



# Priests of the Sacred Heart

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Dear Brothers,

I greet you with affection, and hope that you are all well. I take this opportunity to write to you about several topics that arose at our recent Provincial Council meeting on October 23 and 24.

## **My Health and Healing.**

As you all know, back on August 20, 2018, I had a Transmetatarsal (partial) amputation of my right foot. The initial prognosis was for significant healing by Thanksgiving, allowing me to fully return to my duties as provincial superior soon after. In reality, my foot is healing much slower than expected and the vascular surgeon now thinks that the healing process will take another five to six months, extending the period to March or April, 2019. Even that is a rough guess. As many of you have experienced in your own situations, in medicine there are no guarantees. The good news is that I am healing. I will continue to keep you informed of my progress; I thank you for your prayers and cards of encouragement.

## **Provincial Visitations.**

As a result of this latest prognosis and my current travel limitations because of medical care, I have 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. I am able to do all of the visitations in the Milwaukee area, and I hope, of the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, FL, in May, 2019. **The theme for the 2019 provincial visitations will be “Interculturality”** (not “enculturation” as noted at the previous council meeting). Interculturality is not just about the province becoming more international, but also the Interculturality of generations, ministerial traditions, and styles of community life. The format of the visitations will be similar to what we did during my first term (community prayer and discussion, individual meetings, community meeting conclusion).

## **In Case of Emergency.**

The council, once again, wants to reiterate the need 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 (illness or death), 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. A number of our recently deceased members did not leave passwords, rendering computers, laptops, readers, iPads and cellphones useless. As religious we do not own these electronic devices. They belong to the province and congregation. Also, funeral plans may need to be

updated; this can take place during our summer assembly or by requesting a copy from the provincial secretary (Br. Frank Presto).

**Financial transparency.**

Financial transparency is a part of living the vow of poverty. We should all 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. I have heard that at least one member of the province had 21 credit cards. I think that two cards are enough for an individual. This is something for us to consider, brothers. These concerns are concerns of the Council and the Senior Life Commission but they are valid for all of us SCJs.

I want to remind you, brothers, that **Number 45** of our Constitutions states, *“So, by the vow of poverty, we renounce the right to use and to dispose of goods that can be valued monetarily without permission from our superiors.*

- a. All of the following belong to the Institute: the fruit of our labor, pension subsidies, insurance policies, and everything that we receive.*

Each of us is continually called upon to examine our conscience as to how one is living one's religious life, especially our vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Yesterday, on election day, in some conversations at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, it came to my attention that some of our confreres have not changed their driver licenses to the state that they now live in. Some SCJs have exceeded the time allowed for doing so (90 days in Wisconsin). Please, be sure to update your license to your current state if you have not done so.

Well, I think that's enough for now. Be assured, once again, of my gratitude for your prayers and support as I continue to recover and heal. I have appreciated your cards, letters and emails. I am especially grateful to all who have physically helped or assisted me. During this time that I have been free from travel, I have had more time to pray for each of you, my brothers.

In Corde Jesu,



Edward Kilianski, SCJ  
Provincial Superior