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U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

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Minutes of the 872nd Provincial Council Meeting April 26, 2017, Hales Corners, WI

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

- I. Finance — Dn. David Nagel, province treasurer, was in Rome for the meeting of the General Finance Commission; John Kuxhause, province account, presented the finance agenda.
 - A. Chicago property — Last year the property that houses the Dehon Formation Community was appraised at \$4.2 million. Dn. Nagel asked for an updated appraisal; its value has increased to \$5.8 million. Most properties in the Hyde Park area are increasing in value due to the construction of the Obama Library.
 - B. Financial Audits — The procedural audit for the Growth and Charitable Gift Annuity Portfolios has been completed by Schenk Business Solutions. Allocations were correctly noted; no concerns were cited.
 - C. Novitiate property — The Treasurer's Office is seeking bids for remodeling the novitiate property to create two bedrooms and a chapel. The cost is estimated at \$100,000.
 - D. Sacred Heart Monastery — Ray White from Dimension IV prepared a preliminary design for potentially remodeling the building that houses Sacred Heart Monastery and Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology to allow for an enhanced community space that is separate from the seminary. This topic was to be further discussed later in the council meeting.
 - E. Budgets — Each budget presented was reviewed by the Province Finance Commission and recommended for approval.
 1. Province Development Office — The office continues to run a deficit budget but there have been significant improvements under the direction of the new development team from St. Joseph's Indian School. St. Joseph's is doing some of the printing and inserting for the office which has saved money. After years of decline, the English file is growing. The Spanish file has not grown; names from it are being converted to the English file. There has been a move from devotional to social action or "faith in action" mailings.

The council voted to approve the budget for the Province Development Office for a total of \$18,518,363 which includes capital expenditures of \$29,554 for the replacement of desktop computers, and between \$190,000 to \$285,000 for the updating of HVAC equipment.
 2. Sacred Heart Southern Missions — SHSM is reducing the number of yearly mailings, working to balance the cost of doing a mailing with the effectiveness of each campaign. It was noted that construction of the new volunteer house is underway.

The council voted to approve the SHSM budget for a total of \$24,063,028 which includes \$170,500 of capital expenditures (\$66,000 for schools, \$50,000 for social serv-

ices, and \$54,500 for the SHSM office complex in Walls).

3. SHSM Housing Corporation — This budget covers the administration of Dehon Village and Housing Ministries. The council voted to approve the SHSM Housing Corporation budget for a total of \$434,840.
4. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — The seminary anticipates 26 new students in the next academic year. A councilor asked why the monastery community pays room and board to SHSST. It was noted that this has been a way to finance some of the shared expenses of the building in which both SHSST and SHM are housed; it provides funds beyond the annual province grant to SHSST. Councilors would like to revisit this in the future if the monastery community is expanded (later in the meeting the council was to discuss moving the formation community to SHM).

The council voted to approve the SHSST budget for a total of \$6,335,900, which includes the province grant of \$2,779,900 (the same amount as last year).

5. St. Joseph's Indian School — Enrollment in grades 1-3 is lower than previously while there are waiting lists for grade 4 and higher. The school is reviewing the situation in light of the fact that many parents do not want to send their younger children to a residential program. Total enrollment is 184 students. The fundraising program is quite successful and its efforts have allowed the school (and the province) to operate a wide variety of ministries.

The council voted to approve the budget for St. Joseph's Indian School for a total of \$98,698,396, which includes \$2,750,400 for capital expenses (\$376,000 for computer hardware and software, and phone systems; \$664,500 for equipment; and \$1,709,900 for capital projects).

6. Sacred Heart Center — The center's primary income is from St. Joseph's Indian School; state grants and service revenue make up the balance. The council agreed with the Finance Commission's recommendation that next year the center state how many clients it serves and how many people it employs. This should be stated in the follow-up letter to the center. It is thought that the center is doing excellent ministry and is often operating at capacity.

The council voted to approve the budget for the Sacred Heart Center for a total of \$2,099,420.

7. Lower Brule Ministries — Two sisters who worked with the pastoral team have left; funds have been kept in the budget to allow for the hiring of another person (either religious or lay). The council voted to approve the budget for the Lower Brule Ministries for a total of \$546,379.
8. Native Hope — Native Hope is a new social media outreach project being developed by St. Joseph's Indian School. Most revenue comes from a grant from St. Joseph's; it is expected to take several years before the program is self-sustaining. The council voted to approve the budget for Native Hope for a total of \$1,162,487.
9. South Dakota SCJ Community — During FY17 the community returned \$50,000 to the province; Fr. Kilianski thanked the community. The council voted to approve the budget for the South Dakota Community for a total of \$244,250.
10. Houston Community — There are six members including two who are retired.

Fr. Duy Nguyen said that the community is looking at the possibility of remodeling space above the kitchen on the parish property to create two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Rough estimates for cost are between \$10,000 and \$25,000. When the community has a final cost Fr. Kilianski can give approval for the expenditure.

The council voted to approve the budget for the Houston community for a total of \$253,301.

11. Raymondville — This budget is for Fr. Richard MacDonald. The council voted to approve the Raymondville budget for a total of \$37,500.
12. Sacred Heart Monastery — It was noted that there will be significant transition in the community during the next year which may impact the budget. The council voted to approve the SHM budget for a total of \$359,550.
13. St. Francis Residence — There are three members in the community; one is retired. The council noted that in six months the community spent more on food than what was budgeted for a full year — could this have been a bookkeep-

ing error? The council voted to approve the budget for the St. Francis Residence for a total of \$138,666.

14. St. Joseph's Community at SHML — Previously all members of the community had check-signing privileges; this will not be the case in the future (Fr. Kilianski, a member of the community, does not have check-signing privileges). There will be transition in the community next year.

The council voted to approve the budget for St. Joseph's Community at SHML.

