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## Minutes of the 779<sup>th</sup> Provincial Council Meeting March 3-4, 2008, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior ; Fr. Yvon Sheehy, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Jim Brackin, and Dn. David Nagel, councilors; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary, and Mary Gorski, minutes. Fr. Vien Nguyen was in Colombia for language studies

I. Minutes — During a conference call on February 1, the council voted to approve the minutes of the 777<sup>th</sup> council meeting, with minor corrections.

### II. Finance

#### A. Province Development Office

1. New Director — Several candidates were interviewed for the position of executive director of the development office. William Rondeau was offered the position and accepted. He will begin March 31, though will have a meeting with directors on March 13. Mr. Rondeau is familiar with the SCJs through his wife, who worked with Fr. Peter Miller at St. Cecilia's Parish in San Antonio, Texas. Currently, Mr. Rondeau is vice president of development at St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee.

Dn. Nagel said that Mr. Rondeau seems to have a good sense of the SCJs' mission. Fr. Cassidy, as provincial superior, approved his hiring.

2. Budget — The office is currently working on its next fiscal budget. Dn. Nagel has found the staff to be very cooperative in assembling the budget.

3. Recent Fund Raising — The most recent campaign went very well; \$285,000 was raised from a mailing to 50,000 donors.

4. Consultants — The consultants have been very helpful and are optimistic about the fund raising capability of the office.

B. St. Joseph's Retreat Center — Dn. Nagel informed Br. Ray Kozuch that the farm at St. Joseph's can close immediately and that the property is to be put on the market. Br. Kozuch asked for clarification; Dn. Nagel sent a second letter stating that the farm is to close at the end of June. Brs. Andy Lewandowski and John Monek suggest that the farm remain open through the calving season.

Dn. Nagel informed the council that the Wisconsin Conservancy is interested in buying a 40-acre parcel of land from the SCJs that is near Lake Michigan. It would be added by the Conservancy to Meridian County Park. Dn. Nagel is in favor of the sale, as is the council.

The retreat center has been offered to the Diocese of Green Bay. The province would like to donate the center to the diocese to use as a retreat center. The center is valued at \$4 million so the donation will need the approval of the General Curia. It is unknown as to whether the diocese will accept the gift. Dn. Nagel is having conversations with Dn. Tim Reilly, director of Administration for the Diocese of Green Bay, regarding the center.

Fr. Guy Blair suggested that the diocese be charged \$250,000 for the retreat center and that

the money be put into a fund, the interest of which could support COTS (Churches Offering Temporary Shelter). The council was not in favor of this suggestion. The center should be given freely, and even as a gift, it may not be accepted by the diocese. Later in the meeting councilors suggested that other possibilities be in place for the center in case the diocese does not want to accept it. Some suggested that it be turned into a vacation spot for SCJs, similar to Tyler Lake.

Beyond the retreat center and farm, there are other parcels of land attached to St. Joseph's that can be sold. Dn. Nagel reviewed the location of these parcels with the council.

Later in the meeting, Fr. Brackin reported on his visit with Brs. Monek and Lewandowski. Fr. Brackin suggests that Brs. Monek and Lewandowski leave Baileys Harbor by December 1, 2008. That date needs to be firm. Although Dn. Nagel stated that the farm was to close immediately, Fr. Brackin suggests that Brs. Monek and Lewandowski be allowed to complete the calving season, thus the operation of the farm would continue in a limited capacity until December 1, 2008. However, if a buyer for the farm is found before the calving season is completed the farm will be sold before the end of the calving season. Appropriate arrangements would be made for the cattle at the time of the sale.

Fr. Brackin suggested that Brs. Monek and Lewandowski live in the Franklin area, perhaps in a rented house where they can keep their dog (Woods Road has also been suggested). They would be attached to Villa Maria and their situation would be reevaluated in a year in light of the wider Milwaukee housing situation.

The council was in favor of Fr. Brackin's proposals.

