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Attachment:

- General administration's letter concerning academic visits.

Minutes of the 766th Provincial Council Meeting

February 1-2, 2007, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

PRESENT: Fr. Richard MacDonald, provincial superior; Fr. Yvon Sheehy, Fr. Jack Kurps, Dn. David Nagel, Fr. Thomas Cassidy and Fr. Joseph Dinh, councilors; Fr. Jim Brackin for discussion of Senior Life, Fr. Bernard Rosinski, provincial secretary, and Mary Gorski, minutes.

I. Minutes — The council acknowledged that the minutes of the 765th meeting of the Provincial Council were approved, with corrections, during a conference call in December. All councilors, Fr. MacDonald, Fr. Rosinski and Mary Gorski were present.

II. Personnel

A. Fr. Brian McCullough — He has formally requested dispensation from vows and permission to live as a lay person.

B. Br. Tom Bridges — He has signed his paperwork for dispensation from vows. He leaves the SCJ residence at 37th Street as of February 3.

C. Fr. Tony Russo — Fr. Russo's request for retirement from ministry at St. Martin of Tours has been accepted. He will no longer be pastor of St. Martin of Tours after June 30, 2007. Archbishop Dolan has been informed of this and has written back to acknowledge the change. A new pastor for St. Martin's is being sought.

D. Fr. Dermot Twomey — Fr. Twomey wrote a letter to Fr. MacDonald requesting to resign from his parochial duties. Fr. Twomey is now 75 and needs to focus on his health as he continues to be treated for cancer. Fr. MacDonald will write to Fr. Twomey to accept his resignation and thank him for his many years of faithful ministry. Fr. MacDonald will also write to the bishop of Jackson to inform him of Fr. Twomey's retirement.

E. Br. Michael Fette — Br. Fette has asked to be excused from the Chicago formation program for the 2007-08 academic year for a sabbatical. Fr. MacDonald plans to write Br. Fette a letter to grant him the sabbatical. The council endorsed Br. Fette's request.

F. Fra. Mark Mastin — Fra. Mastin is preparing for his final profession. If approved, he would like to schedule it for June 2.

III. Administration

A. Retirement Community Coordinators — The council voted to appoint Fr. Jim Brackin as coordinator of Villa Maria in Franklin, Wis., and Fr. Anthony Kluckman as coordinator of the Sacred Heart Retirement Community in Pinellas Park, Fla.

B. Election Procedures — Fr. Rosinski reported that Fr. Mike Marigliano, a facilitator who has worked with the province at previous elections, is booked for this year's election assembly. Fr. Rosinski said that Fr. Marigliano was informed of the changes in the election process. A copy of the approved bylaws will be sent to Fr. Marigliano.

Fr. Kurps reviewed the proposed bylaws developed by the Protocol Committee, composed of Fr. Joseph Dean, Br. Frank Presto and Fr. Kurps. He noted the changes that reflect the new

election process. Councilors were generally in agreement of the protocols but asked for a few clarifications. Fr. Kurps made the suggested changes and presented the revised protocols to the council in its second day of meetings. At that time the council voted to approve the election assembly bylaws. These will be disseminated to the membership in a mailing scheduled for March 15.

Fr. Kurps presented a proposed timeline — based on previous council discussions — of actions that need to take place prior to the assembly.

Councilors reviewed Fr. Kurps' proposed schedule for the election assembly. It is difficult to balance some people's needs for preparation and discernment and others' desire to "get down to business." Although activities will be available Monday morning, it was suggested that the full assembly not start until mid-day to allow men in parishes time to travel to Hales Corners. Most likely, the assembly will conclude on Thursday afternoon or evening, allowing for Friday travel.

Councilors liked Fr. Kurps' suggestion that all voting take place in the chapel. There will be an effort to schedule the voting in such a way that limits extra trips back and forth between the conference center and the chapel. Transportation options can be arranged for SCJs who would have difficulty with the walk between the two venues.

There is concern regarding the pace of the election of councilors. Some SCJs felt that the last election was too rushed when it came time to discern the council. Fr. Marigliano will work with the Steering Committee to try to direct the process at an appropriate pace. Concerns regarding the previous election will be shared with Fr. Marigliano. It was noted that several pieces of the election process are now being done prior to the assembly so that there will be more time during the assembly for discernment.

- C. Ratio Formationis Provincialis — The council was informed that the *Ratio Formationis Provincialis* has been printed and distributed to the province. It is effective as of March 14, 2007.
- D. Jubilees — The proposed date for the Province Jubilee Celebration is August 4 with a 4 p.m. Mass. This would coincide with the proposed date for first vows: August 5. It is hoped that renewals could take place that weekend as well, perhaps the morning of August 4.