15. Dehon House — There are two members in the community. It was noted that with an older home unexpected maintenance concerns can come up at any time. The council voted to approve the Dehon House budget for a total of \$89,235.
16. St. Michael Community, Nesbit — Fr. Kilianski publicly thanked the St. Michael Community for sending \$75,000 to the province during the past fiscal year. The council voted to approve the St. Michael Community budget for a total of \$411,590.
17. Sacred Heart Community at SHML — This is the largest community in the province with 28 members (four are at the Congregational Home; however, it is anticipated that they will move to Camilus once its memory care facility is completed). The community has four employees in addition to staff from Sodexo. Previously, Sodexo staff were given a raise by both the SCJ community and by Sodexo. The community stopped this practice. Sodexo will be fully responsible for compensating its employees.

The council voted to approve the budget for the Sacred Heart Community at SHML for a total of \$1,660,100.

18. Sacred Heart Community, Pinellas Park — There are nine SCJs in the community; Sodexo provides food service. The budget is similar to last year. The council voted to approve the Sacred Heart Community budget for a total of \$446,960.
19. Dehon Formation Community, Chicago — This is one of the largest communities in the province, second to Sacred Heart at SHML. Councilors voiced concern about a line in the budget is identified simply as "personal." It was noted that the local treasurer does not always get full descriptions with credit card bills. The council urged that this be addressed so that expenses are more fully defined.

The council voted to approve the budget for the Dehon Formation Community for a total of \$902,300.

20. Sacred Heart Novitiate — This is the first year for this budget; it does not include the proposed renovation for a chapel and bedrooms. The council voted to approve the Sacred Heart Novitiate budget for a total of \$242,920.
21. Senior Life Committee — Councilors questioned whether this is a "committee" or "commission." It is to be referred to as a committee until this is clarified. It was noted that airfare for committee members traveling to meetings should appear in this budget, not in local community budgets or in the general province budget. The council voted to approve the Senior Life Committee budget for a total of \$8,950.
22. Archives — The budget is similar to previous years. There is some travel expense for an archival conference in Canada. The council voted to approve the Province Archives budget for a total of \$26,600.
23. Communications — It was noted that the communications director (Mary Gorski) has been asked to serve on the International Communications Commission in Rome and has periodically assisted the Generalate with communications needs. This work (and the travel involved) should be considered a donation by the US Province to the general administration. The council voted to approve the Communications budget for a total of \$156,400.
24. Dehonian Associates — There was a slight decrease in the budget; the next Mission Education gathering is scheduled for 2019. The council voted to approve the Dehonian Associates budget for a total of \$102,627 which includes \$15,000 for SCJ Schools in Collaboration.
25. Dehon Study Center — The center operates under part-time direction from David Schimmel in collaboration with Fr. Jim Schroeder. The council voted to approve the Dehon Study Center budget for a total of \$9,100.
26. ESL — It was noted that Fr. Yvon Sheehy will be the residential director of the ESL program for the next fiscal year; he

should be given a copy of the budget. The council voted to approve the ESL budget for a total of \$397,700, which is \$32,900 more than last year primarily for tuition (more students are anticipated).

27. Foreign Missions — The US Province, at the request of the general administration, supports much of the formation expenses of the Philippines, Vietnam and India. One councilor noted that when Fr. Francis Vu Tran, superior of Vietnam, met with the US council last year he said that he planned to reduce the grant request from the US Province by 20% each year; however, the requested amount for FY18 is actually higher than the previous year. This should be clarified. It was noted that South Africa reduced its request from the US Province.

The council voted to approve the Foreign Missions budget for a total of \$1,675,460.

28. Formation — There is no formation director for the province at this time. The budget is the same as previous years. The council voted to approve the Formation budget for a total of \$4,150.
29. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — The budget is down by \$28,972 partially due to a decrease in contributions to other organizations; next year all contributions will be eliminated (as was the intention when a JPR director was hired). The council voted to approve the JPR budget for a total of \$212,128.
30. Vocation Department — The budget is slightly less than last year. Fr. Quang Nguyen, vocation director, said that the focus of the office has moved away from printed materials (such as the poster) to online advertising. Councilors suggested that the office also look at radio stations geared especially to young Catholics; it is thought that SIRIUSXM radio has such a station aimed at college students. “Busted Halo” is a website managed by the Paulists that is aimed at young adults.

The Vocation Office was commended for its efforts in bringing new candidates to the community. The council voted to approve the Vocation Department budget for a total of \$241,180.

31. North American Immigration Committee — Because this is an international committee it was suggested that the Canadian Region share in its costs. Details can be worked out during the next year. The council voted to approve the North American Immigration Committee budget for a total of \$20,000.
32. SHSST/SHM Major Maintenance — Funding for this budget comes from the \$250,000 that the province contributes each year and from the income from the Major Maintenance endowment (currently at \$1 million). The council voted to approve the SHSST/SHM Major Maintenance budget for a total of \$185,057.
33. Fr. Guy Blair — Fr. Blair is in specialized ministry in San Antonio. The council voted to approve his budget for a total of \$49,160.
34. Fr. Vien Nguyen — The council voted to approve the academic budget of \$9,000 for Fr. V. Nguyen.
35. San Antonio — This budget includes Fr. Nick Brown and Br. Frank Snider. It was noted that the community returns its excess to the province; for FY18 \$3,795 is budgeted for this. The council voted to approve the San Antonio budget for a total of \$94,015.
36. Province — The province budget is mostly an accumulation of other budgets in the province. This year’s budget is showing a surplus if development expectations are met. Councilors suggested that expenses associated with province celebrations, funerals and other such events be more clearly defined in the budget. If a local community, such as SHML, hosts a province event it is important that the cost of that event appear in the province budget.

The council voted to approve the province budget for a total of \$12,284,668.

