



## Priests of the Sacred Heart

United States Province  
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April 24, 2018

Dear Brothers,

Time passes quickly and much has happened since my last letter to you, not the least of which has been the appointment of our Superior General as Bishop of the Diocese of Hildesheim in Germany.

As we prepare for the Election Assembly on June 19-22, 2018, as well as the Provincial Chapter on the afternoon of June 18, I present to you the State of the Province for your personal reflection and community discussion. On the following pages you will find one-page summaries of the various internal and external ministries of the United States Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. They were written by the leadership of their respective areas but were edited slightly to present a similar style and format. I want to thank Duane Lemke for his work in putting this together.

By and large, every report includes a summary of the ministry, demographics, and a statement of the pressing issues and concerns faced in each area. This is significantly more concise than in the past, and the hope is that this format will give focus to the State of the Province Report and highlight the most important and relevant information.

The Treasurer's Report is an exception to this format. Due to its unique nature, it is included unedited and its length was at the discretion of the Treasurer.

Perhaps some information is missing; if so, we can address questions and concerns at the Province Assembly.

We have attempted to highlight some of the activities and actions of this administration. I believe in being accountable to you who have entrusted the ministry of Provincial Superior to me. I, and members of the Provincial Council, know that it is important and valuable to collaborate and dialog with each of you. We certainly are not perfect. Of course, we all can find ways to do better. What is important is that we strive to do the best for our province.

Finally, I thank all of you for your vocation. I thank you for your cooperation, assistance, love and friendship to me and to each other as brothers.

I especially thank the Provincial Council — Quang Nguyen, Duy Nguyen, Christianus Hendrick, Jack Kurps and Frank Presto – and all our local superiors – for their dedication, sacrifice, commitment, counsel and invaluable service to our province.

I thank our office staff, especially, David Nagel (Provincial Treasurer) and Frank Presto (Provincial Secretary), Quang Nguyen (Vocations), Wayne Jenkins and Ed Zemlik (Archivists), but also the lay staff (Mary Gorski, John Kuxhause, Kevin Stanke, Nancy Grzesiak, Mark Peters and Mark Wenzel) who collaborate and work with us in our ministry.

We have much for which to be thankful. We have accomplished a great deal in these three years, but we still have more to do. As a province, I believe, we are moving together toward our communal future.

Be assured of my gratitude, thoughts and prayers as we prepare for the Provincial Chapter, the Election Assembly and new leadership. Let us continue to promote, 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 and by restoring His Reign in individuals and in society. Let us try our best to follow his example.

Fraternally in the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Edward R. Kilianski, SCJ". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Ed Kilianski, SCJ  
Provincial Superior

# State of the Province

Priests of the Sacred Heart - United States Province

## Mississippi Community & Parish

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**Ministry Demographics** In October 2013, there were a total of nine people in the Mississippi community: seven residing at St. Michael's house in Nesbit and two in Holly Springs. In 2016, there are five members of the Mississippi community, four of whom reside at St. Michael's in Nesbit and one retired member in Holly Springs. There are four SCJ's serving in active ministry in Mississippi, one being the director of Sacred Heart Southern Missions, and the remaining three share collaborative roles in a Team ministry of six parishes in northern Mississippi. Despite the obvious challenge of only three priests for six parishes composed of over 3,000 families, we meet the responsibilities and demands of parish life. The parishes are active, and ministry has included construction of a new general purpose facility at one parish, renovation of the parish hall and chapel in another, and preliminary planning of another general purpose building.

**Ministry Summary** A goal in parish life is empowering the laity. We have a growing number of parishioners at five of our six parishes. We focus on evangelization as we challenge the people of God to live out the gospel. Furthermore, we have a growing number of dedicated laity helping in various aspects of ministry, from extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, to homebound ministry, as well as helping to plan parish functions such as fundraisers to help pay off parish debt. In empowering the laity we have taken steps to invite them to participate and volunteer for more parish activities as we clearly tell them that the people of God need to be full and active participants of parish life for a parish to function smoothly.

**Pressing Issues** The pressing issues of parish life in Mississippi is obviously the shortage of priests. We have adjusted the parish schedule so that we can function with only two priests when needed. We anticipate an increased population over the next five years due to planned subdivision developments adjacent to a nearly completed new highway. Despite the major challenge of an increased workload with fewer priests to help we continue to function smoothly. The parishes pay us to work and we have a calling to work and serve the people of God.

**Community Life** Despite the demands and challenges of parish life, the members seek to strengthen community and spend time together. We gather for evening prayer/adoration during the week and we share community meals during the week and gather for a community social once a week.

## Mississippi - Sacred Heart Southern Missions

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**Ministry Demographics** Sacred Heart Southern Missions has been anything but a static organization. In the 75 years since Fr. Flanagan's arrival, SHSM has worked in as many as 10 counties. Currently, the 138 full-time and 24 part-time staff focus on the 5 northwest counties of Mississippi – an area larger than the state of Delaware. Dehon Village provides low-income housing to 38 families, and we are researching ways to address the housing needs of Tunica and Marshall Counties. Finally, during 2017, we distributed more than 315 tons of food – some of it USDA, but most of it donated by Sam's Club, local grocery stores and through area food drives. Almost 1 in 4 people in Mississippi suffers from food shortage.

