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Minutes of the 885th Provincial Council Meeting October 23-24, 2018, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Vien Nguyen and Br. Andy Gancarczyk, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary; Fr. Tom Knoebel for discussion of the Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; Fr. Jim Schroeder for discussion of the Senior Life Commission; David Schimmel for discussion of the reunion of former SCJs and SCJ students; John Kuxhause for discussion of the Province Audit. Excused: Fr. Christianus Hendrik, councilor, for a home visit to Indonesia.

I. Extended prayer — Fr. Kilianski, councilors, Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto spent the first morning together in extended prayer and sharing. The theme was interculturality. The book *Living Mission Interculturally* by Anthony J. Gittins was a reference for the discussions.

II. Administration

A. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Knoebel, SHSST president-rector, visited with the council. He noted that the symposium on Pope Francis was very well received by many. There was concern in the months leading up to it that for various reasons, some of the sponsoring entities would choose not to participate. Fr. Knoebel said that he was grateful that Archbishop Jerome ListECKI of Milwaukee did not waver in his support. Some suggested that the symposium was not a fully balanced view of Pope Francis; however, the stated goal of the event was to get a better understanding of the pope by exploring his background, including theologians and philosophers who influenced him. A book with texts of the presentations is expected to be available by next summer. The SHSST community hopes that it can continue the momentum created by the symposium, perhaps organizing similar gatherings in the years ahead.

The full cost of the symposium has not yet been finalized. Discussions are still taking place with possible funding sources.

Dr. Austen Ivereigh, the first evening's presenter, would like to return to SHSST next fall (2019) as a part of the Dehon Lecture. He has a new book coming out; the Dehon Lecture might be a good opportunity to share the work. Tentative dates for the Dehon Lecture are October 2 or 23, 2019. Fr. Knoebel noted that next fall will be a busy time for SHSST; accreditation work will take place at that time for the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools.

Fr. Knoebel talked about some of the new initiatives at the seminary, including enhanced outreach to bishops who are welcoming international priests to serve in their dioceses. SHSST is uniquely qualified to help prepare international priests for life and ministry in the United States, in particular, through its ESL program. Fr. Knoebel noted that the first three SCJ students from the India District who are taking part in "Adveniat Regnum Tuum Pathway: a Master of Arts Initiative," will arrive in January. The seminary is in dialogue with various groups about other program possibilities, widening its outreach to serve the Church while maintaining its core mission of preparing men for the priesthood.

The seminary is in a transition period; its focus is no longer primarily on "second career" seminarians. However, it continues to be known for this niche. Fr. Knoebel said that it will probably take several years for SHSST to redefine itself. Seeking students for a wide variety of programs (or more specifically, from a wide variety of sources) is important in the midst of this transition.

B. Personnel

1. Fr. Tim Gray — Fr. Gray has written to Fr. Kilianski to request retirement status as of January 1, 2019.
2. Dn. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas — Dn. Castañeda Rojas requested priesthood ordination in December in his native Colombia. Councilors first addressed the date; December is not possible because the necessary documentation is not in place yet, including contact with an ordaining bishop. It is thought that the earliest the ordination could be scheduled is February. Concerning the location, many on the council, and probably many others in the province, would prefer that the ordination take place in the United States. This is a very significant moment in the life of the province. However, it was noted that other SCJs have had their priesthood ordinations in their home parishes, including Frs. Q. Nguyen and V. Nguyen. The difference is that this time the home parish is outside of the United States.

It was also noted that Dn. Castañeda Rojas' family is unable to get visas to travel to the United States. They viewed his diaconate ordination via an internet feed.

The council is open to allowing Dn. Castañeda Rojas to have his priesthood ordination in Colombia. If he does so, he should have a First Mass in the United States that is done as a province celebration. Or, he could have his ordination in the United States and have a First Mass in Colombia with a celebration. Fr. Kilianski will speak to Dn. Castañeda Roja about the possibilities and the process which he needs to begin.