- C. Investment Meeting — The investment meeting and the meeting of the Support and Maintenance Trust and Lay Employee Pension Trust took place on February 13. Investments performed well in 2007 with returns that exceeded the goals set for each pool. Monica Matthews is now the primary representative for Merrill Lynch to the Priests of the Sacred Heart.
- D. Human Resource Directors Meeting — A meeting of the province Human Resource directors was held on February 19th at the Provincialate Offices. The directors represented Sacred Heart Southern Missions, St. Joseph's Indian School, the Province Development Office and Sacred Heart School of Theology. The focus of the meeting was discussion of the possibility of moving toward a common providers for insurance benefits.

Joining the HR directors in their meeting were David Obernberger, province insurance consultant, and Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney.

The group decided that each of the province entities will use the same insurance provider for short-term disability, long-term disability, the dental plan and life insurance. This move to common providers for insurance benefits has been in the works for over 20 years.

The group discussed how it might move toward a common medical plan and outlined how this could be done over the next year. It hopes to meet again in spring to continue discussions. The goal is to have better equality in benefits among the various organizations. Dn. Nagel noted the difficulty in standardizing benefits. One office may have larger employee contributions but a better health plan. Another might not require an employee contribution, but have a less extensive plan.

- E. Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology Major Maintenance — Dn. Nagel reported on the recent meeting of the SHM/SHST Major Maintenance Committee. The primary project this year is the replacement of windows at a cost of \$780,000. This is scheduled to be completed by fall, 2008. Road repairs are expected because of the harsh winter; the estimated cost is approximately \$20,000. The cost of expanding the drive around the mausoleum is being researched, and there has been a proposal to remodel 12 single rooms on the SCJ floor into six suites. Costs are being researched. Councilors suggested that the idea be reviewed in light of the entire SCJ housing situation in Milwaukee.

Future projects that have been suggested: 1) expansion of the library, perhaps adding a second floor; and 2) repairing and updating the gymnasium to make it a multipurpose facility.

- F. Remodeling of SHM Recreation Room — Fr. Paul Grizzelle-Reid proposed that the monastery recreation room be remodeled. This was suggested several years ago, but the proposed costs at that time were thought, by the council, to be too high. Projected costs for the current plan are \$124,226. It was agreed that remodeling does need to be done and that this price is much more reasonable than previous suggested plans. However, there was concern that the project was being presented outside of normal financial planning protocol. Generally, such a project would be submitted with the year's budget. Fr. Grizzelle Reid asks that approval be given now so that the remodeling can begin on April 1 and be completed in time for the provincial

chapter.

A concern was raised that the recreation room is intended to be an area for the SCJ community. Often, it becomes a gathering area for the ESL students — both SCJs and non-SCJs. Can more be done to make it an SCJ community area?

The council voted to approve the remodeling of the SHM recreation room PENDING review of the project by the Province Finance Commission. If the commission has concerns the project cannot go forward until further review by the council. The Finance Commission will review the project by conference call.

- G. Grant Request — Fr. Guy Blair requested a grant of \$25,000 for COTS (Churches Offering Temporary Shelter). Dn. Nagel forwarded the request to the Justice and Peace Committee for review.
- H. Financial Assistance to Corinth, Booneville and Iuka, Mississippi — Fr. Kurps noted that pastoral responsibility for St. James in Corinth, St. Mary's in Iuka and St. Francis of Assisi is to be returned to the Diocese of Jackson upon Fr. Tom Burns' retirement in 2009. Fr. Kurps asked for the council's input regarding financial assistance for the parishes and mission. Currently, Sacred Heart Southern Missions gives approximately \$115,000 in subsidy for the communities, primarily to fund pastoral personnel, as well as \$10,000 to Corinth to fund its social service office. Should such funding continue when ministry is returned to the diocese? If funding is given, should it go directly to the parishes and mission or to the diocese?

The council suggested that Sacred Heart Southern Missions give the diocese a yearly grant for a specified period of time (perhaps five years) that would be similar to what SHSM budgeted for the pastoral needs of Corinth, Booneville and Iuka. The diocese can use the funds as it sees fit. Details are to be worked out by the SHSM board, which will need to vote on the plan.