The 6 parishes are self-sufficient for normal operations. Over the years, SHSM has assisted financially with the construction of 14 different churches, more recently helping to build larger facilities to replace smaller churches. Christ the King in Southaven remains the largest parish with about 1,000 people attending the Spanish Mass each Sunday.

**Ministry Summary** When Fr. John Flanagan, SCJ first arrived in Holly Springs in April, 1943 (after spending about 6 months in Water Valley) little could he predict what the seed he was planting would produce. There were about 20 known Catholics and but a single Catholic Church in the 5-county, poverty-ridden area entrusted to the pastoral care of the Congregation. From the very beginning, the goal of the SCJ priests and brothers serving in Mississippi – and the religious women and laity who joined us – has been to build and strengthen the Church and to assist the poor in our midst.

**Pressing Issues** Much has changed over the past 75 years. Chronic poverty, however, remains. Even in DeSoto County – the largest, and by far, the most economically progressed – dilapidated shacks, with cracks in the exterior walls large enough to put your hand through, are often the only housing available for the poor. Our volunteer program – using both local and national volunteers – repairs homes to make them safer and more livable. Building ramps gives much needed accessibility for the handicapped.

We believe education is the best tool to break the cycle of poverty. Holy Family, preK3-8<sup>th</sup>, in Holly Springs has an enrollment of 170 with 98% qualifying for free or reduced fee meals. Three students are bi-racial; the rest are African Americans. Sacred Heart, preK4-8<sup>th</sup>, in Southaven has an enrollment of 350, 32% of which are African-Americans, Latinos or Asians. The school has worked hard to increase the minority population within the student body. In a state that ranks last in quality of education, we are pleased that our students complete high school and a high percentage attend at least some college. Last year, both the salutatorian and valedictorian of Holly Springs High were graduates of Holy Family. Adult Continuing Education classes cover a wide-range of topics including parenting, teen issues, anger management, domestic violence, bullying, budgeting, home buyer education, basic computer, job readiness and GED.

Challenges for the future include a widening gap between the poor and rich; increasing number of working poor; loss of low-skill jobs; cut-back in government funding and services; need for low-income housing; and increased competition for charitable gifts.

## Texas

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**Ministry Demographics** Our community has ten members: three of four of these live in the rectory at Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) in Houston. The remaining six each live in apartments. The Houston community meets regularly for prayer and meals.

### Ministry Summary

Houston: Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church is predominantly Mexican, with a few families from Guatemala and Honduras. Although we have more Spanish speaking liturgies, both Spanish and English are essential languages for any SCJ who chooses to work here.

Br. Andy, Frs. Wojciech, Tim, and Duy all minister full-time at OLG. Br. Andy is the pastoral minister and office manager. Frs. Wojciech and Tim are parochial vicars and Fr. Duy is the pastor. In June of 2018, Fra. Juan Carlos will come to OLG to minister as a transitional deacon.

Fr. Frank is retired but is involved. He is a chaplain at the Magnificat House, a team member for Marriage Encounter and the diocesan Correctional Ministry, and he celebrates mass and hears confessions when requested by the priests in the archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Harlingen: Fr. Mac is retired but continues to minister at the former SCJ parishes. In addition, he helps administer the sacraments at the local hospital and is also working closely with Sister Norma on immigration issues.

New Braunfels: Fr Richard is retired and he visits the Houston community almost every weekend. When requested, he celebrates the English masses at OLG.

San Antonio: Br. Frank is a math teacher at Incarnate Word High School. Fr. Nicholas is a part-time chaplain at two hospitals, University Hospital and St. Luke's Baptist. Fr. Guy is a part-time chaplain at the Baptist hospital and at Incarnate Word Village, a nursing home for the sisters, and ministers to the deaf community.

**Pressing Needs** As mentioned, ministers at OLG must be bilingual. English is needed for the OLG elementary school students, communication with the various offices of the Archdiocese, and the English-only liturgies. Spanish is needed for the Spanish-only liturgies and the sacramental celebrations with the Neo-Cathechumenate community. At any time, we have call-ins and walk-ins who speak either English or Spanish, with a few who are bilingual. Our regular Saturday confessions require a bilingual priest.

We are currently in the process of renovating the upstairs of the cocinita (parish kitchen/dining room) to provide a two bedroom residence for SCJs to live or visit. We are expecting completion before June 2018.

## South Dakota - Community & Parishes

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**Ministry Demographics** Three SCJs minister to 6 parishes in both the Diocese of Sioux Falls and that of Rapid City. (Three parishes in each.) Ministry is not limited to the 6 parishes, but includes, of course, St. Joseph's Indian School and the three SCJs in residence there.

**Ministry Summary** While in one sense, we are a parochial ministry: the fact that we serve God's people here – Anglo and Native American – across territory, across cultures and religions also influences ministry. It can be as much to the entire community as it is to only the Catholic community.