- C. F1 Visas — Br. Presto is working with SHSST staff to review possible procedural changes regarding F1-Visas for international students. It is important to specify the unique nature of SHSST's ESL program in support letters for students requesting the visa. It is not simply an English language program but one that is specific to people preparing for religious studies and/or ministry. Fr. Q. Nguyen asked to be kept informed of changes to the student visa process; they may affect potential candidates.
- D. Cameroon — Fr. Jean Marie Signié, provincial superior of Cameroon, requested permission for Fr. Emile Engoulou to make a one-year sabbatical in the United States. Fr. Engoulou is concluding his term as provincial treasurer; he also served on the General Finance Commission. The council is in favor of the request. Fr. Engoulou will be in the ESL program.
- E. Book written by Bishop Heiner Wilmer — A representative from Paulist Press contacted Fr. Kilianski, on the suggestion of Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, to determine whether there would be interest in promoting with US benefactors an English edition of Bishop Heiner Wilmer's book, *Hunger nach freiheit* (Hunger for Freedom). Councilors discussed the memo. Noting that Bishop Wilmer's book is not aimed at either Sacred Heart devotion or any other component specifically linked to Dehonian spirituality, they did not think that it would have a strong market among the province's benefactors. The council recommended that Fr. Kilianski respectfully decline the offer to promote Bishop Wilmer's book in the United States.
- F. General visitation — The general administration is beginning to set its agenda for the next six years. Fr. Stephen Huffstetter contacted Fr. Kilianski and Br. Presto to get their input on what the most appropriate months for a visit would be and if there is a significant event in the entity which the general administration should be aware of as it prepares its calendar. Councilors suggested that two to three weeks be dedicated to the visitation. It would be best if it could take place during the months of April/May or August /September. If Fr. General would like to be a part of a significant event, councilors suggested that he be present for First Professions. Fr. Kilianski will inform Fr. Huffstetter of the councilors' recommendations.

It was noted that Fr. Heiner Wilmer had been invited to take part in the Dehon Lecture at SHSST; he was named bishop before he could do so. Perhaps Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú should be invited for a future Dehon Lecture. Such an invite would need to come from Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

- G. Senior Life Commission — Fr. Jim Schroeder joined the council to discuss the Senior Life Commission's most recent meeting. He said that the commission spent significant time discussing the challenge of men returning to community for retirement after many years of living independently. The commission suggests that a plan be put in place to help transition SCJs moving to a retirement community. Some need to be reintroduced to the expectations and rhythms of community life as a religious.

The commission discussed the need for SCJs to have appropriate information available in case of emergency. This includes up-to-date contact information of those who should be notified in an emergency, as well as passwords to equipment and accounts. Passwords could be kept in a sealed file at the Provincialate Offices as with other confidential documents.

The commission suggested that local superiors and treasurers do a financial audit of each person in the community.

Although the discussion was in regard to senior SCJs, financial transparency is a part of living the vow of poverty for men of all ages. SCJs should know that the province (including local communities) is not required to pay credit card bills for individuals. If SCJs do not follow agreed upon bookkeeping procedures in the local community the local superior can choose not to allow for that person's credit card bill to be paid.

These concerns come out of the Senior Life Commission's discussions but they are valid for all SCJs. It was suggested that Fr. Kilianski write a letter to the province membership in regard to several of the commission recommendations. Although most SCJs are mindful in their financial practices, there are some who have a significant disconnect in regard to what is appropriate.

The Senior Life Commission agenda has primarily been centered on topic requests from the Provincial Council; councilors emphasized that they welcome and encourage the commission to bring topics of concern to the council to help councilors be aware of issues regarding senior members. The next commission meeting is in April, 2019; the commission generally meets twice a year.

- H. January 8-10, 2019 Provincial Conference — In early November, Fr. Ed Kilianski will send invitations for the January 2019 Provincial Conference. Although the letter is sent as an "invitation," all SCJs under 70 in active ministry, and the novices, are expected to be present for the full conference. Attendance is optional for the candidates.

The gathering will be a continuation of the work and discussions done at the January, 2018 Provincial Conference. As with that conference, one of the major themes will be multiculturalism, and in particular, interculturality in religious communities. Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, will again be the conference facilitator. The Provincial Conference begins the morning of Tuesday, January 8.

Councilors discussed possible speakers. Kelly Kornacki, academic director of SHSST's ESL program, will speak about some of the challenges her students have faced in regard to interculturality. The council is also seeking an outside speaker with expertise on the topic of interculturality, ideally, as it is experienced in religious life. Anthony J. Gittins' book, *Living Mission Interculturally*, which the council reviewed during its opening session, was suggested as a possible resource for follow-up activities to the conference.

