most likely the novitiate and formation house will be joined together as one community with a single house council. This would be similar to the community arrangement in Mississippi and South Dakota. Br. Presto will check with the General Curia to ensure that this is acceptable.

- F. Postulancy — The council voted to approve the following candidates for postulancy: Phong Hoang, Henry Nguyen and Patrick Skahill. Fr. Andrzej Sudol will serve as their postulancy director. The postulants will later petition for entrance to novitiate. This requires a separate council vote.
- G. Frater Justin Krenke — The Chilean Province has expressed interest in hosting scholastics from the United States. Frater Justin Krenke will go there for the summer to study Spanish.

II. Administration

A. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

1. SCJ presence at SHSST — Fr. Kilianski anticipates that several SCJs will be joining the SHSST and/or SHM communities in various capacities, starting this summer.
2. Facility — With the enhancement of the SHM community the council discussed possibilities for updating the living space. The council asked Dn. Nagel to contact an architect to look at cost-effective possibilities for creating a distinct space at SHSST/SHM for the SCJ community. This is only a preliminary study to assist the council as it looks at possibilities for expanding the SCJ presence at SHSST/SHM in the future.
3. President-Rector — The council voted to appoint Fr. Tom Knoebel as interim SHSST president-rector. His term is to run from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Fr. Knoebel has served in this role twice before, is professor emeritus of Systematic Studies at SHSST and is on the SHSST Board of Directors.
4. SHSST Board of Directors — The council voted to reappoint Fr. Tony Russo to a three-year term on the SHSST Board of Directors.
5. MA program — The council voted to endorse the proposal by SHSST to name its new MA Degree Initiative the “Cor Unum Initiative.”

B. Mississippi community — Fr. Francois Tsonga of the Cameroon Province will be assigned to the SCJ community in Mississippi as on July 1, 2017. He is to receive a three-year contract from the US Province. Br. Clay Diaz is to transfer from the Mississippi community to the Houston community as of July 1, 2017.

C. Houston community — With the anticipated transfer of Br. Clay Diaz to Houston the community will need to look for rental housing to accommodate the possibility of more members, as well as students who may do ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe in the summer.

D. Local Superiors Meeting — Local superiors from both the U.S. Province and Canada will be at the meeting. Because several of the superiors are young and/or new to the role the meeting will be much like a workshop. Topics to be addressed: The Role and Responsibilities of the Local Superior (based in the Constitutions and General Directory) and practical aspects on how to be a “servant of servants.” Specific issues to be reviewed include how to determine when intervention with a member of the community may be needed (for health reasons, financial concerns or other reasons), accountability within community, living simply, and communication (both within the local community and from the community to the province).

Fr. Kilianski will prepare a letter and schedule for the workshop. Mary Gorski will send it to the superiors, councilors, Fr. Kilianski and Fr. John van den Hengel.

E. Jubilee travel — The council voted to amend the Province Anniversary Celebration Policy to state that trips for silver and golden jubilees of vows must be scheduled within two years of the anniversary celebration.

F. Senior Life Commission — Fr. Richard MacDonald has resigned from the Senior Life Commission, which he co-chaired. Fr. Jim Schroeder, as remaining chairman, is to have the commission discuss a replacement for Fr. Richard MacDonald as co-chair and determine whether another person should be added to the committee.

G. 2017 Province Assembly — Fr. Thi Pham, chairperson of the Assembly Organizing Committee, sent an update to the council regarding plans for the June gathering. The theme of the assembly is “The Joy of Community Expressed in Our Mission.” It will open on June 5 at 4 p.m. with the province jubilee celebration and run through midday on Friday, June 9. The council appreciates the committee’s work but would like further clarification on plans for the week including specifics of the schedule and the mechanics of how things are getting done. Fr. Kurps will ask Fr. Pham for more details when he returns to Mississippi.

H. Instruments of Hope and Healing — Standard 7 of the Instruments of Hope and Healing now states that “The Major Superior will communicate annually to the members regarding the Institute’s commitment to the protection of minors and the Institute’s current initiatives and actions with respect to the protection of the vulnerable, healing for those who have been harmed by abuse and fulfillment of the Accreditation Standards.” Attached as Addendum A is Fr. Kilianski’s report regarding this.