For example, we often have to bury someone who died that was not Catholic but had a problem with their former society or their churches. We take care of them. Also, we feed people that do not belong to the Catholic church, but we take care of them because they are desperately starving and need food, shelter and warm clothes.

Through our presence, our words, and our action, we become witnesses of eternal love and servants of the Lord Jesus and of people of God who long for justice, peace, and reconciliation. With our very limited number of Pastoral Team members, and the fact that we are continuously declining due to aging and health issues: we are in need to get more Priests and Brothers, Sisters, Deacons, and/or Lay ministers to support our mission.

**Pressing Needs** The biggest challenge that we face here is how to deal with the "Culture of death" including Alcoholism, drug addiction, suicide, structural poverty, and lack of education. Sometimes we find ourselves frustrated with the sense that there is no progress in our ministry according to "the standard of modern world"

We do realize that our calling here is not primarily to get success according to our "Modern standard", We are called not to change *their* world. To be one of them, to love and to accompany these people of God in their struggling; to touch them with love by providing their spiritual, emotional, and physical needs: in this, we can make a change. Even if they have to die, we make sure that they will not die in loneliness and abandonment. We serve them to make sure that the last words they hear before die is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who loves us.

## South Dakota - St. Joseph's Indian School

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**Ministry Summary** In 2017 St. Joseph's Indian School, a residential school in Chamberlain, South Dakota, celebrated its 90th year of serving Native American children. 70% of our students identify as Catholic and families are increasingly taking advantage of additional religious education and sacramental preparation. In 2017, 27 students participated in baptism, first communion or confirmation. St. Joseph's Indian School, an apostolate of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, partners with Native American children and families to educate for life - mind, body, heart and spirit. Our programs focus on the long-term needs and of the long-term success of our students.

Students in grades 1-12 are housed on St. Joseph's campus, in 20 homes staffed by professionally trained houseparents who provide structure and stability as well as encouragement, guidance and love. Each student at St. Joseph's is assigned a Family Service Counselor (FSC) who serves as the primary contact with student families. The FSC provides individual and group counseling as needed as well as securing additional mental and physical services if warranted.

Students in grades 1-8 attend school on campus, where certified teachers instruct them in curriculum that meets all state and federal standards. In addition to core subjects, students also have religious education, art, Native American studies, and Lakota language as part of their regular school day. Music lessons are optional, as are traditional dance and drum groups, church choir and sports. Students in grades 9-12 attend Chamberlain Public High School.

When students reach their senior year, they move to a more independent living setting and work with Senior Advisors. They take on more responsibility for (among other skills) time management, budgeting, shopping and cooking, goal setting, decision making and building relationships. As they work through these lessons, focus is also given to planning for life after high school - finding a job, applying for and enrolling in college or technical school, or enlisting in the military. Since 2014, 29 students have graduated from St. Joseph's high school program and each left with a plan for their future.

**Pressing Needs** The need for serving Native American children and their families has not changed since Fr. Henry Hogeback, SCJ established St. Joseph's in 1927. The majority of the students come from reservations in South Dakota where conditions are bleak. Unemployment can run as high as 80%. The inhabitants face high suicide rates, alcoholism, drug abuse, and diabetes. It is not uncommon to live without running water, sewage systems or telephones. The residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation can, on average, expect to die in their 50s. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome touches the lives of a quarter of the population. The school drop-out rate exceeds 70% while the turnover of teachers far outpaces the national average. St. Joseph's Indian School provides a safe haven from the stark realities of reservation life. The school faithfully adheres to its mission.

## Treasurer's Report

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The finances for the Province include a variety of activities, such as formation, seminary training, senior housing, SCJ communities, and other ministries, in addition to the administration of the Province. The Province has increased contributions to overseas missions to \$2 million and has taken on financial responsibility for India, Philippines, and Vietnam. In addition the Province contributes to the General Aid Fund of the Congregation.

**The budgets** are reviewed by the Financial Commission and the Provincial Council each year. The three development offices have increased their yearly contributions to the Province so that the budget is closer to breakeven. Each year a financial audit is conducted by an independent auditing firm, Schenk Business Solutions, and presented to the Provincial Council. The Province Finance Commission met regularly over the last three years. Here is a summary of the financial activities for the last three years:

	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>
Income:	\$ 11,035,883	\$11,646,200	\$13,660,024
Expenses:	<u>\$ 11,646,950</u>	<u>\$ 12,055,128</u>	<u>\$12,481,252</u>
Gain (Loss)	<u>\$ ( 680,338)</u>	<u>\$ ( 408,928)</u>	<u>\$ 1,178,772</u>
Net Assets at			
Beginning of the Year	<u>\$ 3,435,046</u>	<u>\$ 2,754,708</u>	<u>\$2,345,780</u>
End of Year	<u>\$ 2,754,708</u>	<u>\$ 2,345,780</u>	<u>\$3,524,552</u>

**Capital Projects:** Regular maintenance continues to be done on the Monastery to maintain the facility and grounds. Expenses for the plant will continue to grow as the building which was built in 1968 has more structural issues. In the last three years the lobby was remodeled, the dining room food service updated, parking lot redone and landscaping. A remodeling plan has been developed that will cost approximately \$20 million to redo the entire campus. Currently, a \$7 million remodeling was started for the Monastery to house SCJ students and faculty.

Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake:

The retirement communities for both the SCJs and laity have been working well. SHML is generating \$500,000 to \$1 million in income from rents each year. The \$4 million loan from the

S&M Fund is being repaid monthly by SHML. A maintenance fund has been put into place to provide for future needs related to SHML.

**Investments:** Return on investments has been going up with some slowdowns in between. The Province Ministry Fund is now at \$2.2 million. During the last three years \$2 million was removed to fund the shortfall in the SCJ Medical Plan.

Investment Returns:	<u>6/16-6/17</u>	<u>6/07-6/17</u>	<u>6/06-6/17</u>
Growth Pool	14.97%6.75%		7.11%

In 2016 the management of the investments was moved from Merrill Lynch in Fairfield, CN to the Merrill Lynch, the Ryan Group in New York, New York. The move has been helpful and the investment policy statements have been updated.

The Investment Group was established with additional members from the Province and other SCJ corporations. The expanded committee is chaired by the Provincial Treasurer. There are quarterly meetings with the investment consultants. An independent investment advisor, Garrett Stinson, oversees the investments and provides input on the investment strategy. Monica Matthews from Merrill Lynch provides the day-to-day oversight of the investments and investment managers.

**Province Land Holdings:** The US Province owns 40 acres in Door County, Wisconsin, Meridian Park; in Franklin, Wisconsin, 200 acres of woodlands and farm land (the farm land is rented); in Franklin, Wisconsin, 50 acres with SH Monastery and the Provincialate Office; and in Franklin, Wisconsin, 15 acres with Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. In addition the Province owns mineral rights to two active oil wells in Illinois and several other small mineral right holdings. A new novitiate house was purchased in January of 2017 for \$820,000.

The **SCJ Medical Plan** continues to be improved upon adding stop-loss coverage for each member at \$565,000. The monthly contribution was raised several times during the last several years and is currently \$1,225 per month. Annually John Kuxhause evaluates the funds available and the life expectancy of the membership to make sure that the funding level is adequate.

The POSH Support & Maintenance Trust was valued at \$18.26 million about the same as it was three years ago. During the year we use \$1.2 million to cover the needs of retired SCJs for nursing care and for those living in community. In addition, the Trust made a 20 year loan of \$4 million to the Province with an interest rate of 4%. The loan is being repaid monthly and the money goes to the S&M Trust.

**Province Development Offices:** The Priests of the Sacred Heart have been truly blessed by the service given and commitment shown by so many of the employees at the three Development Offices in the Province. The fund raising arm for the Province is located Hales Corners, WI. The Development Office must raise \$6 million needed to continue the ministries of the Province.

Due to declining revenue being generated by Hales Corners Office steps have been taken to stabilize income with the expectation of growing contributions.

The POSH Development Office hired Kory Christianson and his team from St. Joseph's Indian School starting April of 2016 to serve as its fund raising agency. As a result, the cost to raise a dollar has gone down and income has gone up.

**Sacred Heart Southern Missions and St. Joseph's Indian School** continues to provide the Province with support. The SHSM provide \$800,000 and St. Joseph's \$2.06 to \$4.06 million. The POSH Development Office provides \$6 for a total of \$10 million to fund the expenses of the Province. With the completion of SHML there will be additional income from rents of between \$750,000 and \$ 1 million with a portion being set aside for depreciation expenses.

#### **Financial obligations**

There has not been much legal activity over the last three years. The contractor who began the construction of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake has filed for bankruptcy. The POSH have a claim of \$1.1 that was lost during Phase I of SHML. The claim has been filed with the Court and continues to be active.

**Corporations** continue to work together to establish similar benefits for all of the Province entities. The Human Resource Committee has been meeting regularly and during the last few years has worked to bring the employee insurance benefits into a common plan. Starting in January of 2010 all of the entities will have the same medical plan. The benefits of the organizations are now similar in nature to each other. This process of working towards common benefits began twenty years ago.

**Other items** are the Provincial Treasurer's Office has taken over the bookkeeping for the local communities in the Milwaukee area. This allows the local communities to keep better track of income and expenses and makes the local treasurer's easier to fulfill.

The Province Development Office has transferred its financial software program to Great Plains which is the same one used by the Provincial Treasurer's Office. This makes it easier to support the financial activities of the Development Office. The Province Treasurer's Office provides assistance and oversight to the Development Office.

## Wisconsin - Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

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**Ministry Summary** We are in currently the process of developing a Mission Statement within a Strategic Planning process. Our current mission statement can be found on our website.

**Ministry Demographics** The School currently has 132 students enrolled: 95 in the Seminary Division, 37 in the School of Theology Division. 38 of these students are in residence. There are 55 members of faculty and staff who serve these students. There are eight streams from which enrollment comes, outlined in the Rector's August 2017 Vision Statement.