### III. Personnel

- A. Treasurer, 37<sup>th</sup> Street Community — The council voted to approve Fr. Francis Vu Tran as treasurer of the 37<sup>th</sup> Street Community.
- B. Second Councilor, Pinellas Park — There is currently no second councilor for the SCJ community in Pinellas Park. One person in the community volunteered to serve as second councilor. The Provincial Council asked that the community at Pinellas Park be consulted. Br. Presto will inform the coordinator that a formal community vote needs to be taken for second councilor and the results submitted to the Provincial Council. The council will review the name(s) submitted by the community from its vote.
- C. Fr. Joseph Dean — The council voted to appoint Fr. Joe Dean as administrator of the SCJ community at Baileys Harbor from July 1 through December 1. His term as coordinator comes to an end on June 30.
- D. Fr. David Maher — Fr. Brackin reported that he met with Fr. Maher's doctor. Fr. Maher will receive a modified chemotherapy treatment. Besides the Leukemia, he is also dealing with a serious fungal infection.

Fr. Brackin said that it would be very helpful to have area SCJs help with some of Fr. Maher's health care needs, such as doctors visits and remaining with him during his treatments. Fr. Cassidy said that he would send an e-mail to area SCJs requesting their assistance.

Fr. Maher's sisters have been visiting frequently, which has been good for Fr. Maher's spirits.

- E. Fr. Charles Bisgrove — Fr. Bisgrove is returning from India to the U.S. Province. He will spend Holy Week with his family and then return to Hales Corners on March 25th. It is thought that he will rejoin the Sacred Heart Monastery community and return to ministry at Sacred Heart School of Theology.
- F. Fr. Dermot Twomey — Fr. Twomey's health is rapidly deteriorating.
- G. Fr. Richard Zelonis — He has moved to the Congregational Home in the Milwaukee area.

### IV. Administration

- A. Praesidium — Br. Frank Presto said that the Milwaukee Area Review Board will gather in a week to review two concerns. It is thought that this review will go well and that accreditation by Praesidium will follow soon after. Everyone who needs to have a safety plan is now covered by one.

Continuing education is the next concern. Councilors would like to have a training plan in place for the province. All members of the province should be required to take part in it. If the diocese in which an SCJ ministers requires a different program the SCJ would be required to do both — the province plan is to take precedence over any other education plan offered by a diocese or agency.

B. Staffing and Community Concerns — The council talked about staffing and community concerns regarding the various geographic areas.

1. South Dakota — The council discussed the personnel needs of South Dakota. Fr. Charles Wonch will be leaving South Dakota in July.

Are there enough men to staff the reservation ministries in the years ahead? Does the province need to discuss withdrawing from ministries on the Crow Creek and Lower Brule reservations — in part or in full? Some suggested returning the parishes in Kennebec and Reliance. Those who have ministered in Lower Brule said that this would not be a good idea because the parishioners in these locations are more active — they are a good balance to the more challenging ministries on the reservations.

Perhaps the SCJs should keep Lower Brule, Kennebec and Reliance, with a continued SCJ community in Lower Brule.

Could the province maintain a community in Chamberlain from which reservation ministry could be done? It would be easier to build a community in Chamberlain than to try to maintain one in Chamberlain and one in Lower Brule. Some felt that this would be inappropriate. The people who are going to minister on the reservation should live on it. If the SCJs can't do so, there may be people in the diocese who are willing to live and work there.

Could the SCJs have a community in Chamberlain that serves only one or two parishes or missions from it? It was noted that St. James in Chamberlain has a mission.

There is much discomfort in considering the possibility of returning Lower Brule to the diocese. It has historical significance in the province and the congregation. But, there need to be people to staff it — enough people so that community life is also maintained.

Fr. Cassidy asked that further discussion of Lower Brule wait until after he has made his planned visit to the community.

2. Mississippi — Fr. Tim Gray is expected to go to Mississippi at the end of his sabbatical. This will be a large help in ministry to Spanish-speaking Catholics.

Br. Mike Fette will be visiting the Mississippi community after Easter. He could be available for ministry at one of the parishes or through SHSM.

3. Texas — Although several scenarios have been discussed, no decisions have been made regarding a timeline for withdrawal from ministry in Texas.

It was suggested that the province withdraw from Houston by the end of Fr. Cassidy's current term — July, 2010. However, SCJs at Our Lady of Guadalupe have suggested that the community remain until 2012 to celebrate the parish's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Fr. Cassidy said that he would listen to the OLG community's reasoning for this.