37. Thank-you — Fr. Kilianski publicly thanked all who were involved in preparing this year’s budgets, including local treasurers and staff, the Finance Commission, and those who are a part of the Provincial Treasurer’s Office, especially Dn. David Nagel. His presence was missed at the meeting; the council is grateful to John Kuxhause for his work in presenting the budgets in Dn. Nagel’s place.

II. Membership

- A. Br. Mike Fette — Br. Fette has been granted dispensation from vows. He received the rescript and signed it; however, he had until April 27 to change his mind. Br. Fette asked Dn. Nagel if he could remain at RECON until the end of May; he is to call Dn. Nagel in mid-May to finalize his financial details for departure. He will receive his patrimony and an annuity. Councilors are welcome to view the settlement before it is finalized.
- B. Frater Justin Krenke — Frater Krenke has asked not to renew his vows. Fr. David Szatkowski will help Frater Krenke prepare his petition for release from temporary vows (this goes to the general administration). Fr. Kilianski will dispense him from the vow of poverty.

III. Administration

- A. Senior Life Committee — The council voted to appoint Fr. Bill Pitcavage to the Senior Life Committee; he replaces Fr. Richard MacDonald. Councilors questioned whether this group is a committee or a commission. Until it is clarified the council decided to refer to it as a committee. Although Fr. MacDonald was co-chair with Fr. Jim Schroeder the committee will now go with a single chairperson if that is its preference. It was noted that some committees do have co-chairs, such as the North American Immigration Committee.
- B. Funeral arrangements — The Senior Life Committee prepared a set of guidelines to give to family and friends of SCJs regarding funeral arrangements for members of the province. The council approved the guidelines and asked that SCJs share them with their friends and family. The guidelines are attached as Addendum A.

Related to this, the council would like to establish guidelines for the province in regards to the death and funeral arrangements for a member. Who should plan the liturgy? Who puts together Mass booklets and prayer cards? Who contacts family and friends? This should be addressed by either the provincial staff or perhaps the Provincial Council.

- C. Province Assembly — Fr. Thi Pham, in the name of the planning committee for the Province Assembly, sent local superiors a request for a video that is to be produced by each community. Councilors appreciate the idea of the video but wonder if the timeline is too tight and/or whether each community has someone with the technical knowledge to create such a video. It was suggested that Fr. Q. Nguyen, the council's liaison to the planning committee, talk to Fr. Pham about the need to keep other options in mind in case the video cannot be completed as envisioned.
- D. Formation
 1. Location — During the past year the council has discussed the possibility of moving the formation program (undergraduate and theology) to the Milwaukee area. Formation was the topic of Fr. Kilianski's second letter to the province (as provincial superior) sent in January, 2016. Since then he and the council have welcomed dialogue with the formation community (students and formators) and the membership at large.

The council envisions the Milwaukee area as the best location for the province's formation program at this time. There is concern that the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago is too much of an island in the province, there are not enough opportunities for day-to-day interaction between students and the province. Interaction is vital for the inculturation of candidates and the temporarily professed into the life of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

The council has stated its renewed commitment to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. Sending the province's own students to SHSST is a further expression of that commitment. Formation will continue to be done within the SCJ community, just as it is now. For undergraduate students there are several options in the Milwaukee area, including Cardinal Stritch University (with which SHSST already has an academic relationship) and Marquette University.

The council voted to move the province's formation community — undergraduate and theology — to the Milwaukee area as of August, 2018. In doing so, the council made the decision to send its theology students to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology as of the 2018-19 academic year. Undergraduate students will attend a college or university in the Milwaukee area.

Fr. Kilianski publicly thanked the province for its input on this topic during the past year, and especially the council for its thoughtful discernment on the issue. This decision is a significant moment in the history of the province.

Fr. Q. Nguyen noted that he has a candidate who will enter formation in January, 2018. Should he begin his studies at

SHSST or in Chicago? The council recommended that he be given the option of starting his candidacy in Chicago in January knowing that he will move to the Milwaukee area in August, or that he delay his entrance until August, 2018. It was noted that all members of the formation community will experience some disruption with the move.

2. Sale and remodeling — The council voted to remodel a section of the building that currently houses SHSST / SHM to allow for an enhanced community space that is separate from the seminary. This will house the Sacred Heart Monastery community which will include the formation community. Construction should begin as soon as possible to allow for its use by the community as of the 2018-19 academic year.

To pay for this construction the council agreed that its property in Chicago should be sold. It was recently appraised at \$5.8 million; the advertised asking price should be \$6 million. Ideally, the sale should be timed to allow the formation community to remain on the property until the summer of 2018. If the sale is done prior to that time, perhaps the community would be able to lease the property until the summer.

The province must petition the general administration in Rome for permission to sell the formation house for \$6 million. It must also ask permission to spend up to \$5.8 million from the sale to remodel SHM for use by the formation program.

3. Letter — A letter from Fr. Ed Kilianski about these two decisions, written with the input of the council, will be sent to the membership on Thursday, April 27, by email. A copy of that letter is attached as Addendum B.
4. General discussion — Councilors emphasized that the formation program and monastery would be together as one community; there will be one dining room. A sense of “movement in formation” can be created by defining where in the community those in vows and those in candidacy live. Vowed religious would have more privileges in community than candidates.

Looking at the proposed remodeling plans a councilor expressed concern that the single rooms are very narrow; are there other options? Also, it was noted that Room 200 cannot be left as it is; presently it is not up to code due to the placement of the exit. Perhaps this space could be turned into guest rooms or small conference rooms with a hall leading to the door.

It was suggested that those planning to move to SHM delay their move until after the remodeling. Fr. Yvon Sheehy would remain at SHML, Br. Duane Lemke would temporarily live at St. Joseph’s Community at SHML.

Consultation for the local administration should take place after the remodeling is complete and the monastery community, including the formation program, moves in. Until then, Fr. Yvon Sheehy will serve as administrator of the SHM community following the end of Fr Jim Walters’ term as administrator.