Fr. Kurps will work with Sr. Bertrand to develop the conference schedule. He will contact Kelly Kornacki to discuss her presentation.

- I. Vietnam — Fr. Francis Vu Tran, superior of the District of Vietnam, wrote to Fr. Kilianski with two requests. The first was an invitation for representatives from the US Province to be present at the December 15 blessing of the new chapel at Lai Thieu. Due to schedule conflicts, no one from the council can be present at the blessing; however, someone may be able to attend the blessing of the district's main house in January. The date for that blessing has not yet been set. Fr. Tran asked that Mary Gorski be present for photos and other communications. She is not able to be present in December but will contact Fr. Tran about working with him to ensure adequate coverage of the blessing.

Fr. Tran also requested that the province host seven additional philosophy students for ESL during their study break April 1 – August, 2019. The council discussed the request. The timing is difficult; coming at the beginning of April would have the extra students here during the annual ESL break that takes place prior to the summer sessions. To have them here at that time would most likely mean hiring staff outside of the normal teaching schedule. There is also the expense of seven additional students added to those whom the province already sponsors; with travel and lodging, this can be significant even for a short course of study. Fr. Kilianski will inform Fr. Tran that the province is not able to host the additional students.

- J. SHSST course in India — In September, councilors discussed a three-credit course that is to be taught in the District of India by a member of the SHSST faculty. Councilors had questions regarding how this was being administered; are the credits granted by SHSST or a school in India? How is the course funded? Fr. V. Nguyen contacted Dr. Patrick Russell, SHSST academic dean, for clarification. The council reviewed Dr. Russell's memo.

Dr. Russell proposes that Indian seminarians in the *Adveniat Regnum Tuum* program take the course for three credits and that non-ART students receive two credits. The ART students would be required to do additional work to earn the extra credit. ART students would be charged tuition; tuition would be waived for non-ART seminarians as a partnership initiative between SHSST and the SCJs. Application for ART students would be a part of their application to the full ART program; non-ART students would need to complete a non-degree course registration form.

The council appreciated the additional information and noted that it may be beneficial to open the teaching opportunity to several SHSST instructors. Fr. Charles Brown is scheduled to teach the first course.

- K. Reunion of Former SCJs and SCJ Seminarians — David Schimmel, province director of Dehonian Associates, joined the council to talk about the “Dehonian Esprit de Coeurs” reunion for former SCJs and SCJ seminarians. It will take place June 10-11 in Hales Corners. A full day of activities is scheduled on June 10, concluding with the Province Jubilee of Vows Celebration. On the morning of Tuesday, June 11, reunion participants will join SCJs for the start of the US Province Assembly. There will be a sharing session around the theme of “How has knowing Fr. Dehon and the SCJs affected your values and the way you live your life?” This is a question for both former and current SCJs and students.

Mr. Schimmel plans to send the invitation in mid-December; the invitation will be extended to spouses/significant others. Travel and accommodations are the responsibility of those who attend.

- L. June 10-14, 2019 US Province Assembly — Fr. V. Nguyen will be the chairperson of the organizing committee for the 2019 US Province Assembly; in the next few days he will be contacting several SCJs to serve on the committee with him.

As noted above, participants in the Dehonian Esprit de Coeurs reunion will take part in the first morning session on June 11. The theme of the assembly will be “Our Dehonian Heritage.” It is anticipated that some of the work that is to take place at the January Provincial Conference will be incorporated into the Provincial Assembly, especially in regard to interculturalism. The assembly will include a few “in-service” or business items, such as information-sharing about legal issues. It could also be an opportunity for Praesidium training. Br. Presto will contact Praesidium to get information; he will work with Fr. V. Nguyen regarding scheduling. The North American Migration Committee might also be contacted to offer a component.

The assembly is expected to run through midday on Friday, June 14.