The community in Raymondville would like to continue ministry there, but the men are all at or near retirement age. It was suggested that a date be set to withdraw from Willacy County.

In Houston, several men will be available for assignment in the next year or two. Fr. Bob Tucker will complete a sabbatical in the summer of 2009 and will be available for placement. Fr. Joseph Dinh will be done with his studies in June, 2009. It is unknown if he has an internship requirement after that, but it is thought that he will be available for assignment next year.

4. Milwaukee — Councilors talked about communities and individuals in the Milwaukee area. Fr. Bisgrove will be returning to the monastery; Fr. Paul Grizzelle-Reid plans to go on sabbatical.

Br. Presto reminded the council that there is no administrator at St. Francis.

The council discussed Villa Maria. More room is needed for those who are retired or need assisted living. In the minds of many, the housing needs of Villa Maria have been combined with those of the entire Milwaukee area. It is important to see the needs of the retired and ill as a separate issue. There is no extra room at Villa Maria. The community has taken on a role beyond retirement, now ministering to the needs of those who are ill, such as Fr. Maher. Several men who are in nursing care are attached to Villa Maria — they also need interaction with the community and assistance with various things just as if they were actually living on site.

There is going to be a continuing need for a place for the ill of the province to go to. It is not just elders who need health assistance. At any time there may be people diagnosed with significant health issues that will require assistance. Housing plans need to be in place to allow for this, as well as for the elders of the province.

Councilors asked Fr. Brackin if he needs assistance. He said that he has taken on a lot and that assistance would always be welcomed. Br. Matt Miles does a lot of work with the community, but he is 68 and eventually he is going to retire from ministry. Fr. Pat Lloyd continues to take on more responsibility, which has been a great help. Having other SCJs in the Milwaukee area assist with visits and appointments would be good. Lay assistance has been helpful and more should be sought if needed. Perhaps some of the younger members could do a ministry year at Villa Maria? Fr. Sheehy, director of formation, said that if a proposal is made, students can be placed. However, there are supervisory duties that come with such a placement. Fr. Brackin would have been willing to take those on with a student.

Fr. Brackin noted the stress that the Villa Maria community feels. Just like a family, they welcome a person who needs health care but it still adds a significant stress to the life of the community. This needs to be acknowledged.

The growing needs of elders and the ill in the community should be brought to the attention of the province. As has been suggested previously, it needs to be discussed at the provincial chapter. People need to know the impact of having a seriously ill member in the community. The SCJs in Mississippi have lived this experience, but not many other SCJs have.

Br. Presto offered to help Fr. Brackin prepare a report to the province in regards to elder issues and the needs of the seriously ill.

**HOUSING** — The council discussed the housing needs of the Milwaukee area. Few people want to live at Sacred Heart Monastery. Primary drawbacks include the size of the living quarters and the “institutional atmosphere,” especially in regards to meals that are eaten in the large dining room with the seminary’s students. Some have suggested that if SHM were remodeled to allow a community dining area at which community meals would be eaten more would be willing to live at SHM.

Several SCJs in the province have asked why there is discussion of building a large community building when the province membership is shrinking. It has been suggested that the Milwaukee SCJs rent to meet their housing needs.

As noted earlier, it is important in discussion of housing that the needs of the RETIRED AND ILL not be lumped together with the housing needs of those in ACTIVE MINISTRY. Again, there is no more room at Villa Maria. The province membership is aging. More room for elders and the seriously ill is needed regardless of how the housing situation for those in active ministry is addressed.

More discussion needs to take place among those who live in the Milwaukee area regarding housing issues.

- C. Provincial Chapter — The council voted to appoint the members of the Pre-Chapter Planning Committee to the Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee are: Fr. Bob Bossie, Fr. Joe Dean, Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Duane Lemke, Br. Frank Presto (chair), and Fr. Steve Wiese. Fr. Tom Cassidy is an ex officio member as provincial superior.

The Steering Committee will review rules of procedure, establish a method for surfacing topics for the chapter and plan for both plenary and small group discussions. More information about the chapter will be shared with the membership as plans develop.

- D. Chicago Apostolate — A committee is to discuss the possibilities for an SCJ apostolate in the area of Chicago and/or Gary. Fr.

