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**U.S. Province  
Priests of the  
Sacred Heart**

P.O. Box 289  
Hales Corners, WI  
53130 - 0289  
[www.sacredheartusa.org](http://www.sacredheartusa.org)

414-425-6910

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### Minutes of the 871st Provincial Council Meeting March 15, 2017, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps (by phone), Fr. Duy Nguyen, Fr. Quang Nguyen and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. David Szatkowski, Fr. Andrzej Sudol and Fr. Robert Tucker joined the council for discussion of formation concerns.

- I. Superiors Meeting — The councilors briefly reviewed their meeting with local superiors on March 14. The consensus — especially from councilors who also serve as local superiors — was that the meeting was very helpful. Instead of receiving reports, the superiors had more of a workshop, sharing common issues and discussing ways to enhance their ministry of leadership.

Fr. Kilianski emphasized the need for local superiors to consider themselves the pastor of their community and to, as much as possible, address community issues locally. They were encouraged to have their members keep a list of their medications and contact information in an obvious place (such as a medicine cabinet) in case of emergency, as well as a copy of their updated Power of Attorney information.

*NOTE: A summary of the Local Superiors Meeting starts on page 7.*

- II. Finance
  - A. Province Development Office — The consulting team headed by Kory Christianson from St. Joseph's Indian School was with the office February 21-22. The focus of the visit was the mail schedule for the next fiscal year and the FY18 budget. During the past year, expenses have been reduced and income has increased. The acquisition list is growing. While the net projected income hasn't risen as much as hoped, there is a good direction and strong signs for optimism. Next year's budget shows a slight surplus.
  - B. Finance Commission — The council voted to appoint Br. Andy Gancarczyk to the Province Finance Commission. He fills the seat vacated by the death of Fr. Michael Burke. Other members of the commission include Fr. Chuck Wonch, Fr. Bob Tucker and Fr. Greg Schill.
  - C. Financial Audits — The financial audits and reports have been completed for FY17. All have been collected, along with the audits of major ministries, and are available for review. The Treasurer's Office is waiting on the completion of the procedural audit that was done on the investments earlier this year.
  - D. Investments — The Investment Committee met recently; investments are up 4.6% from last year, and up 5% in the past quarter. There was also a stakeholders' meeting for the Support and Maintenance Trust and the Employee Pension Trust. The Treasurer's Office — in collaboration with representatives from St. Joseph's Indian School and the province investment advisor — is researching more cost-effective options for the Employee Retirement Plan.
  - E. Novitiate — Final approvals have been given by the Town of Raymond for use of the province's recently purchased property as a novitiate. Initial plans have been drawn up to enclose the carport for use as a chapel. Dn. Nagel roughly estimated the cost of construction to be \$90,000. The septic system needs to be reviewed by an engineer for certification for the number of people to be living on the property. Fr. Byron Haaland, novice master, is beginning to move things to the property.

- F. Sacred Heart Monastery — At the last meeting Dn. Nagel was asked to investigate possibilities for creating a distinct space for Sacred Heart Monastery at SHM / SHSST. Dn. Nagel presented two possibilities created by Ray White from Dimension IV Design Group; the province has previously worked with the architecture firm.

The first proposal involves remodeling the north wing of the SHM / SHSST building. A separate outside entrance would be created near the recreation room with a new elevator where there are now stairs. On the second floor there would be a community dining room; new recreation space would be created in the upper levels. A mix of two-room suites, single rooms, and flexible units that could be used as either suites or as two bedrooms with a shared bath, as well as guest rooms, are planned.

The second proposal was for a new structure that would be built adjacent to the student parking lot. It would have 22 single units and 10 suites, along with a chapel, office space, recreation areas and a dining room. Minus the guest rooms, this would be similar to the number of rooms and suites proposed in the remodeling plans.

Councilors discussed the options, with support leaning toward remodeling existing space. There are already significant operating expenses for the building that houses SHM / SHSST and it is in need of updating. These expenses will remain regardless of how the building is used. Remodeling existing space would address much of the updating concerns. A second building would add a second set of operating costs.

The formation house property in Chicago was last appraised at \$4.2 million; already the province received an offer of \$4.6 million. If the formation program moves out of Chicago, the sale of the property could be used to offset construction costs of SHM.

At the April meeting the council will make a decision regarding the future location of the formation program (undergraduate and theology) that will impact the decision regarding the creation of new space for the monastery community.