- E. Argentina — Fr. Kilianski has been in dialogue with the provincial superior of Argentina about Br. Diego Diaz, a member of the province coming to the US Province initially for ESL studies. He is a religious brother with a degree in psychology who would like to do social work. After doing ESL studies it was suggested that he go to Mississippi to assist with Sacred Heart Southern Missions. As with all international SCJs, a contract will be developed stating expectations. Most likely it will be for a three-year term.
- IV. Next meetings — The council will next meet by conference call at 1:30 pm (central) on Tuesday, May 2, to review these minutes. During the Province Assembly the council will meet briefly to discuss the province’s response to the questionnaire in preparation for the 2018 General Conference. Advancement in formation will be voted on during the June 27 conference call (11:00 am central). Fr. Q. Nguyen will not be available for the June conference call; he will be in the Philippines as a part of preparations for the General Conference.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART A GUIDE FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

1. Q. If a Priest of the Sacred Heart [SCJ], priest or brother, dies with family or with friends, who in the Congregation, the “Order,” should be contacted?

A. The Provincialate, or central office, of the SCJs is to be contacted, either the Provincial Superior, the Provincial Secretary or the Provincial Treasurer should be called at 414-425-6910 as soon as possible.

2. Q. Are there guidelines for the wake, the funeral, and the burial?

A. Yes. When a man marries, he is bound by civil and/or Church law to his wife and she becomes his next of kin. Similarly, when a man takes vows, especially perpetual vows, with the SCJs, according to Church law he is “incorporated into the institute with rights and duties defined by law” (Canon 654). The Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, United States Province, has rights and duties regarding an SCJ’s care. His major superior, the Provincial, determines, within Church law for religious, where the man will have his wake, funeral, and burial. Each SCJ is asked to fill out his funeral planning directives, which will be followed within the limits of Church law, available resources, and Province policies and customs.

3. Q. Does the family or friends have any say?

A. The SCJs will be as considerate of family’s and/or friends’ wishes as possible within our laws and customs. The family does not determine where the SCJ will have his wake, funeral, or burial unless a contract was drawn up before death, one signed by the Provincial Superior, the SCJ, and the responsible family member or friend who must assume all responsibility and all costs for the transport of the body, the services, and burial. This contract must be on file at the Province offices.

4. Q. Where is the funeral Mass to be celebrated?

A. The wake and funeral for an SCJ will take place in Hales Corners, either at Sacred Heart Monastery chapel or at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake chapel. If an SCJ dies in a parish or mission where he was working at the time of death, there may also be a wake and Mass there before the body is transported to Hales Corners for the SCJ funeral and burial

5. Q. Who presides at the funeral Mass for an SCJ?

A. The Provincial Superior is the ordinary celebrant at the funeral Mass of an SCJ, unless he is unavailable and appoints a delegate, or unless the SCJ has requested someone else in his funeral planning directives and the Provincial delegates that other priest.

6. Q. Who preaches at an SCJ’s funeral?

A. The Provincial Superior would be the ordinary homilist at the funeral of an SCJ, unless the SCJ has asked in his funeral planning directives for someone else to preach and the Provincial Superior honors that wish and delegates another priest or deacon.

7. Q. How are other priests or family or friends notified of the death and funeral arrangements?

A. The Province office will prepare an obituary notice and it will be sent out by e-mail and social media. Any people the SCJ has listed in his funeral planning directives will be contacted personally. Obituaries will be published in newspapers listed by the SCJ in his funeral planning directives, within the limits of prudence and of our resources

8. Q. How will the body of an SCJ be attired for the Vigil and Visitation?

A. Ordinarily an SCJ priest is vested in Mass vestments and an SCJ brother is attired in a suit with or without a brother's collar. If the SCJ has put other instructions in his funeral planning directives, the Provincial Superior will honor those as he sees fit.

9. Q. Do SCJs have last wills and testaments?

A. Yes. Every SCJ must write a last will and testament before taking first vows, and this must be re-done when the SCJ turns 21 if he took vows before that age. The will should be in the SCJ's file, or there should be directions in the file as to where the will is. This document will be read when the SCJ dies and any person designated by the SCJ as the representative of his estate will be involved in any decisions about the disposition of an SCJ's estate. The SCJs will deal with the personal effects of the SCJ, and family or friends may be invited to take family items or family photos.

10. Q. Who is responsible for an SCJ's funeral expenses?

A. Because by vows a man is "incorporated into the institute," the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart will pay for all funeral and burial expenses. The only exception is if a family member or friend has signed a contract before the SCJ's death, as mentioned above, to assume all costs for some alternate kind of funeral and burial.

11. Q. Can an SCJ ever be cremated?

A. Ordinarily all SCJs are embalmed. If there are exceptional circumstances, such as an SCJ's dying by fire or dying in a foreign country, his body may be cremated before the funeral and burial.

12. Q. Where can an SCJ be buried or entombed?

A. Our practice is that an SCJ's remains are entombed in the Congregation's mausoleum which is behind Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. Only if there was a contract signed before the death of an SCJ, can his remains be buried elsewhere, and that transport and burial is done at the expense of whatever family member or friend signed the contract with the SCJ and the Provincial Superior.

Reviewed at April 25, 2017 Provincial Council Meeting

Addendum B

Fr. Edward Kilianski's April 27, 2017 letter to the province regarding the formation program:

April 27, 2017

Dear Brothers,

Spring is the season of hope and renewal when, encouraged by the increase of light and warmth, we find the energy to take the necessary action that can push the tentative new beginning into full awakening. Spring is green, tender, and alive. It's the childhood stage of the seasons of transitions where innocence and purity permeate the atmosphere. As nature wakes from her winter slumber and you observe the first pale green leaves unfolding out of the buds, I invite you to ask yourself, "What is childlike inside of me that wishes to come out? What is it that is longing to be born? What do I see in my inner child that is aching for release?"