Profession jubilarians this year include: Frs. Richard MacDonald, Anthony Russo, David Jackson, Frank Wittouck, Jan de Jong and Ray Vega (50 years); and Stephen Huffstetter (25 years).

It was noted that Bishop Evert Baay will celebrate his 60th anniversary of ordination this year. The U.S. Province is inviting the bishop to visit the United States to celebrate his anniversary. Should he decide to come, the province will cover his travel expenses as an anniversary gift.

- E. Praesidium — Fr. Rosinski reported on the preparations being done in anticipation of the May 14-17 on-site Praesidium accreditation visits. He said that he and Fr. MacDonald are working on developing an accountability structure for SCJs living on their own, especially those who are not tied directly to a local community.

The province's policies need to be examined by an independent review board. Such a board is in place for use by Milwaukee area religious communities.

The sites to be visited need to be informed of their visitation times. Several councilors suggested that discussion needs to take place with Praesidium personnel regarding those to be interviewed during the accreditation visits. Would it be best to focus on SCJs who work with youth and not simply SCJs assigned to an area where youth are present? For example, Mississippi has two schools and other youth programs, but few of the SCJs actually spend much time in direct contact with youth. A councilor asked if SCJs will be asked about province policies during the interview process; if so, they should be refreshed on them. Fr. MacDonald was under the impression that the interviews would not extensively address the policies.

Finally, as a part of the policy development process, the province needs to have a plan in place to address religious who have abused a minor. The following policy statement was presented to the council. Councilors voted to approve it.

The provincial superior shall prepare a "safety plan" for all religious who have sexually or physically abused a minor. This "safety plan" must be in place for the following:

1. Any religious who admits to sexually or physically abusing a minor.
2. Any religious who has been convicted of sexual or physical abuse of a minor.
3. Any religious who has a “credible” allegation of sexual or physical abuse of a minor against him.

This policy will be sent to all members. As with other policies regarding abuse, it must be read by each member. After doing so, he will be required to sign a statement indicating that he has read and understands the policy. That statement will go into his personnel file.

- F. Provincial Policy Manual — Fr. MacDonald said that he would like to have a revised, “user-friendly” province policy manual in place before the end of his administration. Policies to be revised include those dealing with international travel, senior care, retirement and health care. New policies, such as the driver’s policy, need to be included.

Fr. MacDonald hopes to have the manual ready for council review by May. A councilor noted that this was a concern brought forth at the coordinators meeting. This needs to be disseminated among the entire membership for review and input.

- G. Senior Life — Fr. Jim Brackin, director of Senior Life, joined the council to discuss the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Senior Life. The ad hoc committee had nine members and met five times. The two younger members of the committee were very valuable in the discussions. In retrospect, it would have been helpful to have had an SCJ senior on the committee. Fr. Brackin thought that the ad hoc nature of the group was helpful. The committee had a determined life and the ad hoc nature kept discussions focused.

Fr. MacDonald said that he asked Fr. Brackin, with the committee’s input, to review present policies regarding seniors. He noted that there have been informal changes in the approach to senior years that needs to be reviewed. For example, the prior policy had been that if an SCJ needed a level of care not currently available at one of the SCJ communities, he would move into a nursing home. Now, the focus has shifted to allowing an SCJ to remain in an SCJ residence for as long as possible. There are things that can be done to allow a man to continue in an SCJ community for both his well-being and at a cost savings over nursing care. For example, a night care-giver could be hired at one or both of the SCJ retirement communities.

What is the role of the local coordinator with seniors? What authority does the director of Senior Life have? What is his relationship with seniors outside of the retirement communities? How can he assist local communities in meeting the needs of seniors? And related to issues of senior life, how is the province going to work to bridge the gap between its elderly members and its young religious?

Councilors suggested that there needs to be a conversation about senior issues province-wide. It was noted that senior life is going to be a major topic at the 2008 provincial chapter.

The discussions of the ad hoc committee have been very helpful, but it was suggested that no standing committee be established unless a review of all province committees is done. Perhaps two ad hoc committees would be helpful – one made up of seniors who specify their needs and one of a mixed age group that looks at senior life in a more general way. The make-up of the committee(s) is something that the next administration should examine.

Councilors concluded their discussion with Fr. Brackin by endorsing the recommendations he presented, including the “Process for Embracing and Living Senior/Retired Status.” The recommendations should be sent to the membership for feedback. The council suggests that the next administration have an elder policy in place, such as the proposed Process for Embracing and Living Senior/Retired Status, by January, 2008.