- M. Provincial Visitations — Due to Fr. Kilianski’s travel limitations because of medical care, he has delegated members of the Provincial Council to do the 2019 provincial visitations in Mississippi (Fr. Quang Nguyen), South Dakota (Fr. Jack Kurps) and Texas (Fr. Christianus Hendrik). Councilors will contact the local communities to organize the dates of the visitations. Fr. Kilianski will do all of the visitations in the Milwaukee area. The theme for the 2019 provincial visitations will be “interculturality” (not “enculturation” as noted at the previous meeting). Interculturality is not just about the province becoming more international, but also the interculturality of generations, ministerial traditions, and styles of community life. Fr. Kilianski will prepare an outline for the visitation, including prayer, based, in part, on Anthony J. Gittins’ book, *Living Mission Interculturally*. Each councilor is invited to adapt the outline for his visitation. The visitations need to be completed by May; councilors and Fr. Kilianski will soon contact the communities to make arrangements.

III. Finance

- A. Province Audit — John Kuxhause joined the council for discussion of the Province Audit. Cash on hand was higher than usual because of the sale of the property in Chicago. This money will be used to pay for the remodeling of Sacred Heart Monastery. Councilors reviewed the audit; questions about various line items were answered by Mr. Kuxhause. Auditors raised no issues of concern outside of a general comment made to all organizations with a small staff to be mindful of appropriate checks and balances. The council voted to approve the Province Audit.
- B. Province Development Office — The managers of the Province Development Office toured St. Joseph’s Indian School and related ministries. The primary reason for the trip was to learn about St. Joseph’s procedures, especially its Studio Enterprise software system. The Province Development Office could save a significant amount of money by utilizing St. Joseph’s system. It would require some procedural changes at the Province Development Office. Besides St. Joseph’s Development Office, the province team also visited the Donor Care Center in Sioux Falls.

Dn. Nagel said that the Province Development Office has invested significant money into holiday and acquisition mailings; these investments should prove to be beneficial in the months ahead. St. Joseph’s Indian School was asked to give \$500,000 toward province expenses in October and again in November.

- C. Remodeling of Sacred Heart Monastery — Invoicing for the project is running behind schedule. Change orders were received late or not done properly. The architect and the owner’s representative are negotiating the final details with the contractor to complete the project.

- D. SHSST grant reduction — The province reduced its annual grant to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology by \$1.5 million due to the costs of the remodeling project. The \$1.5 million has been divided between the Province Ministry Fund and the Depreciation and Replacement Fund for Sacred Heart Monastery.
 - E. SCJ Medical Plan — The SCJ Medical Plan now includes coverage for students who do not have access to insurance from other sources, such as student insurance through a university. The contract was recently renewed; new insurance cards are being mailed.
 - F. Investment Committee — The next meeting of the Investment Committee is November 15.
- IV. Conference Call — The council will meet by conference call on Monday, November 5, at 2:30 p.m. Among the topics will be review of these minutes and an update from Fr. V. Nguyen on initial plans for the June, 2018, Province Assembly.

MEETING SUMMARY

Notes from Justice Peace & Reconciliation Commission Meeting

September 24-25, 2018

Provincialate Offices

Present: Fr. John Czyzynski, Fr. Wayne Jenkins (Tues only), Mark Peters (in person), Fr. Bob Bossie, Fr. Guy Blair, Dn. Juancho Castaneda Rojas (via phone). Excused: Fr. Ed Zemlik.