It is with these thoughts of a new beginning that I announce a major and exciting change in our Formation Programs. At the 872nd Meeting of the Provincial Council, held on April 26, 2017, we unanimously decided to move our Formation House and the College and Theology programs from Chicago to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. This move will take place in the summer of 2018.

The decision was not made lightly or easily. Since I began my term as provincial superior on September 18, 2015, I and the Provincial Council have been discussing and consulting with the province about how can we best use the resources — both personnel and finances — of the United States Province.

You may recall that my second letter as provincial superior, sent in January, 2016, focused on formation. We received 44 responses of various opinions, ideas and concerns to that letter.

During the past year-and-a-half I and the Provincial Council visited with the Chicago Formation community four times for dialogue. Each of these meetings was consultative and in various formats (large group, small groups and individual). Again, we received different thoughts, opinions and concerns at these meetings

As I have discussed with each local community at the conclusion of the provincial visitations, we need to look at and plan for the future as we become smaller in the number of active members in the province. We simply cannot do things as we have done in the past. We may not be able to maintain the apostolates and ministries that we currently have. I believe that it is far better to plan and act now rather than react when we are in crisis. This can also allow for not only new ways of doing ministry but new ministries for our younger members.

I believe that you are aware that the Congregation, our Superior General and his Council, are exploring ways to make our three major seminaries (Hales Corners, Stadnicki and Taubate) theological centers for the Congregation. Also, Fr. Heiner Wilmer and the General Council have stated that the common language for the Congregation is English. As a result we are already experiencing an increase in the number of SCJ ESL students coming to Sacred Heart for language studies.

You may also be aware of our dialogue and possible collaboration with the Society of St. Sulpice. Their provincial superior and two councilors visited Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, March 27-30, 2017.

These are added factors in our decision to relocate the formation programs to SHSST.

I know that the decision to move out of Chicago may not be received positively by all. Some of you may even be angry or think that we made the decision too hastily. But please know that the Council and I have tried to consider all options and possibilities that were presented to us. As we move forward with the plan, we are still open to your thoughts, concerns and constructive criticism.

Regarding the housing of the formation programs, we looked at both building a new, independent structure on the SHSST grounds and remodeling Sacred Heart Monastery. For several reasons, including good financial stewardship, we decided to remodel within our existing building. The building that houses SHSST / SHM needs maintenance and upgrading — these are costs that we would have had to incur regardless if we had the formation program there or not. Also, by placing the formation program in the current building we only have the operational costs of one building, not two.

The remodel will include separate quarters for the Sacred Heart Monastery community, which will include the formation community. The SCJ residence will include a kitchen, dining room, recreation rooms, student bedrooms with private baths, guest rooms and SCJ suites for the formators and religious community. Of course, St. Joseph Chapel will continue to be available to this community. This remodel will cost approximately \$5 million and will be paid for by the sale of the house in Chicago. We have already received an unsolicited offer of \$4.7 million and the property has been valued at \$5.8 million.

In the Milwaukee area college formation students will be able to attend universities such as Cardinal Stritch (including the seminary's BA-M.Div. program) and Marquette. The theology students will, of course, attend Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; formation will be with the SCJ community.

I want to end this letter by thanking all of you for being Dehonians. I thank you for your cooperation, assistance, love and friendship to me and the council as our brothers. I thank God for your vocation and spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

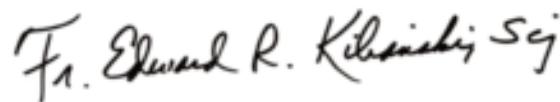
I especially thank my council — Quang Nguyen, Duy Nguyen, Christianus Hendrick, Jack Kurps and Frank Presto — for your dedication, commitment, counsel and invaluable service to our province. Together we look forward to the future with hope and enthusiasm.

I thank the provincial staff, especially, David Nagel (provincial treasurer) and Frank Presto (provincial secretary), and also the lay staff who collaborate and work with us in our ministry. We have much for which to be thankful. We still have more to do.

I am proud to be your provincial; your servant.

Be assured of my gratitude, thoughts and prayers. Let us continue to propagate, display, make known and celebrate with others our Dehonian charism. Fr. Dehon saw the refusal of the love of Christ as the deepest cause of human misery. Caught up in this often unrecognized love, he wanted to respond to it by being intimately united to the Heart of Christ by restoring His Reign in individuals and in society. Let us try our best to follow his example.

Fraternally in the Sacred Heart of Jesus,



V. Rev. Edward R. Kilianski, SCJ
Provincial Superior
and the Provincial Council

Summary of the Meeting of the Councils of Canada and the United States April 25, 2017 • Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Edward Kilianski (provincial superior, United States), Fr. John van den Hengel (regional superior, Canada), Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Quang Nguyen, Br. Frank Presto, Fr. Aegidius Warsito, Fr. Richard Woodbury, and Mary Gorski (minutes). Fr. Jim Schroeder reported on preparations for the North American Dehonian retreats and Fr. Tony Russo spoke about the efforts of the North American Immigration Committee.

I. Mass— Fr. Quang Nguyen was the main celebrant at Mass at the Provincial Conference Center chapel.

II. Sharing and Updates — Participants updated each other on various items, including:

- A. South Dakota — Fr. Joseph Dean is now retired, but continues to assist with Lower Brule ministries. Fr. Bernie Rosinski completed his master's degree in Scripture; he will soon share his research with the local community. Fr. Vincent Suparman now has his green card; Fr. Anthony Kluckman is busy with St. Joseph's Indian School. The Lower Brule Pastoral Team lost two of the religious sisters who worked with it which has added much to the responsibilities of others on the team.

Fr. Hendrik hopes to become involved in youth ministry at St. Joseph's Indian School; he has 10 years of experience in such ministry in Indonesia.

Two students from the formation program will spend the summer with the South Dakota community doing ministry.