### III. Membership

- A. Br. Clay Diaz — Approximately six weeks ago Br. Diaz was hospitalized in a mental health care facility. Fr. Kurps, who has been his primary contact person, updated the council on Br. Diaz's situation. It is thought that the initial medication that he was given was counter-productive. Since his medication was changed he seems to be doing much better. He was scheduled to go to the St. John Vianney Center on March 16; Fr. Kurps was to accompany him. Br. Diaz is very cooperative and looking forward to doing what is needed to improve his health. It is anticipated that he will be in the St. John Vianney program for three to six months. His assignment in Houston has been put on hold pending the outcome of the program.
- B. Fr. Yvon Sheehy — The council voted to assign Fr. Sheehy to Sacred Heart Monastery as of July 1, 2017; he will serve as the ESL residential director. The council also voted unanimously to appoint him as administrator of the SHM community until a consultation for superior is done.
- C. Fr. Ed Zemlik — The council voted to name Fr. Zemlik as a "Priest Substitute" for the province. The position has previously been referred to as the "Province Fireman" or "Circuit Rider" (Fr. Leonard Tadzyszak served in the role for many years). Fr. Zemlik will be available to substitute for members of the province who need to be away from their ministries for a variety of reasons, including health concerns, a vacation, or service to the congregation (such as work with an international committee). Scheduling will be done through the provincial secretary (Br. Frank Presto). A job description will be developed; the position will be reviewed in one year.
- D. Fr. Jim Walters — The council voted to extend Fr. Walter's term as local superior of Sacred Heart Monastery until June 30, 2017 (the current term ends on April 30).
- E. Fr. Joseph Dinh — Fr. Dinh is to go to Chile later in March to explore possibilities for a year of ministry in the country.
- F. Fr. Terry Langley — The council voted unanimously to present Fr. Langley to Archbishop Jerome Listecky as pastor of St. Martin of Tours parish beginning July 1, 2017. In the letter requesting the appointment, Fr. Kilianski will inform the archbishop that the province will no longer be able to staff St. John the Evangelist in Twin Lakes and St. Alphonsus in New Munster, where Fr. Terry is currently administrator.

- G. Fr. Joseph Dean — Fr. Dean entered retirement status as of March 3, 2017. He has requested permission to continue fulltime as parochial vicar on the East and West River parish and to remain at the SCJ residence in Lower Brule until the end of the year. The council voted to allow him to remain in Lower Brule and assist the pastoral team.
- H. Br. Duane Lemke — The council voted to assign Br. Lemke to Sacred Heart Monastery as of July 1, 2017. He will assist with the residential needs of the ESL program and do youth ministry at St. Martin of Tours parish.
- I. Frater Joseph Vu — The council voted to approve Frater Vu's request to begin his final vows program. Br. Ray Kozuch will be his final vows director.
- J. Br. Bernard Taube — Br. Taube is in a memory care facility in Jefferson County, WI. His family is petitioning for guardianship and the court appointed his niece as temporary guardian. Financial arrangements for his care are possible through a state program. Fr. Bill Pitcavage and Kathleen Dahlgren (province attorney) are working with the family to ensure the well-being of Br. Taube.
- K. Translation request — Fr. Stefan Tertünte of the Centro Studi Dehoniani in Rome, at the request of Fr. Heiner, informally asked Fr. Quang Nguyen if the US Province would be able to cover the cost of a professional translation of the critical biography of Fr. Dehon which is being prepared by Dr. David Neuhold, an assistant professor of church history at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. The council is open to the request; Br. Presto will send an email to Fr. Tertünte indicating the council's willingness but noting that it cannot give approval until financial details are available.

#### IV. Administration

- A. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Kilianski informed the council that Sally Smits of SHSST is working with Fr. Knoebel on setting up his contract as interim SHSST president-rector for the 2017-18 academic year.
- B. Treasurers training course — The General Treasurer's office is hosting a training course for treasurers in Rome from January 8 through May 11, 2018. The course is to be taught in Italian; an Italian class will be held September 4 through December 22, 2017. Those who need a residency permit must be in Rome as of August 20, 2017. At this time the council does not have anyone whom it thinks would be available and appropriate to send to the course. In the United States it was noted that there are a variety of options for financial training, including MBA programs. Fr. Quang Nguyen said that he thought that part of the course, or an abbreviated version of the full course, would be taught in English. If this is the case, perhaps a member of the province could attend that.