<u>Seminary Division Spring 2018 Totals</u>		<u>School of Theology Division Spring Totals</u>	
4th Year Theology	16	Lumen Cordis	5
3rd Year Theology	14	Cor Unum	13
2nd Year Theology	16	Dual Degree	12
1st Year Theology	7	MA/Special	1
Pre-Theology (PT1 & PT2)	22	Non-Degree	10
BA/MDIV	7	ESL: Seminary Formation	1
Special Program	1	ESL: Non-Seminarian	6
MDIV/MA	12	School of Theology LOA	2
Certificate	2	MA Delayed Registration	0
ESL/MDIV Bridge	11	Unduplicated + LOA TOTAL	37
ESL: Seminarian	0		
Pastoral Year	2	<u>Unduplicated + LOA Sponsors &amp;</u>	
Novitiate	1	<u>Seminarian Totals</u>	
Leave of Absence	17	Diocesan (Not SFdSS):	33
Delayed Registration	0	Diocesan (SFdSS)	48
Unduplicated TOTAL + LOA	95	Religious Order	14
		Unduplicated TOTAL + LOA	95
		RESIDENT:	38

**Pressing Needs** The foremost need for the school is increasing enrollment, a need currently being discussed during our strategic planning process. We are seeking to develop a relationship with international SCJs, e.g. India, ESL, Doctoral degree. ESL continues to be a focus, and we continue to expand our advertising of the Program. Finally, we seek faculty who are younger, published, and are ethnically diverse.

## Wisconsin – ESL

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**Ministry Summary** The English Second Language Program (ESL) has enjoyed many years of existence at Sacred Heart Monastery Community. It began as a service to other Provinces where individuals were in need of learning the basic skills of English. Over the years, it has served the needs of other Dioceses around the world with a limited yearly number and U.S. Province sponsorship. It continues to serve the needs of SCJ's around the world, in growing numbers. Occasionally, a lay person was admitted to ESL. I believe that 25 is the limited number of non-SCJ sponsorship per year. SCJ's are admitted by request as they each inquire. If I'm not mistaken, a fifth of the world SCJ's have participated in the ESL Program.

At present, two members represent SCJ presence with ESL serving as Residential Director and Associate. Candidates and Seminarians have served and helped in the summer portion of the program. Aside from learning the language, individual participants also learn about the culture and are exposed to cultural activities in the area. Greater exposure to the Church of Milwaukee is garnished as we travel to different Parishes on Sundays.

**Pressing Issues** The ESL summer experience is growing. This past summer, 47 participated in the program with half of them being SCJ's. With the school year, some 6 to 8 ESL participants remain to perfect their English skills. There is a consensus though not finalized that around one and a half years is needed to develop ministerial/academic competency in English. This year, two participants were pulled out before finishing their English skills to go study another language and get a degree in that other language.

The summer experience is a different ball game exposing individuals to English. Will the American Province require the long term individuals to really settle down for that year and a half before other decisions and directions are pursued?

It is an exciting time for all involved. Will we gain help as a Province from world SCJ's in helping to continue and develop our ministries here in the USA? The Archdiocese of Milwaukee as well as our own Province has utilized the skills of ESL to help individuals learn the language in order to serve within the Province and Archdiocese after having attained a knowledgeable and qualifying grasp of the English language.

The interest in ESL remains high. Can we meet the demands? Can we ask anything in return like time spent in Ministry? Aside from offering a different perspective in Theology, do we and can we offer service to a Church in need here in the United States?

## Wisconsin – Sacred Heart At Monastery Lake

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**Ministry Demographics** Sacred Heart Community (SHC) at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake (SHML) consists of 24 members: 22 members reside on the first three floors of the SCJ residence of the building complex. Of these 22 members, four members are active in various ministries and eighteen are retired. Two members reside at the Congregation Home, and another member resides at St. Camillus Home.

**Ministry Summary** Despite being retired, our seniors continue to minister to the lay residents at the Good Shepherd Chapel in addition to ministering for one another. Some members continue to provide help at surrounding parishes and/or nursing homes. Others engage in various ministry in surrounding neighborhood. But most of all, at this juncture of their lives, our seniors dedicate their lives to prayer for other SCJs and our benefactors.

As more members of our province are aging and ailing, we need to prepare so that we can appropriately respond to especially with those who need extra assistance. Members of the community have been trying to do so despite of their own weakness and aging with the help from professional personnel. We are also trying to keep our seniors at home as long as possible since it is the wish and desire of the majority of our seniors. Granted, this is easier said than done because one member's wellbeing will affect the whole dynamics of the community.

How to provide the best care for our seniors has been an issue on the minds of leadership. The provincial has taken an active role in making this as one of his priorities. For example, the provincial and his council have hired Nurse Mary Balistreri as the Health Care Director for the province. She has been helpful in caring for our members. She has been a link between various medical services and our members. She also helps in coordinating medical support and hospice care.

**Pressing Issues/Needs** It has been difficult for some of our seniors to make the move back into community life after a lifetime of living and ministering independently. Perhaps it would be helpful and beneficial if there was a workshop that prepared these seniors for their retirement so that their transition into community living could be smoother.