- B. Houston — The community in Houston is doing well. Fr. Richard Johnston lives outside of Houston but visits and assists the community once a week. Our Lady of Guadalupe is seeking a new DRE.

As is South Dakota, the Houston community is looking forward to hosting two students from the formation program this summer.

- C. Personnel issues in Canada — Fr. van den Hengel noted that the region has agreements with at least four entities to share personnel with Canada but that there have been challenges in fulfilling some of the positions. There are currently only two SCJs at St. Thomas More parish Scarborough, which is not enough for the size of the parish (it includes ministry to nearby Our Lady of the Rosary). Members of the community at High Park have been assisting at the parish.

- D. Toronto — There are five SCJs in Toronto; Fr. Jim Casper is retired but assists at St. Thomas More. Fr. Peter McKenna continues to be very busy with Becoming Neighbors, an outreach program to immigrants; he has also assisted at St. Thomas More. Fr. Yuliwan Maslim ministers to the Indonesian community in Toronto, though there is the possibility that he may be asked to take an assignment outside of Canada later in the year.

St. Thomas More parish needs another Spanish-speaking priest; Fr. Willyans Rapozo has assumed most of the Spanish ministry, as well as Portuguese at Our Lady of the Rosary.

The Toronto community hosted a three-part series on Dehonian Spirituality at St. Thomas More. Members of the parish and people from the Indonesian community and Becoming Neighbors took part. There was an excellent response; 75-80 people were present at each of the three gatherings. This was the Toronto community's first experience in bringing SCJ spirituality to the people with whom they minister.

Fr. Warsito told the councilors that the annual youth retreat, hosted by UKI (Indonesian Catholic community in Toronto) is scheduled for May 19-21. The community could use one more person to assist. Fr. McKenna often helps but is unavailable this year.

- E. Vocations — Fr. Q. Nguyen suggested that the admissions requirements for the US Province be reviewed; he is interested in learning about the process of the Canadian Region.

- F. Aging issues — The aging of the membership is becoming more noticeable. Several members of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML have had more significant health problems this year. A member of the community at the Congregational Home can no longer be transported by car; he needs specific medical transport to appointments.

It is challenge when religious who have lived on their own for many years return to community, especially if the person comes to the community with significant health issues.

Fr. Kilianski noted the emotional toll that the death of an SCJ takes on him personally, and on the province.

- G. Mississippi — Fr. Bob Tucker and Fr David Szatkowski assisted in Mississippi during Holy Week and Easter; both had been a part of the pastoral team there until last fall. Fr. Kurps also helped in the parishes.

Construction is about to begin on the new volunteer house for Sacred Heart Southern Missions.

In general, members of the community are doing well. Fr. Thi Pham has been good in leadership.

- H. Quebec — Fr. Woodbury said that the Montréal community is experiencing some of the same aging issues as Fr. Q. Nguyen noted at SHML. Others are also experiencing health concerns, including Br. Luc Coursol who is being treated for cancer.

After dealing with several challenges at the Séminaire du Sacré-Coeur in Pointe-au-Chêne, Quebec, the school seems to be in a much better situation with a good relationship between the current director and staff. School enrollment is down for a number of reasons, including a lower birthrate in Quebec.

- I. Visitations in the US Province — Fr. Kilianski said that much of his year so far has been taken up with local visitations; the final visitation will be in South Dakota in May. He said that he especially enjoys the one-on-one meetings with members; there is an intimacy in which he feels that the Lord is present much as in the sacrament of penance. “Living simply” is the theme of this year’s visitations; last year it was “community life.”

The visitation begins with prayer and a community meeting. Fr. Kilianski meets with the local superior and treasurer to address issues of concern. Each community is asked to continue the conversation begun during the visitation and specify concrete steps for living more simply. The Mississippi community committed to giving its excess cash back to the province (\$75,000) and to pay the legal fees for an immigrant seeking to get appropriate documentation.

- J. Canadian Region in general — Fr. Woodbury distributed a written summary of some of the activities and concerns of the Canadian Region. Items of note:

- The team ministry project in Montréal in which three SCJs serve three parishes is going well.
- The region recently committed \$500,000 toward the building of a senior residence in Toronto that is to serve the retirement needs of several religious communities, both men and women.
- Sponsorship of refugee families in Ottawa and Montréal has been a good experience in both communities.
- In Montréal, the mission office has been directed by a lay woman since last year; she and Fr. Claude Bédard, who continues to write some of the text for benefactors, work well together.
- In recent years the region has not been active in vocation development; Fr. Q. Nguyen said that he would be happy to work with the region on collaborative efforts.

- III. North American Dehonian Retreats — Fr. Jim Schroeder, a member of the planning committee for the North American Dehonian Retreats (along with Fr. van den Hengel and David Schimmel) updated the administrations on plans for the retreats. He noted that the retreats came out of a call for renewal expressed at province assemblies and during previous NORAM meetings.

The dates for the retreats were chosen based on the availability of a retreat center for a full five days. The tentative daily schedule includes a conference, reflection and journaling, Adoration, one-on-one conversations, small group discussions, Eucharist, night prayer and time for socialization.

Topics for each day are taken from the Constitutions: 1) the faith experience of Fr. Dehon, 2) united in the love of Christ, 3) oblation, 4) reparation, and 5) social spirituality, the apostolic dimension.

The three members of the organizing committee have split the tasks of preparing the sessions. Each has written and shared his talk with the others so that all can have input on them.

The committee needs assistance with logistical concerns; they will discuss this further during their meeting on April 26. Fr. Kilianski suggested that the committee put a list together of what needs to be done and he can see if staff at the US Provincial

Offices can help.

Fr. van den Hengel suggested that the Canadian Region pay for the expenses of the retreat in Mississauga and that the US Province pay for the retreats in Racine. Councilors agreed with this.