Dn. Nagel will inform the general treasurer that the US Province will not send a participant.

- C. Novitiate — The council reviewed and voted to approve a letter to the Superior General and his council requesting that a canonical community be erected on the newly purchased property in Raymond, WI, that it be established as a filial house of the Dehon Formation Community, and that the novitiate be moved there from Chicago.
- D. Anniversary policy — The council voted to amend the province anniversary policy to note the anniversaries of religious vows to be celebrated and to indicate that the six-week vacation that is given in conjunction of the anniversary be taken within two years after the jubilee celebration. The policy is attached as Addendum A.
- E. Catholic Charities — Mark Peters, province director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, shared a financial request from Catholic Charities Legal Services for Immigrants. The council appreciates the work of the program but would like to focus the province's resources on its own JPR efforts, including immigration issues.
- F. JPR Commission — Mark Peters shared a written summary of the recent JPR Commission visit and meeting in Houston. The commission noted that its primary focus for the year will be on immigration; however, the commission would also like to identify a second priority issue. One of the issues suggested was climate change as a response to Laudato Si. The council endorsed this request to make climate change a second priority of the commission along with immigration.

The commission also asked that social justice concerns be more a part of the formation program. Later in the meeting the council decided to establish an Ad Hoc Formation Committee. Perhaps a member of the JPR Commission could be a part of this.

- G. Senior Life Commission — The Senior Life Commission will next meet on March 21. Fr. Jim Schroeder, chair of the com-

mission, asked if the council had topics it would like added to the meeting agenda.

The council asks that the commission discuss what was raised in February: Fr Richard MacDonald 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 commission.

A question was asked regarding SCJs in memory care who are no longer competent to designate a Power of Attorney. If a POA is on file for the person, what authority does he have in regards to where the person lives? If the provincial superior would like to transfer a person from one memory care facility to another can he do so without the consent of the POA? It is thought that the POA can give input but that the decision itself is up to the provincial superior.

Members will be given an opportunity at the June assembly to update (or create) their POA forms.

V. Formation — The council invited the formation team (Fr. David Szatkowski, Fr. Andrzej Sudol and Fr. Bob Tucker) to have a dialogue with them on formation issues.

A. General dialogue — Fr. Szatkowski, local superior, said that it has been a year of much change, especially since January with four new candidates. However, he felt that in general things were going very well. The theme of the year is “mercy.” There has been a focus on mercy in the First Friday presentations given by SCJs. Twice a month the community has formation presentations; the professed and non-professed have separate programs on the same topic.

A continuing challenge that the team is addressing is how to distinguish the different formation programs. What components should be a part of each phase of formation? Are there differences in expectations during each year of candidacy, each year of temporary vows? How do the students feel a sense of movement in the process?

Fr. Tucker said that CTU’s Institute for Religious Formation has been very helpful, especially for him since this is his first year in formation ministry. He said that more needs to be done to challenge the professed students to take on leadership and responsibility for the community. They need to set the example for the candidates.

Fr. Sudol said that the three members of the formation team work well together; they have meetings together each week. He added that it is helpful that he is also a student at CTU because he has a shared experience with the students.

B. Concerns — There is an expectation that presence at community prayer is a priority for all members of the community – professed and non-professed. It was noted that a previous formation director gave written warnings for unexcused absences; if a student received more than three warnings during an academic year it was cause for dismissal from the program. As noted during the general dialogue, it is especially important that the professed students set an example for the candidates.

Inappropriate absences from community functions, classes, ministry and other significant obligations must have consequences.

C. Warning policy — The council and formation team agreed that a written warning policy needs to be put in place. Students (professed and candidates) will be informed that they will receive a written warning, to be signed by both the formation director and the student, for inappropriate absences at community prayer and other community functions, as well as inappropriate absence in their academic programs (for example, a skipped class). These warnings will be placed in the student’s file and will be a part of the package that is reviewed when a student is considered for vow renewal or advancement in formation. Three warnings in an academic year will be cause of dismissal.

This policy will cover students not only in the formation house during the academic year, but also when they are in other formation programs, such as their ministerial year. Communities that accept a student for a ministry year will be informed of this policy.