Fr. Brackin appreciated the time with the council and stressed the need to keep issues related to the aging of the province at the forefront of concerns. He hopes — and other councilors agreed — that a committee begins to look seriously at the housing needs of seniors, including the possibility of assisted living and/or a skilled nursing facility. Those getting close to retirement age need to be asked about their hopes for the future — where do they envision themselves living? How and where would they like to live when they are retired?

The council thanked Fr. Brackin for his work and the work of the ad hoc committee.

- H. SHST Visitation — The report by the Vatican visitation team was received and has been responded to. Fr. Cassidy said that Sacred Heart School of Theology received a very good review. The area that needed the greatest clarification was in regards to the Cardinal Stritch program.

- I. Dehonian Family Meeting — Fr. Kurps and Dn. Nagel briefly reported on the January gathering of laity that was a result of the Provincial Conference. Fr. Rosinski and Mary Gorski also attended the meeting and gave their input. All agreed that it went very well and that there was an excellent enthusiasm. Concrete proposals for action were developed, as well as commitments to implement those proposals. Dn. Nagel's presentation on those who influenced Fr. Dehon was well received.

The council supports the work of this group; it is a very positive moment in the Dehonian Family.

- J. Vietnamese Ministry in Milwaukee — The Priests of the Sacred Heart have been asked by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to consider taking over ministry to the Vietnamese in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The priest who currently does this ministry is leaving the archdiocese in July. It was suggested by the archdiocese that the SCJs assume the ministry, and that the Vietnamese Catholics worship at St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin. Fr. Francis Vu Tran is associate pastor at St. Martin's and would minister to the Vietnamese.

Councilors voiced general enthusiasm for the ministry but there continue to be concerns that need to be addressed. The entire ministry shouldn't be placed on the shoulders of a priest who has been ordained less than two years (Fr. Tran). Have other Vietnamese-speaking SCJs been consulted — are they interested in participating in this ministry at some point? Has the parish community at St. Martin of Tours been consulted? Is the province membership aware that a new ministry initiative is being considered? Informal talks with these stakeholders have taken place, but no formal dialogue has been undertaken.

Also, the archdiocese is asking for a commitment of 10-12 years. Would it be more reasonable to make a commitment of six, especially in light of changing leadership both at the province level and at the parish (the pastor is retiring).

Councilors remain in favor of the Vietnamese initiative. Several noted that the SCJs have a resource that is needed in the archdiocese — Vietnamese-speaking priests. Stakeholders, such as the parish, should be consulted. The province should be informed of the request and that can be done through Fr. MacDonald's monthly letter. Conversations need to take place with the archdiocese to determine a compromise. Perhaps Fr. Tran can commit to celebrating Mass with the Vietnamese community at its current location through the end of the year. During that time, specifics can be addressed by the province and archdiocese. Representatives from the archdiocese must lead the discussion with St. Martin of Tours regarding the possibility of welcoming the Vietnamese community as integrated members of the parish. Fr. MacDonald will contact the archdiocese about this.

- K. ESL Director Job Description — Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid is developing a job description for the ESL director. He will be asked to have it ready for review at the next council meeting.
- L. International Meeting of SCJ Educators in Salamanca, Spain — The province needs to find out how many participants will be allowed. Ideally, the province would like to send two representatives from Schools in Collaboration and two from Sacred Heart School of Theology.
- M. North American Meeting — The next meeting of U.S. and Canadian administrations is scheduled for April 15-16 in Montréal. Fr. MacDonald will contact Fr. John van den Hengel to determine the agenda of the meeting and then share it with councilors.
- N. Board of Directors Meeting, Sacred Heart Southern Missions — Fr. Kurps noted that the audit was approved. Officers remain in place on the board until the April meeting.

IV. Finance

- A. Investments— Dn. Nagel shared the agenda for the February 14 investment meeting. Following this meeting there will be a meeting of the Lay Employee Retirement Trust Board and then a meeting of the Support and Maintenance Trust Board.

Dn. Nagel also shared the performance analysis of the Growth Fund, Income Fund, Support and Maintenance Trust, Employee Pension Trust and Rome Fund. Each fund has its own strategic plan and each is doing well within its guidelines. The Rome fund is going to be adjusted for greater growth potential.

- B. Corporate Resolution — The council voted to approve the following corporate resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the corporation hereby authorizes Dn. David Nagel, SCJ, corporate treasurer, to execute any and all documents on behalf of the corporation in connection with corporate financial matters, including but not limited to, applications, authorizations, agreements, purchases, account transactions and stock transactions.