III. Finance

- A. Meetings in Rome — Dn. Nagel will be in Rome for a meeting of the General Finance Commission at the end of April. This will conflict with the Provincial Council meeting. John Kuxhause will review the budgets with the council in Dn. Nagel's place. Dn. Nagel will remain in Rome the first week of May for the gathering of entity treasurers.
- B. Budgets — Budgets are due to the Province Treasurer's Office by March 31; the Province Finance Commission will review the budgets when they meet in Hales Corners April 4-5. Dn. Nagel said that anticipated capital expenses include HVAC at St. Joseph's Indian School and at the Province Development Office. Also, the Dehon Formation Community is expected to request three new cars.
- C. Province Development Office — Dn. Nagel reported that the holiday mailings were good and acquisition mailings have brought in more donors. The new budget is in progress; Kory Christianson and his team from St. Joseph's Indian School will be at POSH February 21-22 to go over budget projections and mailing schedules.
- D. Novitiate — On December 28 the province reached an agreement with the seller for the property in Raymond, WI. The final cost was \$840,000, a reduction of \$40,000 from the original asking price. The sale closed on January 24 and the seller rented until February 7. The province now has keys to the property and plans are in process for adapting the building for use as the novitiate. The province still needs to get a zoning change from the Town of Raymond. The first request was denied; however it is thought that the concerns can be addressed (in particular, the sprinkler requirement). There is to be a meeting with the Town of Raymond on February 13 regarding this.
- E. Dehon Formation Community — The province has received an offer for the buildings that house the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago. Kathleen Dahlgren is investigating other possibilities, including the University of Chicago. With the current neighborhood revitalization it is anticipated that the property will not go down in value (in fact, it may increase). The province can look at several options. If the decision is made to sell the building before the 2017-18 academic year, it could do so with the understanding that the building would be rented by the community through the year. It was noted that no decision has been made regarding the location of the philosophy and theology programs for 2018-19. However, if the formation program remains in Chicago, there are other options that would be more economical for the size of the community. The Redemptorists have a property that will be investigated.
- F. St. Joseph's Indian School Executive Management Team — Dn. Nagel talked about a meeting he took part in with the St. Joseph's Indian School Executive Management Team. Fr. Kurps, representing Sacred Heart Southern Missions, also took part. Topics included succession planning for the various province corporations, possibilities for more collaborative and/or centralized fundraising and ways to appropriately plan for the financial needs of the province in the future.
- G. Donation — The council voted to endorse the request made by Fr. Richard MacDonald in the name of the now defunct North American Sub-Committee on Immigration to donate \$5,000 to Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ, for use with her ministry to immigrant refugees in the Diocese of Brownsville. This request was initially made to North American leadership at its meeting in Hales Corners in 2016.
- H. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission — The commission asked for clarification on the council's decision regarding the reduction and future elimination of JPR grants. The council felt that the letter written by Fr. Kilianski to the commission in December adequately explained the decision.

IV. Membership

- A. Fr. Joseph Dean — Fr. Dean will retire as of March 1, 2017.
- B. Br. Mike Fette — Br. Fette's request for dispensation has been sent to Rome. He is now living in Robertsville, MO, while his case is pending.
- C. Fr. Robert Naglich — Fr. Naglich has been approved for state aid for medical disability (Badger Care), which will pay for his medical expenses.
- D. Fr. Tom Burns — His health is declining.
- E. Fr. Vince McDonald — Fr. McDonald is gravely ill.

- F. Br. Gabriel Kersting — Br. Kersting is in hospice care; he is physically deteriorating but generally in good spirits.
- G. Br. Bernard Taube — He will need to move to a different living situation where he can have assisted care.
- H. Fr. Frank Wittouck — Fr. Wittouck has requested permission to pursue the possibility of living at a rectory in the Houston area. The council is open to this, but noted that the move should not be approved until further details are provided.
- I. Br. Clay Diaz – As noted earlier, Br. Diaz will be assigned to the Houston community as of July 1.
- V. Upcoming meetings
- February 14, 2017 - Provincial Council meeting by conference call at 3:30 p.m. central time
 - March 13, 2017 - Evening meal and check-in for the meeting of the local superiors of the US and Canada, Hales Corners
 - March 14, 2017 - Local Superiors Institute (US and Canada)
 - March 15, 2017 - Provincial Council meeting
 - April 24, 2017 - Meeting of North American administrations (NORAM), Hales Corners (full day, plus evening meal)
 - April 25-26, 2017 - Provincial Council Meeting (budgets)
 - June 5, 2017 - Province Jubilee Celebrations
 - June 5-9, 2017 - Province Assembly (Fr. Thi Pham, chairperson of planning committee)
 - June 27, 2017 - Provincial Council meeting by conference call (review requests for advancement in formation)
 - July 11-12, 2017 - Provincial Council meeting
 - August 14, 2017 - Reception to Novitiate
 - August 14, 2017 - Reception to Novitiate
 - August 29-30, 2017 - Provincial Council meeting
 - October 3-4, 2017 - Provincial Council meeting
 - November 7-8, 2017 - Provincial Council meeting
 - December 19-20, 2017 - Provincial Council meeting



Priests of the Sacred Heart

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Thursday, February 9, 2017

Dear Confreres,

The Conference of the Major Superiors of Men adopted the revised version of the *Instruments of Hope and Healing* in August 2016. This is an ongoing task of CMSM to ensure that the standards to protect the people of God are current in our ever changing world.

A new addition is Standard 7. It states: “The Major Superior will communicate annually to the members regarding the Institute’s commitment to the protection of minors and the Institute’s current initiatives and actions with respect to the protection of the vulnerable, healing for those who have been harmed by abuse and fulfillment of the Accreditation Standards.” I offer you this report regarding our efforts as of January 31, 2017.