D. Formation of brothers — Students preparing for religious life as a brother need to have a specific program and preparation for their vocation. It is important that a student preparing for religious life as a brother be prepared for a specific ministry. He should be asked to envision a ministry for which he has interest and aptitude and then get specific education for it after novitiate. Will he teach? Serve as an administrator? Simply leaving formation with a master’s degree in theology is not

enough direction for most people.

Fr. Kilianski will write a letter to brothers in the province asking them to meet to talk about the vocation of brother and identify formation needs to help prepare candidates as brothers in religious life and in ministry.

- E. Ad Hoc Formation Committee — The council and formation team agreed that an Ad Hoc Formation Committee would be helpful to discuss and give recommendations on formation concerns. Members of the committee will include the formation team, Fr. Byron Haaland (novice master) and Br. Frank Presto, as well as two to three others to be determined in the weeks ahead.

The council and formation team discussed whether naming a province director of formation would be helpful. After discussion it was decided that only an ad hoc committee will be formed at this time. Fr. Kilianski said that at the next provincial chapter he is going to propose that the province have a vicar provincial (a position with more extensive tasks than the vice provincial). Perhaps a vicar provincial could also serve as province formation director.

- VI. Next meeting — The council will next meet by conference call on Wednesday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m. central. The next in-person meeting will be April 25-26; meeting topics will include the FY18 province budgets and the location of the province formation program. On Monday, April 24, the US and Canadian administrations will hold their twice-yearly meeting in Hales Corners.

## **Addendum A**

### **Anniversary Celebrations**

The US Province annually celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> and 75th anniversary of first vows for our members. Normally, this celebration will be scheduled during the summer months during province gatherings.

The jubilee celebrations will focus on those who are celebrating 25 and 50 years of vows. These members are welcome to take a six week vacation trip. Since these are province expenses, the details should be negotiated with the Provincial Superior in advance. Jubilee trips are to be completed within two calendar years after the jubilee celebration. Donations and monetary gifts received by the jubilee celebrants are to be deposited with the Provincial Treasurer to help defray the associated expenses.

A priest may celebrate the anniversary of his ordination. These are local affairs, not province celebrations. Details should be worked out with the local superior.

Adopted during the 871st Meeting of the Provincial and Council, US Province, on March 15, 2017

## Local Superiors Meeting March 14, 2017, Hales Corners

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski (US provincial superior), Fr. John van den Hengel (Canadian regional superior), Fr. Joseph Dinh, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Pat Lloyd, Fr. Gustave Lulendo, Dn. David Nagel, Fr. Duy Nguyen, Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Thi Pham, Br. Prank Presto, Fr. David Szatkowski and Fr. Jim Walters. Mary Gorski for minutes.

- I. Welcome — Fr. Ed Kilianski welcomed the local superiors and provincial and regional administration to the meeting. He noted that this is the first time that the Canadian Region has been represented at the meeting.
- II. Community updates — Each local superior was invited to give an update on his community. Highlights:
  - A. Sacred Heart at SHML — This is the largest community of the province; most of the members are retired. Many have experienced a variety of local leadership styles; for some, this is the first time that they are being asked to create their own budget instead of just being under a general house budget.

This is a time of transition for the community. A new superior was named last year and there has been a transition in lay staff. Barb Haag serves as manager for care at the house, which has worked out very well. The community has contracted with St. Camillus Care, which provides some skilled on-site health care assistance and therapy. Plans are in place for several members of the community who require assisted living or nursing care to transfer from the Congregational Home to St. Camillus. There are a number of reasons for the move including its strong Catholic presence (approximately 50 retired Jesuits live there; daily Mass is available) and it is less expensive than the Congregational Home.

Two members of the community who lived at the Congregational Home have returned to SHML and it is going well.

- B. Sacred Heart at Pinellas Park — Several SCJs are dealing with significant health concerns but the community members continue to be in good spirits and are engaged in a variety of activities and ministries. Br. Gabriel Kersting, who is in nursing care, will be celebrating his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of the month.

Fr. Pat Lloyd, representing Fr. Greg Speck, noted the challenges that a community faces when one of its members is dealing with a significant health issue, especially mental health concerns. It is important to be mindful not just about the needs of the person who is ill but also the impact of his illness on others in the community.

Many areas in the community house have been updated, including the guest rooms. Communication in the community is done at meal time and through a weekly update sheet that notes appointments for the week (including doctor appointments), facility concerns (what needs to be fixed, what has been attended to), who is traveling, who is visiting, and general community reminders.