## Wisconsin – Monastery Community

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**Ministry Demographics** The Sacred Heart Monastery Community is in a state of flux and has been so for the past year. The Community went from 3 members to 4 members during this past year. Three of us live as residents or “campers” as some call us at St. Joseph Community at Monastery Lake. One member still resides in the building at Sacred Heart Monastery. Three of us are new members to this community with one remaining member from the previous community. The community swells during the summer with ESL in session (47 last summer), and some ESL students remain during the school for stays of varying length (between 6 and 8 students).

**Ministry Summary** To my knowledge, there has not been any official meeting with the previous Community about the changes and construction nor has there been any official meeting with the present Community. This all adds to the flux of the community as we do not have a clear picture of how the community will look in the future.

In the meantime, we have had Community meetings to discuss our present situation and found ways to come together. We celebrated one birthday by going out together for dinner. We had dinner out for a Christmas celebration. The ESL students are welcomed into our recreation room. Occasionally, we have had a mix of Community and ESL Socials. We had our own Christmas celebrations and had a home cooked meal for Christmas. Of course, we meet daily in the community room in an informal way.

ESL and Community get mixed together at times. We had a social in the summer for area SCJ's with ESL participants. The size of our recreation room makes it convenient for get-togethers. The size can also accommodate meetings for the future.

**Pressing Needs** If I read things correctly from Provincial Council meetings and other side comments, I believe we will be one community of SCJ's at Sacred Heart Monastery for the future. This Community will include SCJ Teachers, SCJ Formation Directors, SCJ's in Formation, ESL students on an extended time frame, ESL Directors and SCJ candidates.

There is a separate Dining facility under construction on the third floor for SCJ's. I'm not sure if this will be used for all three daily meals. By the end of the summer, the Sacred Heart Community will probably triple in size. It is hoped that a community of great collaboration between all entities will take place. We will have candidates, young Religious Scholastics, formators, Community members and SCJ members in ESL from around the Globe. The future of SHMC is up in the air. What will we look like by the end of the summer? Remodeling is moving ahead. There will be a separate entrance for the SCJ community close to the recreation room on the second floor. Will candidates, Religious and ESL SCJ's be mixed on the floor? Will there be separate eating arrangements for all meals for all SCJ's. Time and discussions will resolve those issues.

## Formation

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**Ministry Demographics** During this last academic year, our community was composed of two formation directors; the assistant novice master working on his D. Min., one retired SCJ, two non-US SCJs, two students in vows, and four candidates. Our community includes the following countries: USA, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, India, Togo, Mexico, Colombia, and Vietnam. Of these students, three are applying to the novitiate, one will continue candidacy, one will continue to complete his M.Div, and one will be ordained a deacon. Students attend either St. Xavier University or Catholic Theological Union.

**Ministry Summary** This year has been a year of transition for us. The Provincial and Council made the decision to move the formation community to Franklin, and be resident in Sacred Heart Monastery as of July 2018. In addition, the province has sold the building, and in January the community gave up 40% of the building to the new owners. By Fall 2018, some will have moved at least twice and we will be re-establishing the program in a new city and with new schools. Students will be studying at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and Marquette University.

We have had several things to celebrate this year as well. We have had two students receive the ministry of lector and acolyte. We have also had each student take part in an SCJ ministry experience here in the province, allowing all our students to come to know the wider SCJ province communities and our ministries.

**Pressing Concerns** As we move forward into this next academic year, we need the support of SCJs in prayer. We also need SCJs to share their experiences on First Friday Days of Recollection and other SCJ communities to welcome students to share a summer or year long ministry with them. We also hope that many SCJs will find time to be with our students and have more direct contact with them. As we move forward in formation, we need the support of the whole province as we form those who will be our brothers.

## Office of Communications

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**Ministry Summary** The specific ministry of the Office of Communications is to share news of the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians) with its members, those with whom they collaborate, and the public.

Internally, this means facilitating communication between provincial leadership and local communities, as well as among individual SCJs. It also involves sharing who the US Province is and what it does with other entities of the congregation, as well as the general administration. The Office of Communications serves as a liaison between the US Province, media and other organizations which seek information about the Dehonians. The office is a resource to the province for things such as assemblies and celebrations.

**Pressing Concerns** The most pressing issues and concerns of the office always revolve around finding the most effective of way to communicate internally and externally. It isn't enough to simply have a website for an organization, one has to continually find ways to drive people to it and to ensure that there is something relevant on it so that they will be open to a return visit. Social media is vital in making connections with people, but how that is done depends on the group of people we want to reach. There is the constant challenge of effectively sharing news and photos in a timely manner. If there is an event on Wednesday morning, people expect to be able to find something about it online by Wednesday evening, if not earlier.

Internally, how does the Office of Communications help province administration better answer the constant call of SCJs at assemblies and other gatherings for “more communication, better communication?” How do we most appropriately share information in a multi-generational, multi-cultural organization in the midst of a constantly changing communication landscape?

Currently I am in the process of redesigning the US Province website to make it more user-friendly and more modern. It will continue to be a resource for news and province materials, but (hopefully) more appealing to younger people, and the wider public. I hope to make the online directory more user-friendly as well, especially on mobile devices. There will be an interactive prayer component, something to help regularly draw people to the site, besides welcoming people to share their prayer concerns with one another. The new website should be live by early summer. The email version of the Fridge Notes will be redesigned to match the site.