The group talked about what should be done if an SCJ does not want to attend any of the retreats. It was decided that having someone present who does not want to be there would not be conducive to a good retreat experience, not just for the individual, but for those with whom he would interact. A letter will go out from the committee in May with a final deadline for registering for the Mississauga retreat.

- IV. Dehonian Family — Fr. Kurps shared a report on the work that David Schimmel has done in regards to the Dehonian Family. A twice-weekly e-blast titled “The Way of Light” is going out during the Easter Season and another e-blast is planned for the month of June in preparation for the feast of the Sacred Heart.

In Mississippi, a group of lay staff from SHSM just finished the “Spiritual Path,” a ten-session formation process for people to learn about the Dehonian charism. It is a North American adaptation of a similar program developed at the general level of the congregation.

Fr. Kurps, who led the initial group, noted that four of the ten participants were not Catholic but that instead of highlighting theological differences discussions brought to light the fact that at the level of human experience people are very similar. That initial group of ten plans to continue to meet, starting in fall. However, they hope to invite others to join them, with original members of the group leading the Spiritual Path process that they already experienced.

Two staff members at St. Joseph’s Indian School in South Dakota (Mike Tyrell and Donna Dean, both members of the province’s Dehonian Associates Committee) hope to begin the Spiritual Path at the school later this year.

Also of note: David Schimmel has initiated the “Dehonian Esprit de Corps,” an effort to facilitate spiritual and social fellowship among SCJs, former SCJs and alumni of SCJ seminaries. Fr. Kurps, David Schimmel and Fr. van den Hengel will represent North America at the Dehonian Family Conference in Rome May 13-17. Mary Gorski will also be there to assist the general administration with communications at the conference.

- V. Senior Life — The US Province established a Senior Life Committee last year; Fr. Jim Schroeder is the chairperson. The committee is planning a pre-retirement workshop to take place in October, 2018. It will be designed for SCJs of pre-retirement age, approximately age 65-70. Canadian confreres are welcome to take part.

The US Province has become increasingly aware of the need for SCJs to plan for retirement. As noted earlier, it is very challenging when a man who has lived on his own for a significant period of time returns to community for retirement. It is also difficult when a man — regardless of his previous living situation — moves to a retirement community when he is in ill health. It is difficult not just for the individual but for the community. In some situations, men in poor health may need to go to a rehabilitation facility before they can move into a retirement community.

The Jesuits send a qualified professional to evaluate those living on their own post-retirement. Perhaps this is something that the SCJs need to do as well to ensure the well-being of their senior members.

- VI. North American Dehonian Theological Commission — The NADTC was established in May, 2016. One of its first tasks was to distribute, collect and analyze the questionnaire created by the International Dehonian Theological Commission in preparation for the July, 2017, Theological Seminar in Indonesia. All members of the NADTC will attend the seminar; this includes Fr. van den Hengel (chairperson of the commission), Fr. Charles Brown, Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec and Fr. Gustave Lulendo.

Fr. van den Hengel spoke about the topic of the seminar which centers around the Dehonian charism and devotions. How the charism is lived and expressed is much different in Asia, Africa and South America than it is in Europe or North America, especially in Europe during the lifetime of Fr. Dehon.

Fr. van den Hengel shared the statutes developed by the NADTC commission, which held its first in-person meeting on January 11, 2017.

Regarding the commission’s budget, the primary expense is travel which will be covered by each commission member’s entity.

VII. Formation — Fr. Kilianski shared some of the US council’s tentative plans for formation; these were to be finalized at the following day’s council meeting. During the past year the council discussed the possibility of moving the formation program (undergraduate and theology) to the Milwaukee area.

The council has stated its renewed commitment to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. Sending the province’s own students to SHSST would be a further expression of that commitment. Formation can continue to be done within the SCJ community, just as it is now. For undergraduate students there are several options in the Milwaukee area, including Cardinal Stritch University (with which SHSST already has an academic relationship) and Marquette University.

If the program moves to Milwaukee, Sacred Heart Monastery will most likely be remodeled to accommodate it. Again, details of this were to be discussed and voted on at April 26 US Provincial Council meeting.

VIII. General Conference — Fr. Q. Nguyen is the chairperson of the planning committee for the 2018 General Conference in the Philippines. The first meeting of the committee was in February. The theme of the conference is “Faithfulness to the Gospel and our charism through formation in response to social challenges.” The style of the conference will be modeled on the experiences in Recife and Neustadt. A questionnaire has been sent to the entities; the committee hopes to review responses at the end of June.

Fr. Q. Nguyen was asked about the questionnaire: was it sent just to those in active ministry? Fr. Q. Nguyen said that was the committee’s intent; however, he agreed that the voice of the retired should not be ignored.

In June, Fr. Q. Nguyen will go to the Philippines to visit with the host committee and ensure that things are in place at the retreat center. The participant number will be smaller than at a General Chapter; the committee anticipates that no more than 63 people will be able to attend, including guests and staff.

The committee’s next in-person meeting will be in November. They will propose the presenters, moderators, a secretary and other necessary staff but the General Council will make the final decision regarding participants.

IX. Vocations and admissions — As noted previously in the meeting, the Canadian Region has not had an active vocation ministry in recent years. The region hopes to name a member as a vocation contact; it is open to collaboration with the US Province both in vocation recruitment and formation.

Fr. Kilianski said that there has been wonderful diversity in recent applicants; several countries and ethnic backgrounds are represented in the Dehon Formation House. He added that there are more candidates in the program than in recent years. There has been a general increase in vocation interest.

Fr. Q. Nguyen spoke briefly about missions that he has begun to give in areas where there are no SCJ ministries; this is a good way to expose people to the Priests of the Sacred Heart. So far he has received permission to do this in Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Denver.

X. Local Superiors Meeting — In March, a joint meeting with local superiors from Canada and the United States was held in Hales Corners. Many of the current superiors are serving in leadership for the first time and thus the meeting took on more of a “workshop” tone than previous gatherings. It was well-received and was an excellent opportunity for many to clarify their role and their tasks as superiors. A summary of the meeting was in the March *Cor Unum* of the US Province.