- C. Dehon Formation Community — There have been a lot of changes this year in the community. A new formation team is in place, and in January four new candidates joined the community. Two men just began postulancy, one is on a ministerial year, and another is preparing for his ministry year. Change often brings challenge, but overall Fr. Szatkowski said that it has been a very positive year in the house.

There has been more of an effort to better differentiate the formation programs. Candidates and professed split into separate groups for some formation activities. Yet, many activities are also together. This year, there has been much more of a focus on presenting SCJ religious life, as opposed to religious life in general. First Friday speakers are SCJs and other formative moments are SCJ-centered. Students are expected — when possible — to take part in province functions, including celebrations and funerals.

The formation directors meet at least once a week and the directors meet with their students — in general — one to two times a month. It is a very international community with men from Togo, Congo, Mexico and St. Lucia, as well as from Vietnamese families.

The formation team has been working with the SCJ communities in South Dakota, Houston and Mississippi on summer ministry placements for the students. Two students will assist with the summer ESL program, which will allow them to continue their own ESL studies.

Recent province discussions about the location of the formation program has led to a general feeling of uncertainty among some of the students. Fr. Szatkowski reminds the students that being able to adapt to change, and sometimes live with uncertainty, is a part of religious life.

The community is challenged to adapt to change within the house, especially when new candidates move in. Noting the internationality of the house, there has been an effort to celebrate the different cultures represented in the community.

Fr. Kilianski said that he was happy to note that the second largest community in the province now is the formation community (the largest is Sacred Heart at SHML).

- D. Sacred Heart Monastery — There are currently three members of the SHM community who are members of the US Province and five international SCJ students in the ESL program who are also a part of the community. One is from Poland and four are from Brazil. The SHM community has prayer and social events on its own, but also with the SHSST community.

Once a week the community gathers for breakfast. This is an opportunity not only to spend time together as a community but also to share information and celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Once a month the community goes out together. Approximately every three or four weeks the three members of the US Province go out separately.

The community often hosts visiting SCJs, and serves as a host community to the ESL program. The SHM community integrates the ESL students into the prayer schedule as a way not only to help them be a part of the community but also to give them an opportunity to work on their language skills.

- E. St. Joseph's Community (4<sup>th</sup> Floor) at SHML — Most of the members of this community are in active ministry, primarily parochial ministry or province administration. Fr. Heru Ismadi, former secretary general, joined the community in January; he is studying ESL. Br. Long Nguyen will be returning to the community for the summer while he does CPE in Milwaukee.

There are a wide variety of schedules in the community so most of the communication is done at meals or through email. There is also a communications board to share quick information.

In the future the Sacred Heart Community (floors 1-3) and the St. Joseph's Community hope to have more collaborative experiences. Fr. Joseph Dinh is the local superior of St. Joseph's.

- F. South Dakota — Fr. Joseph Dean recently retired but remains with the Lower Brule community. Fr. Hendrik (superior) and Fr. Vincent Suparman are the other two members of this community. Fr. Bernie Rosinski and Fr. Anthony Kluckman live at the community house at St. Joseph's Indian School.

Fr. Anthony's primary ministry is to St. Joseph's Indian School but both he and Fr. Bernie are available for help-out ministry to the Lower Brule Pastoral Team. Recently the South Dakota community had a day of reflection led by Fr. Richard MacDonald that was well received.

- G. Montréal — Fr. Gustave became superior of the Montréal community last year after spending eight years in Ottawa. He said that there are currently 11 SCJs in the community; they range in age from 92 – 43. Four are from Africa, two are Dutch and the rest are French-Canadian. Approximately half of the community is retired

The community recently took on pastoral ministry to three parishes; Fr. Louis-Marie Butari is the administrator of the pastoral team that also includes Fr. Engelbert Fotsing and Fr. Gustave.

In January the community welcomed a Syrian refugee family that it is sponsoring in partnership with the parishes at which it ministers. The Montréal SCJs also minister to an Indonesian group.

The community has a recreation gathering each Thursday; once a month there is a community meeting. There are reflective conferences in Lent and Advent.

- H. Canada — Fr. John van den Hengel, Canadian superior, noted the different cultures in Canada, not just represented by immigrants but within the country itself. There are distinct cultures, including attitudes toward the Church, in Anglo Canada and

French Canada. After living in Rome as a general councilor, Fr. John said that he appreciates living in a multicultural community. However, he said that living internationally must be done intentionally. There has to be an openness to letting go of the status quo. More and more SCJs in the US and Canada are going to be living and ministering in international communities.