As always, I welcome suggestions, news ideas, questions and even constructive criticism.

## Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation

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**Ministry Demographics** The Director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation is charged by the Province with fostering “the development of a culture within the US Province and its entities, rooted in SCJ spirituality and the Dehonian charism. Beyond promoting social justice within our own local communities, our ministries, our institutions and our employees and associates, the Director is also to “establish and maintain partnerships between the province, local communities and coalitions that work on issues that reflect the province’s social justice concerns.” Mark Peters is the current JPR Director. The Director is advised by the JPR Commission, whose membership currently includes Frs. Bob Bossie, Wayne Jenkins and John Czyzynski. Recent past members have included Frs. Johnny Klingler, Byron Haaland and Chuck Wonch, and Frater Joseph Vu. Three new members are awaiting approval by the Provincial Council.

**Ministry Summary** This past year, the JPR Commission goals have included meeting with local SCJ communities in the USA to discern their needs and offer assistance with social justice issues, developing Dehonian-based resources on immigration for use by parishes and schools, and studying the Ratio Formationis Generalis and the current Ratio Formationis Provincialis, in order to be able to offer input to the committee working on the new RFP about how justice, peace and reconciliation might be integrated into the SCJ formation process. In terms of those goals, since last January the Commission has met with the local communities in Houston and Chicago, and will be meeting with SCJs in Mississippi this coming February. This fall, we completed a comprehensive set of immigration resources for parishes, schools, and pastors.

Other JPR Office efforts include producing a newsletter and website, including dozens of resource pages devoted to various social issues, Catholic social teaching and Fr. Dehon’s social justice legacy, and a *Use Your Voice* page with regularly updated “quick and easy” advocacy actions.

On immigration, the Province’s top social justice priority, the JPR Director has kept the Province updated on fast-moving Trump Administration and Congressional actions affecting migrants and refugees, as well as on related state legislation in places where SCJs minister. He also is a member of the North American Migration Commission (NAMC), and assisted with the March 2016 Migration Panel Presentation at the Provincialate Offices, presentations at last summer’s Assembly, and other efforts. Last year, he visited the SCJ communities in Toronto and Ottawa on behalf of the NAMC. He also sits on the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Justice for Immigrants Committee and works locally with *Voces de la Frontera*, as well as others in southeast Wisconsin. Lastly, the Director sits on the Board of the Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment (SGI), which engages with US corporations through dialogue and shareholder filings. In consultation with the Provincial Treasurer, he occasionally signs on to investor letters on behalf of the Province.

In 2018, we hope to do education around *Laudato Si* and climate change. We are also excited about several new members coming on board the Commission this year! If you are interested in serving on the JPR Commission or getting involved with any of our efforts, please call Mark Peters at 414-427-4273.

## Vocations

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**Ministry Demographics** Vocations is currently staffed by two SCJs in the office. One minister works on a full-time basis and the other part-time. Our mission is to accompany young potential candidates as they explore and discern their vocational options.

**Ministry Summary** The vocation ministry has been a little more pro-active in seeking out potential candidates. For example, we have been actively attending various vocation fairs organized by universities and dioceses. We also have asked people to identify and pray for young men who are potential candidates for the brotherhood and priesthood. It has been noticed that the demographics of the prospective candidates are shifting slightly. More and more prospective candidates are older - in their 30s or 40s.

We have moved away from traditional advertising and promotions. We are instead concentrating on electronic advertising. The results have been fairly encouraging. The interest level in our religious community seems to be moving in a positive trend.

We work in collaboration with other ministries within the province to promote vocations since we, vocation personnel, believe that promoting vocations is a ministry of every member of the province and not just members working in the vocation office. There are times the vocation personnel will go to various parishes to make vocation appeals.

The vocation office also works closely with the formation community to enhance vocation discernment. Every other month, the vocation office invites prospective candidates to visit the formation house for a "Come and See" weekend. This visit will give prospective candidates an opportunity to experience Dehonian Charism in Action. Prospective candidates have a chance to experience how our seminarians live, pray, and interact. They have time to ask relevant questions concerning their discernment. In addition, our seminarians are invited to participate at various vocation events and fairs which give them an occasion to promote vocation for our province.

**Pressing Issues/Needs** The vocation ministry remains an important ministry of our province. It goes without saying that our survival and vibrancy depends on the "success" of the vocation ministry. Unfortunately, the vocation ministry can be very taxing on the well-being of its personnel. It is vital that we identify and prepare some younger members to step in to carry out this important ministry.

## Dehonian Associates

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**The mission of the Dehonian Associates** is to promote Dehonian spirituality beyond the members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. In collaboration with the Dehonian Associates Committee, the Director of Dehonian Associates, David Schimmel, provides educational and inspirational materials to deepen the understanding of, the appreciation for, and the lived experience of Dehonian spirituality among the laity in the U.S. Fr. Jack Kurps, SCJ, is the Provincial Council Liaison for Dehonian Associates.