1. Mark shared info on four events approaching quickly: SGI's (Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment) 45th Anniversary event at Marquette University Oct. 16, the Klingler Award presentation in Chamberlain on Oct. 18, the DACA coalition fundraiser on Oct. 24, and a presentation at St. Martin of Tours on immigration on Nov. 11th.
 - a. We will encourage other SCJs to attend the SGI event and will cover the cost of the \$75 tickets. It will be a great opportunity for members of the Province to learn more about the work of SGI and the impact of shareholder activism. The US Province has been a member of SGI since 2015. Mark has served as Board chair and is currently helping SGI work on bringing in ecumenical, interfaith, and business members in addition to its current members, most of whom are religious orders from Wisconsin and elsewhere in the Midwest.
 - b. Bob, Ed Z, Wayne and Mark will represent the Commission in Chamberlain on the 18th. A request for nominations for the 2019 Klingler Award will go out beginning with the next JPR newsletter.
 - c. The DACA event costs \$20, which will raise funds to help cover the \$500/person costs of DACA renewal. (Although the administration wants to end the program, the courts have kept it alive for now so those in it now must renew or lose their eligibility if the program is continued.) Mark will continue to publicize the event and encourage SCJs, SHSST seminarians and ESL students to attend. The U.S. Province and SHSST have pledged \$1000 each toward this fund.
 - d. Mark is working with Fr. Terry Langley and Fr. Quang Tran to put on an educational program for Martin of Tours parishioners on Sun. Nov. 11. Bob and John will reprise parts of their presentation at the Southern Missions program from last February. Both the Anglo and Vietnamese communities are being invited and the parish council has endorsed the program. Mark thanked Frs. Terry and Quang for their support.
2. Mark gave a brief report on the most recent meeting and activities of the North American Migration Committee, which recently had Fr. Jose Gonzalez give a well-received presentation at SHML. John Czy shared his reflections on his visit with the group to discuss the respective roles of the JPR Commission and the NAMC. NAMC has been working to raise awareness of the migration and refugee crises and get SCJs from Canada and the US to share and reflect on their own experiences of migration, and has been in regular communication with local SCJ communities in North America to talk about how individuals and communities can engage with this issue. The JPRC has focused mainly on advocacy, especially in regard to the US border crisis, such as regular "easy actions" via the JPR "Use Your Voice" webpage and last year's attempts to lobby Rep. Paul Ryan. The Commission requested that Mark send them the NAMC's minutes to keep them apprised of their efforts.
3. The commission discussed our goal of developing materials for parishes and schools on climate change and Laudato Si. Some stories have been gathered from India on the impact of climate change there, and Wayne has been asked to try to get some stories from Indonesia. We hope to have the materials available by the end of 2018 for use in the spring semester.
4. John updated us on the Ratio working group, which is on pause while membership and leadership is re-organized. We then concluded the first day's meeting with a prayer prepared by Guy.
5. On Tuesday, we began with prayer prepared by Bob, and Mark explained the Trump administration's proposed change to the "public charge" rule, which could have a drastic impact on immigrant families and children. Mark spoke to Fr. Ed Kilianski about this, and he agreed that Mark could approach our local communities, especially in Houston and Mississippi, and apostolates like Sacred Heart Southern Missions, to see if they can help him prepare comments for the "Public Comment" period required before the change can take effect, which will be until about the end of November. The province at large will also be encouraged to submit individual comments. Mark is waiting for materials from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network to help with this.

6. The rest of the morning was spent sharing our concerns about “the phenomenon of President Trump” and to decide how we should respond as a Commission. We came into the meeting well aware of his, and his administration’s, many troubling words and policies, from the demonization of migrants and refugees to de-regulation of hundreds of environmental protections, to refusal to acknowledge the need to address climate change, to falsely painting all negative news stories about himself as “fake news” while regularly making untrue statements himself, to his worrisome “America First” mindset, and of course the scandals that have tainted many of his appointees. We were asking ourselves if we needed to be more “prophetic” about denouncing some of his worst words and actions.

Guy shared that the articles we read in preparation for this meeting and daily comments he hears or conversations he has tried to have, are disheartening, discouraging, and disempowering. He has searched for positive ways to engage people, but when he preached about immigration recently as a spiritual issue and a sacred moment for our country – an opportunity to welcome Christ in the immigrant – a few walked out. He struggles with what he can do as an individual.

John said he initially just disliked Trump but later realized it’s more than him. Bob built on this, saying it’s not whether or not we like or dislike Trump, but how his policies affect the community, the poor and the environment. He agreed with a writer who said Trump is normalizing negative views of voting, courts and the press that may make his policies impossible to reverse once he is out of office.

Juancho has personally experienced racism in the US, which he feels has become more acceptable with Trump. Wayne talked about the awful impact his policies are having on Asia are, and how the US has lost any influence it had there.

Bob asked if our role is to help people find ways to talk to each other? But we all wondered how we do that when we have such a hard time doing it ourselves with other SCJs, family, friends, etc.? If we could do it ourselves, we might have be a model for others. Juancho believes above all we must just continue to be with the people, see what they are experiencing and offer help and comfort – and also vote! He added that the most important part of CST that applies to all this is the Dignity of the Person.