XI. North American Migration Committee — Fr. Tony Russo joined the meeting to talk about the work of the NORAM Migration Committee. Fr. Richard MacDonald and Fr. Peter McKenna are co-chairs of the committee. Recently established, the group is a continuation of an ad-hoc committee that developed following the 2013 North American Conference. Membership now includes Karen Mahoney, a parishioner at Resurrection of Our Lord in Ottawa. Karen was instrumental in helping the Dehonian community in Ottawa set up sponsorship for a Syrian refugee family last year. Also new to the committee is Fr. Louis-Marie Kayamba Butari, an SCJ immigrant from the Democratic Republic of Congo who is now administrator of a three-parish pastoral team in Montréal.

Fr. Russo noted that when the committee held its first in-person meeting in February they invited several immigrants, including one who is undocumented, to share their stories not only with committee members, but with the SCJ community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. The committee has prepared prayer materials centered on migration issues and is assisting in bringing speakers on such issues to the US Province assembly in June. Fr. Louis-Marie is preparing material for the Canadian assembly.

Members of both entities are active in either direct ministry to migrants or in lobbying efforts on their behalf. Fr. Tony noted that several SCJs in the Milwaukee area visited Speaker Paul Ryan's office to speak to staff about migration concerns. In Canada, two communities have sponsored Syrian families and Fr. Peter McKenna works full-time with Becoming Neighbors, a social outreach organization for migrants to Canada. In Toronto, the SCJ community also sponsored an educational workshop on the Islamic faith.

The committee has considered contacting bishops to dialogue about collaborative possibilities regarding migration concerns but no formal plans for this have been made.

It was noted that the committee needs to develop a proposal regarding the sharing of costs between Canada and the United States. Fr. Russo will bring this back to the committee.

One of the challenges of migration is to make it a personal issue for all SCJs in North America. It is easy to let it be something that a committee does. Migration is a concern for people in both entities. Councilors asked the committee to try to find concrete projects or tasks that SCJs and/or their ministries can do to impact migration concerns.

The two councils thanked Fr. Russo and the committee for its work. They hope that more younger SCJs can be encouraged to join in their efforts.

- XII. Fr. General's letter of April 15 — Fr. Heiner Wilmer, general superior, wrote a letter to the Major Superiors on April 15 in regards to communication. That letter has been shared with the membership in the US and Canada. Two issues in the letter have created a significant amount of discussion in both entities: 1) the idea of using "Dehonians" as a common name for the congregation (this would be an informal name, not a replacement of the institutional name of "Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart), and 2) the Mission Statement for the congregation developed by the General Council.

Although some SCJs in North America are hesitant about the use of "Dehonians," most members of the two administrations are open to the change. It was noted that the names of many religious communities have evolved and changed. Use of "Dehonian" has become fairly common in many areas of the congregation. Examples given: "Dehonian Spirituality," "North American Dehonian Retreats," "North American Dehonian Theological Commission," and "Dehonian Family."

Some have suggested that Fr. Dehon might not have wanted the congregation named after him. However, it was noted that St. Francis probably did not want a congregation named him either, yet "Franciscans" is how the community is known throughout the world. It is a simple "identifier."

Councilors spoke about the confusion that can arise with so many communities using "Sacred Heart" in their names. "Dehonian" is simple and unique.

Regarding the Mission Statement, there were several concerns. Many felt that it was done in a "top-down" approach without sufficient input from the entities. Some suggested that a Mission Statement is something that should be approved by a General Chapter with preparatory work done on the local levels so that all feel a part of it. The US and Canada each have Mission Statement that was developed through a lengthy discernment process. Only a few people seem to have had input on the Mission Statement shared by Fr. General, though it was noted that the major superiors were invited to comment on it during small group discussions at their meeting last November – December.

XIII. Miscellaneous

- A. Next meeting — The next meeting of the North American administrations will take place October 16-17 in Montréal (starting with dinner on Monday, October 16, and meeting for the full day on October 17). Fr. van den Hengel said that he planned to have an outside speaker as was done in Toronto.
- B. Standards regarding abuse — The general administration sent a document to entities regarding the establishment of policies to prevent and address abuse. Fr. Jim Casper is reviewing the general administration's document and believes that the Canadian policies are quite strong. The US Province also has stringent policies regarding abuse.
- C. Welcome — The superiors of each entity agreed that members from either are welcome at each other's gatherings such as assemblies, jubilee celebrations and funerals.

CALENDAR

2017

May 12-17:	Dehonian Family Meeting, Rome
June 5:	Province Jubilee Celebration
June 5-9:	Province Assembly (Provincial Council will meet briefly during the 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 13-19:	North American Dehonian Retreat, Mississauga, Ontario
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
May 6-12:	North American Dehonian Retreat, Racine
June 18-22:	US Province Election Assembly, Hales Corners
July 14-28:	General Conference, Philippines
August 5-12:	Retreat for those in formation, Racine
October 1 - June 30	Formators Course, Rome

UPDATES

Fr. Tom Westhoven

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NECROLOGY

+Fr. Jan Vandebek, a member of the Dutch – Flemish Confederation, died on April 28. He was born in 1923, professed in 1943 and ordained in 1951.

+Br. Norbert Nuytens, also a member of the Dutch – Flemish Confederation, died on April 24. He was born in 1940 and professed in 1960.

+Fr. Silvío Antônio Salgado, a member of the Brazil – São Paulo Province, died April 17. He was born in 1926, professed in 1949 and ordained in 1953.

+Fr. Joseph A.G. van den Nieuwenhof, a member of the Dutch – Flemish Confederation, died March 23. He was born in 1926, professed in 1947 and ordained in 1954.

+Fr. Owen Wynne, a member of the British-Irish Province, died on April 2. He was born in 1932, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1959.