**Concerns for this ministry** include a saturation issue and the diminishing number of SCJs in active ministry. Given the weekly and periodic materials coming from the Dehonian Associates Office, in addition to materials coming from the SCJ Communications Office and the Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation Office, there is the danger of information overload.

Laity and SCJ employees who are attracted to SCJ spirituality and seek to become Dehonian Associates are naturally interested in having meaningful contact with SCJs. With the diminishing number of SCJs in active ministry, their support of the program, through visibility and availability to Dehonian Associates, will be quite limited.

**This ministry focuses on four specific groups:** committed Dehonian Associates, SCJ Schools in Collaboration, Dehonian Esprit de Coeurs, and laity in general. After a one-year program following the *Spiritual Path*, individuals may choose to make a yearly commitment as a Dehonian Associate, pledging to incorporate Dehonian spirituality into their daily lives. SCJ Schools in Collaboration consists of seven SCJ sponsored schools, five in the United States, one in Germany, and one in Spain. Dehonian Esprit de Coeurs is a spiritual and social fellowship among SCJs, former SCJs, and SCJ seminary alumni.

**Educational and inspirational materials** are produced in electronic and print formats, and in Power Point presentations. Selected materials are produced in Spanish and Vietnamese. *Dehonian Spirituality* is a weekly post on the US Province web page and an e-blast to approximately 230 subscribers. Seasonal, one-minute meditations are sent in an e-blast during the month of June, and alternately during Advent/Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Bulletin inserts/handouts focus on various topics, including World Youth Day, and a yearly poster is created, with accompanying suggestions, for honoring SCJ Memorial Day.

Print materials include a Way of the Cross booklet and a Sacred Heart Novena booklet [in production], youth ministry prayer cards, two school posters, a prayer card featuring an image of Fr. Dehon with children, and a prayer card seeking the intercession of Fr. Dehon. Two Power Point presentations were created for the Feast of the Heart of Jesus at SHSST [2016 and 2017], and one was created for the 2016 Mission Ed conference in Mississippi.

To make a comment, ask a question, or offer a suggestion, contact David Schimmel"

## Senior Life

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**Ministry Demographics** There are a total of 80 SCJs in the US Province: 72 U.S. citizens, 1 from Holland, 2 from Canada, 2 from Indoneia, and 3 from Poland. 21 of these are over 80 years of age, 21 men are between 70 and 80 years, and 24 are under 60 (37 under 70.) There are 19 members over 70 in residence at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lakes. In the past three years there have been 11 deaths.

**Ministry Summary** The ministry of the Senior Life commission is to help the Provincial and Council in their sacred trust in Consitution 68:

At the heart of the local and provincial community we surround with special charity our sick or aged brothers. Particularly through them the Lord inspires us to authentic abandonment, and reminds us of the fragile nature of our condition; He wants to be acknowledged and served in them in a very special way (cf. Matt. 25:40). For their part, these brothers shall accept the care generously given them as an expression of the charity of Christ, who asked His disciples to accept His most humble service (cf. John 13:8).”

We do this by offering consultation to the Provincial and Council, by making recommendations about senior care and promoting future care. The Commission has no direct ministry to seniors. Various members of the commission does take part in professional development provided by various sources including Dr. Richard Johnson, who focus’ on retirement needs.

This ministry is further aided by Province Nurse Mary Balistreri, who offers assistance that includes medical support, hospice aide, and administrative coordination of legal forms for the entire province.

**Pressing Issues** One of the most pressing needs has been regarding personnel. There has been a succession of superiors in recent years, and anyone in this sort of ministry at any time requires preparation. A pressing question is how to best care for senior SCJs living outside community, as well as those who are retiring (and diminishing) in place. There are practical concerns which require attention, including legal concerns such as Power of Attorney and health directives as well as credit cards and bank accounts held by retired members.

## Archiveg

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**Ministry Demographics** The mission of the archive is to maintain the historical records and artifacts of the Province in a professional manner, and to make them available as needed. This is accomplished by one full-time SCJ and another part-time SCJ in training.

**Ministry Summary** Each year, there are requests for various records and artifacts, for research and occasionally exposition. During the past year, there have been numerous inquiries of the archives. Some of them are as follows.

Deaf Catholic Archives: an article in *Reign*;

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth: an article in *COR*;

Judy Lemke: 125th anniversary of St. Joseph Church, Cherry Creek. A list of those Dehonians who have served on the Cheyenne River Reservation from 1919-2017 was provided with additional materials in the archives;

Marquette University: a list of Indian missions in South Dakota that the Dehonians served from 1919-2017;

Pat Collison: research on Donaldson;

Dave Schimmel: various materials for Dehon Study Center;

Kathy Harty: various materials for SHSST;

Rev. Robert O'Neil: use of pictures from Cameroon;

Hugh Carty: transcript;

Kusmartono, SCJ: books;

Stephan Friedrich: research on Richard Kiefer, SCJ;

Margaret Dew: research on George Schadefer;

Mark Peters: copies of Dehoniana;

Jack Kurps, SCJ: research on counties in *MS*;

Mary Gorski: research on Thomas Springer;

Frank Presto, SCJ: research on promises rather than vows; and

Leo Gunawan, SCJ: books.