He said that the sponsorship of refugee families in Ottawa and Montréal has been very beneficial in helping the SCJ communities and the parishes with which they are partnering to learn to truly be welcoming.

- I. Mississippi — Most of the SCJs in Mississippi live at the St. Michael community house in Nesbit; Fr. Leonard Elder is retired in Holly Springs. Fr. Jack Kurps is executive director of Sacred Heart Southern Missions and Frs. Thi Pham (superior), Greg Schill and Zbigniew Morawiec are on a pastoral team that serves six parishes.

The community has adapted its schedule to better meet the needs of its members. There is good sharing at the table; Thursday is community night. Fr. Thi enjoys cooking so he often prepares community meals.

The pastoral team is fairly young and communicates as do many young people: with text. Fr. Thi said that he, Fr. Greg and Fr. Ziggy complement each other very well. The community looks forward to Frater Justin Krenke coming to spend his ministry year with them soon.

- J. Houston — Fr. Duy Nguyen is superior of the Houston community. Four SCJs live at the rectory at Our Lady of Guadalupe. Fr. Frank Wittouck also resides in Houston. He is retired but very active. There are currently four SCJs living in San Antonio who are attached to the Houston community (Fr. Richard Johnston, Fr. Guy Blair, Fr. Nick Brown and Br. Frank Snider). Fr. Johnston regularly visits at OLG, helping with an English Mass most weekends. Fr. Richard MacDonald lives in the Rio Grande Valley but is also attached to Houston. Fr. Francois Tsanga, an SCJ from Cameroon, is in the Diocese of Brownsville but will be moving to Mississippi this summer.

The community is international with two Polish SCJs who speak fluent Spanish.

- III. Rule of Life — Fr. Ed Kilianski cited Nos. 106-107 from the SCJ Rule of Life; in particular that “authority, community and fraternal service, is a true ministry at the various levels at which it is exercised: local, district, regional, provincial and general.” Based in a reflection on the Rule of the Life, the superiors dialogued on several specific leadership issues:

- A. Finances — Financial transparency is a part of religious life, yet it is also a challenge. The local treasurer doesn’t need to see the specifics of each purchase, but he should get the itemized credit card statement if he is to pay the bill. The local treasurer must work with the local superior to look for “red flags” in spending.

Dn. David Nagel noted that the community is not under obligation to pay a debt that is incurred by an individual that does not have the permission of the superior; it is his personal obligation. If an SCJ will not categorize his credit card statement in the manner agreed upon for the community the treasurer should inform him that his bill will not be paid.

Members of the community may not take out loans, and may not serve as co-signers for loans.

Local leadership should be mindful of SCJs who receive bank statements for checking accounts. Individuals may only have checking accounts for specific reasons and only with permission of the provincial superior.

Dn. David told the superiors that it is the local treasurer who is responsible for the property of the community. Maintenance of a property is not solely the task of the superior. The treasurer must ensure that the goods of a community are properly maintained, including automobiles and the community house itself. He reminded the superiors of the province’s new car policy that sets a \$20,000 limit. If a local community has difficulty finding a suitable vehicle at this price the treasurer can work with the Provincial Treasurer’s Office.

There should be a limited number of check-signers; not all members of the community should have check-signing responsibility or access to cash.

Excess cash from a community should be returned to the province. It was noted that the Mississippi community has decided to use its excess funds to sponsor an immigrant family.

- B. Local authority — It is important for local superiors to attend to local issues locally. The provincial superior can assist with particularly challenging issues but this should be done prudently. Authority in community is a co-responsibility between the local superior and the rest of the community.

With only three local communities in the Canadian Region, Fr. van den Hengel said that at times it can be a challenge to not allow the regional superior to take on the tasks of the local superior.

- C. Participation in community — Several superiors expressed concern about members of their communities who are rarely present at community events, including prayer and social activities. How does one help a member of the community feel welcome in community functions?

One suggestion: have the entire community meet with the individual to talk about the absence and how it affects the community. Would his presence help the community's prayer experience? Do others feel hurt by his absence? Is there something that the community is not aware of that has led to the separation? It might be a difficult conversation to have, but it is important not to simply ignore the absence of a confrere, or to address it in a judgmental or punitive way.