We acknowledged in the end the many ways in which our country’s problems pre-date President Trump and will still be there when he’s gone – particularly spreading economic inequality, a permanent state of war, and failure to respond adequately to not only climate change, but racism, sexism, and decades of colonialism and imperialism. Previous administrations, Republican and Democrat, have contributed to these deep-seated realities. We see Trump as more of a symptom than the illness, but we worry about the real potential for his policies to have long-term or even irreversible effects, and his having “normalized” many of our worst impulses. We will continue as we have in the past to not focus on Trump’s personality, but on his actions and policies and how they affect the most vulnerable and our planet itself. We will continue to hold all elected officials, branches of government and parties accountable to the standard of Catholic Social Teaching, especially the sacredness of life and right to human dignity. And we will continue to reflect upon the many worrisome things we are seeing happening in our nation today and discern how best we can respond in the future.

7. We concluded with ideas for the next JPR newsletter and set our next regular meeting for January 7, 2019, starting at 9:30 AM at the Provincialate Offices.

MEETING SUMMARY

Senior Life Commission Meeting

26 September 2018 — 9:30 - 11:30

PRESENT: Mary Balistreri, Byron Haaland, Ray Kozuch, Duane Lemke, David Nagel, James Schroeder, and Vincent Suparman

ABSENT: Greg Speck and Brian Thompson

PLACE: Provincialate

I. CHECK IN AND UPDATE:

In the last six months there have been chapters, construction, profession of 2 novices, moves from SHML to SHM, repair of rooms, care for many sick and elderly, a flood in SD, appointment of a new pastor, 3 family deaths and a serious accident, farewells and transition, new beginnings in schools and independent living, family vacations, building new community, setting boundaries and facing limits, personal health concerns.

II. NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: Just before this meeting Father Provincial and Council chose Duane Lemke and Greg Speck as new members. Duane was able to attend; Greg, not. Duane asked for little orientation. Jim will send past minutes to both Duane and Greg.

III. EXPECTATIONS OF RETIRING SCJs AND OF THEIR NEW COMMUNITIES:

Father Provincial suggested we discuss this issue and provide any recommendations. The group was reminded that this has been an issue since 1979, and there was a senior life handbook that once detailed an approach to this [An attempt will be made to find a copy in the archive]. This was thrown out when the committees were reduced by Fr. MacDonald at the prompting of the General. Any new or revised document should include input of the seniors.

An SCJ who has been out of community for many years needs an orientation, a sort of ongoing formation back to community. When a man has been out for many years he can lose a sense of the norms of religious community life, and may have become more diocesan in his lifestyle. Also, often a man returns with issues he has carried for many years. Expectations will have to be realistic.

There are serious inter-generational and inter-cultural issues/disagreements regarding spirituality, poverty, prayer, the exercise of authority, etc. Younger retirees may have different formation regarding structures and devotional life in community. Each retirement house has its own rhythm, spirit, etc. Any time you articulate expectations, there is a question of who will enforce them, and what will happen if they are not met.

RECOMMENDATION: Rather than a uniform policy, we recommend that the local superior, or someone delegated by him (because medical and other issues can be complex), enter regular dialog with a new member, even before his arrival, on what he expects, what is needed, how this community deals with prayer, meals, cars, money, meetings, holidays, etc. It is especially important to help with a healthcare transition: have records sent before arrival, set up appointments with new doctors early, and have prescriptions transferred in advance so there is no loss of continuity of care.

If a man is still on his own, or in a small community, there may not be enough SCJs nearby to offer all the help needed, or there may not be needed health resources nearby, so the Provincial should take action in a timely manner to move the man to a community where he can get the help and resources he needs. Our parishes and schools do not have sufficient manpower to become retirement communities. At times the local superior and/or provincial superior need to make an intervention. The role of the local superior at the man's current community and the role of the superior or delegate at the new retirement community is extremely important.

IV. FINANCIAL CONSOLIDATION

Some men have as many as 24 credit cards. Some men refuse to turn in their credit card statements and expect the community to pay the bill with no true accounting. We discussed why elderly, even homebound men, would need so many cards, and what would be a good number to have, if any.

RECOMMENDATION: We suggest that the Provincial Superior mandate that the local superiors and local treasurers conduct an audit of each SCJ's financial dealings, number of credit cards, monthly expenses, etc. [We encourage this for the whole Province, not just for the seniors.] The local treasurer should alert the local superior any time something financial is out of proportion or out of order. On a case by case basis the local superior should discuss with each SCJ what credit cards, and how many the man needs. If this does not work, the Provincial Superior and Provincial Treasurer should be brought in. Special attention should be given to auto-payments because these contractual agreements continue even when a man dies, even when a card is cancelled. When a man evidences cognitive decline, especially if his healthcare POA has been activated, he should not manage his own finances. If a man refuses to give his superior his credit card statements he should pastorally but firmly be notified that the community will not continue to pay the bills unless such information is offered. All of us SCJs have taken a vow of poverty, and by such, spend community money only with community permission.