The audit team from Praesidium Religious Services was on site for their review in November 2014. Their report to the leadership of Praesidium was confirmed by the decision to accredit the US Province for five (5) years. Our accreditation period will end December 31, 2019. A telephone visit between Ms. Christy Schiller and Bro. Frank Presto occurred on May 19, 2016. This call reviewed our continuing efforts to protect the people of God. It was concluded satisfactorily.

The US Province is one of the religious communities in Southeastern Wisconsin participating in the Community Review Board. This board is required by the *Instruments of Hope and Healing* (and the USCCB’s Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People). It is a source of advice for the major superiors. It meets annually to review policies, concerns and safety plans. I wish to note that all of our policies are in compliance with the standards.

No new allegations of inappropriate behavior or abuse of a minor by a member of the US Province (current, former or deceased) were reporting during the time period of September 1, 2015 through January 31, 2017. Our annual costs related to the requirements of the standards average \$70,000 for legal fees, training sessions, workshops and living expenses.

Finally, I wish to remind all that we need to keep ourselves informed of the issues regarding appropriate behavior. Other professions require their members to maintain their standards with continuing education hours annually. Our efforts to be diligent in our ministry are similar. All of us, except those in nursing care or who are restricted, need to document at least five (5) hours of training between January 1, 2015 and October 31, 2019. Please send your documentation to Br. Frank Presto, SCJ, Provincial Secretary.

Thank you for your efforts to provide an environment where all the people of God are safe and protected. Let us continue to pray for all those who are affected by abusive behavior.

Fr. Edward Kilianski, SCJ
Provincial Superior

Minutes of the 869th Provincial Council Meeting January 24, 2017 by conference call

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Duy Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Mary Gorski, recording secretary.

I. Br. Michael Fette

- A. Background — Br. Fette has requested a dispensation from final vows.
- B. Vote – The council voted to approve Fr. Kilianski’s endorsement (votum) of Br. Michael Fette’s request for dispensation of perpetual vows.
- C. Living arrangements — The council will need to consider appropriate living arrangements for Br. Fette while he waits for the decision regarding his dispensation request.

II. Updates

- A. Fr. Robert Naglich — Fr. Kilianski told the council that Br. Naglich signed the papers regarding his transfer to St. Camillus. He is expected to move there on or about February 1, 2017.
- B. Br. Bernard Taube — The day before this meeting Fr. Kilianski received a call from Br. Taube’s niece stating that Br. Taube was in the hospital.

CALENDAR

2017

March 6:	Admissions to Postulancy
March 13-14:	Local Superiors Meeting for North America (dinner and check-in March 13; meeting all day on March 14)
March 15:	Provincial Council Meeting
April 24:	North American councils meeting, Hales Corners.
April 25-26:	Provincial Council Meeting
May 1-5:	Meeting of Entity Treasurers, Rome
May 12-17:	Dehonian Family Meeting, Rome
June 5:	Province Jubilee Celebration
June 5-9:	Province Assembly
June 27:	Provincial Council Meeting by conference call, 11 a.m. central (formation requests)
July 11-12:	Provincial Council Meeting
July 20-27:	International Dehonian Theological Conference, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
August 14:	Reception to Novitiate
August 29-30:	Provincial Council Meeting
October 3-4:	Provincial Council Meeting
October 23-27:	Novice Masters Meeting, Rome
November 7-8:	Provincial Council Meeting
November 12-25:	Colloquium of Major Superiors, Rome
December 19-20:	Provincial Council Meeting

2018

January 1 - May 17:	Treasurers Course, Rome
January 18-23:	Meeting of Dehonian Bishops, Rome
April 16-20:	Meeting of Rectors, Rome
June 18-22:	US Province Election Assembly, Hales Corners
July 14-28:	General Conference, Philippines
October 1 - June 30	Formators Course, Rome

UPDATES

Fr. Richard Johnston

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Note that Fr. Richard also receives mail at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston.

Fr. Wojciech Adamczyk

Mobile number: 346-317-5341

Dehon Formation Community

Four candidates joined the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago for the winter semester:

Jose Angel Romero (jaro.84@hotmail.com)
Kodjovi "Hubert" Liassidri (hubertliass@yahoo.fr)
Celsus Roberts (celsusr@gmail.com)
Thadeus Brooks (tbrooks1218@gmail.com)

NECROLOGY

+Fr. Ezio Gazzotti, a member of the North Italian Province, died January 7. He was born in 1939, professed in 1956 and ordained in 1965.

+Fr. Lino Franchini, also a member of the North Italian Province, died January 6. He was born in 1919, professed in 1937 and ordained in 1947.

+Fr. José María Sánchez, a member of the Spanish Province, died December 27. He was born in 1925, professed in 1941 and ordained in 1949.

+Fr. Herculano Vaz da Silva, a member of the Brazil – São Paulo Province, died December 23. He was born in 1942 professed in 1966 and ordained in 1971.