- C. Cheyenne River Ministries — Fr. MacDonald reported on his meeting with Bishop Blase Cupich regarding Cheyenne River ministries. As noted at the last council meeting, the province has been subsidizing operating expenses for ministries on the Cheyenne River Reservation at a cost of \$240,000 a year since the province left the area. The SCJ community in South Dakota has proposed that the province put \$3 million into an interest-only trust with the West River Catholic Foundation.
- D. India — Following confirmation by the general treasurer regarding specific needs of the project, the U.S. Province sent the District of India \$120,000 to complete its theology residence.
- E. Capital Expenditures and Extraordinary Budget Expenses — Dn. Nagel informed the council of some of the large expenditures to be anticipated in upcoming budgets:
- Sacred Heart Monastery: remodeling of some SCJ rooms to allow for easier shower access.
 - St. Joseph's Retreat Center: roof replacement (approximately \$18,000) and miscellaneous repairs (\$12,000)
 - Sacred Heart School of Theology/Sacred Heart Monastery: Major Maintenance meeting in next month with determine capital needs.
 - St. Sebastian, Rio Grande Valley: in June, 2004, a \$100,000 grant was approved that will be given to the church in the next fiscal year.
 - St. Joseph's Indian School: remodeling of homes (\$700,000), new inserting machine (\$300,000), and various repairs (\$500,000).
 - Province Development Office: software (\$25,000)
 - Raymondville Community: social worker (\$35,000)
- F. Wills — Dn. Nagel noted that a letter went to the membership regarding wills. Four SCJs have completed new wills and several are in the process of updating their documents. He added that many men who are in their middle years and younger had never given thought to preparing a will. However, several are now receiving patrimony following the death of a family member and realize the importance of a will.
- G. Sudan — A committee of the Union of Superiors General has developed an initiative to address educational and health care needs in Sudan. All provinces, regions and districts are being asked to make a significant donation toward the initiative. The Generalate will also make a donation. Councilors said that they were in favor of the initiative, but that it would have been helpful if the Generalate was more specific in regards to how much it offered toward the initiative and what it was expecting of the rest of the congregation.

The council voted to approve a \$25,000 donation toward the Sudan initiative developed by the USG.

CALENDAR

March 21-22	Provincial Council meeting
April 15-16	North American councils meeting
May 1-3	Provincial Council meeting (budgets)
June 4-8	Provincial Election Assembly
July 30-31	Provincial Council meeting (combined meeting with new provincial and council)

UPDATES

FR. JIM BRACKIN

His phone number at Sacred Heart Monastery is: 414-425-8300, ext. 6302.

ST. JOSEPH'S CENTRE, MALPAS

The British-Irish Province closed the center as of December 31. The new address of the community that lived there is:

266 Wellington Road North
Stockport, Cheshire SK4 2QR
England

FR. RALPH INTRANUOVO

New e-mail address: rajin37@yahoo.com

FR. JOHN KLINGLER

New e-mail address: klingletjohn@yahoo.com

FR. THOMAS WESTHOVEN

His second work number is 5215 not 52315.

FR. CHARLES WONCH

Residence number is 605-473-5487

NECROLOGY

BR. GIUSEPPE DUBLA, a member of the Region of Madagascar, who died December 25. He was born in 1916 and professed in 1935.

FR. TARCÍSIO GONÇALVES PEREIRA of the South Brazilian Province, who died January 4. He was born in 1961, professed in 1984 and ordained in 1990.

FR. JOSÉ LUIZ PIMENTEL QUENTAL of the Central Brazilian Province, who died January 13. He was born in 1931, professed in 1954 and ordained in 1958.

FR. MARIO PERIN of the North Italian Province, who died January 21. He was born in 1944, professed in 1962 and ordained in 1971.

FR. PACUAL IGNACIO BELDA PÉREZ of the Spanish Province, who died February 4. He was born in 1910, professed in 1927 and ordained in 1933.

FR. MARIO BARZIZA of the North Italian Province who died February 2. He was born in 1923, professed in 1941 and ordained in 1949.

FR. ANTÔNIO NIVALDO MORETTI of the South Brazilian Province. He was born in 1930, professed in 1954 and ordained in 1958.

BR. ROMÁN AIZPÚN DÍAZ, a member of the Spanish Province who died on February 21. He was born in 1924 and professed in 1941.

FR. CIRO RONDELLI, a member of the North Italian Province who died February 17. He was born in 1920, professed in 1939 and ordained in 1948.

FR. TARCIO BACK, a member of the Central Brazilian Province who died February 21. He was born in 1952, professed in 1974 and ordained in 1983.