V. PASSWORDS

Passwords for phones, computers, credit cards, Web sites, banking, etc. can get very complex. This has become very problematic when a man loses consciousness, fails cognitively, or dies. There are some SCJs who refuse to give the superior or community any information in this area.

RECOMMENDATION: We suggest that the Provincial Superior have the local superiors work with each SCJ so that he will provide a list, even a sealed list, of his passwords inside his medicine cabinet, along with his medications, in case of loss of consciousness or death. If a man refuses that, one suggested that we have the man leave a sealed list of his passwords with another person, and make that person's name and phone number available to the Province for emergencies.

VI. NEW ORIENTATION OF THE COMMISSION

We felt no need to discuss changing from being a responder to being proactive in offering issues or recommendations to the provincial administration.

VII. DRIVING

The issue of possibly employing drivers for seniors was discussed, but we do not see a need for that yet. We do suggest that some may need an Uber or Lyft account. A man can have quite a few trips by these ride services or by cabs before equaling the annual cost of a private car.

If an SCJ cannot drive, it is for a good reason. It is important to help him accept that he cannot continue to maintain the wide circle of distant friends, doctors, spiritual directors, family visits, etc. As he ages he will have to reduce the geographical circle of his commitments.

The question was raised as to when an SCJ must take the special driving test: at age 75 every SCJ is to be tested. If a man refuses to take this test or does not show for it, he should turn in his keys.

VIII. FUTURE CARE

A suggestion was made that in the future the Commission discuss how to continue the ministry of senior care, and how to get younger SCJs interested in and prepared for such a ministry.

IX. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 24 April 2019, 9:30 AM, at the Provincialate

CALENDAR

December 18-19:	Provincial Council Meeting
January 7, 2019:	Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission Meeting
January 7-9, 2019:	SHSST's 2nd Annual Preaching Conference
January 8-10, 2019:	Provincial Conference ("Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry, Part 2," Second Provincial Conference of those in active ministry)
January 22-23, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting
February 26-27, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting
April 2-3, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting
April 24, 2019:	Senior Life Commission Meeting
May 14-15, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting
June 9-10, 2019:	Dehonian Esprit de Coeurs reunion (former SCJs and SCJ seminarians)
June 10, 2019:	Province Jubilee Celebration (vows)
June 11-14, 2019:	Provincial Assembly
July 9-10, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting

UPDATES

A new North American Personnel Directory was distributed in October. Updates will be made to the online directory as they are received. Every few weeks an updated PDF of the directory will be made available at the top of the online directory webpage. This PDF can be downloaded to your computer or mobile device for easy access. For example, if you use an iPhone or iPad, the PDF can be stored in iBooks where you can use it like any other electronic publication.

The direct link to the online directory is: www.dehoniansusa.org/member-section/personnel-directory/

This is a password-protected area of the website; for assistance in accessing the directory, please contact Mary Gorski at the Provincialate Offices (414-427-4266).

Updates since the last directory was printed include:

Thuan Nguyen (Vietnamese candidate studying at SHSST)
Phone: 281-730-6546

Fr. Alexander Sapta D. Handoko (general councilor)
Work email: alexander.sapta@dehon.it

Fr. Levi dos Anjos Ferreira (general councilor)
Work email: levi.ferreira@dehon.it

There are also several Necrology corrections and additions that we will soon make available in an update.

NECROLOGY

+Fr. Walter Van As, SCJ, a member of the Canadian Region, died October 6. He was born in 1923, professed in 1944 and ordained in 1950.

+Fr. Paul Kelly, SCJ, a member of the US Province, died October 26. He was born in 1950, professed in 1970 and ordained in 1950.

+Br. Eulogio Martínez Corral of the Spanish Province died November 3. He was born in 1928 and professed in 1954.

+Fr. Cornelius Jacobus van Beek of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation died October 25. He was born in 1929, professed in 1952 and ordained in 1957.