Unexcused absences in the formation community should not be tolerated.

- D. Spiritual life of the community — Local superiors were encouraged to review the prayer schedule and style at least once a year, and generally, when there are changes in community membership. All members of the community need to “buy into” the prayer schedule. Local communities should try to find opportunities for reflection together outside of regular prayer, such as a day of recollection, or even an evening presentation with an outside speaker.
- E. Fellowship — As important as prayer life and finances are in the community, equally so is fraternity. Local superiors were encouraged to find opportunities for fellowship in community including activities at home and outings together as a group. Even just coming together to watch television in the community room is a great opportunity for sharing time together.
- F. Communication — Communication is vital within the community but also from the community to the province. Superiors were encouraged to keep the province informed about members who are ill, especially if they require hospitalization. The superior should check with the SCJ to ensure that he is comfortable with what is being shared. Superiors were also asked to share news from their communities. For example, if a local community has a day of recollection given by another SCJ, it would be good to send a photo with a short caption to share in the Fridge Notes.

Fr. Kilianski asked the superiors if they felt that their local communities were well-informed on province issues. Most said yes, but noted that confidentiality can be a concern. It is important to share appropriate information on a topic so that the province administration can get the facts of a situation out before rumors take hold.

- G. Records — How much health information should the local superior have about members of his community? Individual privacy needs to be respected; however, when medical emergencies happen it is vital that current healthcare information be available. Emergency personnel need to know about the health issues of an individual and his medication. If a person is mentally incapacitated, Power of Attorney information should be readily available. What does a local superior do if a member of his community refuses to share such information?
- H. Lay staff — SHML has benefited greatly from hiring a full-time health care manager (Barb Haag). It was noted that other provinces have hired such assistance with good results. However, it is important for SCJs to be mindful of maintaining professional relationships with staff, and go through either a supervisor of the local superior with special requests or concerns. Good communication between staff, the local superior and the community is vital.

The superiors were encouraged to contact Linda Church, human resources director for the province, if they have questions regarding employee issues.

IV. General discussions — Other topics that arose during the day's sessions included:

- A. Driving — In the US Province members of the community 75 and older must take regular driver's tests. If an SCJ fails his test the superior must take away his driving privileges. However, it is important for the community to know that they have recourse. If the decision is appealed there is the option to retake the test, perhaps after taking a driver's safety course. In at least one instance driving privileges have been reinstated.

- B. “Snowbirds” — Retired SCJs are welcome to live as “snowbirds,” spending the winter months in Pinellas Park and the summer at SHML. Specific arrangements need to be worked out with the local superiors.
  - C. New to leadership — Several of the superiors noted the challenge of being one of, if not the youngest member of their community. In some cases they now have authority over men who were once their teachers or in previous positions of leadership. It can feel awkward at first, though Fr. Ed Kilianski noted that he went through a similar transition when he became provincial superior.
- V. Founder’s Day — The superiors joined SCJs at SHML for a Founder’s Day celebration in the evening.

## CALENDAR

### 2017

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. Francis Vu Tran

Dehon House I – District Curia  
686/16 Quoc Lo 13  
Khu Pho 4, Phuong Hiep Binh Phuoc  
Quan Thu Duc, Ho Chi Minh City 70000  
Vietnam

US phone number: 714-248-8385  
Vietnam personal phone number: +84 93-207-7643  
District phone number: +84 83-727-0816  
Personal email: francisvu@yahoo.com  
District email: scjviet@gmail.com

### Fr. Bob Naglich

San Camillo  
10200 W. Blue Mound Rd.  
Apt 625  
Wauwatosa WI 53226

New phone number: 414-259-6325  
Cell phone number: 219-614-2367  
Email address: fatherbob@gmail.com

**Br. Bernard Taube**

414 S. County Highway Y, A120

Jefferson, WI 53549

Direct Phone: 920-541-3147

Facility phone: 920-541-3520

## NECROLOGY

+**Fr. Germain Gravejat**, a member of the Franco-European Province, died February 26. He was born in 1932, professed in 1953 and ordained in 1960.

+**Br. Nicolaas J.J. van Ham**, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died February 12. He was born in 1943 and professed in 1961.

+**Fr. Lorenzo Pistelli**, a member of the North Italian Province, died on February 19. He was born in 1923, professed in 1942 and ordained in 1950.