Bob Tucker should be included in these discussions as he has expressed interested in serving in the area following his sabbatical.

E. Milwaukee Major Superiors Meeting — Fr. Yvon Sheehy will represent the province at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of Milwaukee area major superiors with the bishops.

V. Next Meeting — The council's next meeting will be by conference call on Friday, March 7 at 1 p.m.

## Minutes of the combined North American councils meeting March 3, 2008, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior of the U.S. Province; Fr. Yvon Sheehy, Fr. Jack Kurps and Dn. David Nagel, U.S. councilors; Fr. John van den Hengel, regional superior of Canada, Fr. Jim Casper and Fr. Richard Woodbury, Canadian councilors; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary U.S. Province, Fr. Maurice Légaré, treasurer of the Canadian Region, and Mary Gorski, minutes.

I. Personal Sharing — Participants took time to share information about themselves, their ministries and communities. A few points of interest:

- Fr. Cassidy: A significant challenge has been the number of SCJs in failing health. During Fr. Cassidy's seven months in office, several men have been dealing with terminal illnesses and other significant healthcare issues. Fr. Cassidy is extremely grateful for the work of Fr. Brackin, director of elder care, who has been tending to many of the province's ill members. It is a time and energy-demanding ministry.
- Dn. Nagel: Much of his time in recent months has been consumed with the Province Development Office. Dn. Nagel has been serving as interim director until a new director is in place (the previous director relinquished duties at the beginning of the year). A new director has been hired and will begin March 31. Consultants have been brought in to review and revitalize the office's efforts. The U.S. Province is now financially responsible for much of the congregation's ministry in Asia. It is hoped that the office can raise more funds to meet growing demands both in the congregation and in the province.

Dn. Nagel is also involved in the SCJs withdrawal from St. Joseph's Retreat Center, as well as associated ministries, such as the farm. Locally, he has been a part of the committee reviewing housing needs in the Milwaukee area. Dn. Nagel was to take part in a General Finance meeting in Switzerland this week, but spoke with the general treasurer and asked to be excused from it because of the current demands on his time.

- Fr. Casper: He is ministering part-time at a parish in Toronto, which he says is going very well. The SCJ community in Toronto is examining how, as Dehonians, they fit into the local Church. How should SCJs be present in Toronto? The city is truly a city of immigrants. Mass is celebrated in 28 languages each weekend. There is a growing Asian presence. The SCJs continue to minister to the Indonesian community. Fr. Aegidius Warsito of the Indonesian Province currently ministers to the Indonesian Catholics.

The dynamics of the Toronto community seem good. There is a mix of ages that runs the gamut from retirees to formation. Brian Tompkins, in his first year of vows, has been a good presence in the community. Fr. Casper serves as his formation director.

- Fr. John van den Hengel: Fr. van den Hengel is currently teaching two courses at St. Paul's University — one graduate and one undergraduate. He is involved in writing a religious education text for the Ontario bishops, as well as an education syllabus for the Canadian bishops. Fr. van den Hengel also serves as the chaplain to the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association.

He noted that the Canadian Region is beginning preparation for its chapter to be held in August. The region is small in number — approximately 25 members — but it wants to continue to reach out to the larger congregation. Fr. Élie Ngoy will be going to Rome next year to study spirituality. After, he may go to Congo to teach. The region also welcomes SCJs from other countries. As of January, Fr. Gustave Lulendo of the Congolese Province has been a member of the Ottawa community. He is doing graduate studies in ethics, as well brushing up on his English skills. Fr. van den Hengel noted the difficulty of getting visas for Africans.

Finally, he said that there is good participation among the membership in Canada when it comes to community activities and concerns.

- Fr. Woodbury: He continues as chaplain at Séminaire du Sacré-Coeur in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, Quebec (formerly, Pointe-au-Chêne) and is very happy with the operation and spirit of the school. Fr. Woodbury is also active at a local parish. In his parish ministry he has come to realize that the Church needs to focus on evangelization. Many of the young people being prepared for confirmation lack a good sense of their faith. Younger people are needed to teach religious education; Fr. Woodbury said that younger people can relate to youth better than elders.

- Fr. Légaré: Last year, the community closed Maison Dehon. This has affected everyone in the Montréal community, including those who did not directly work at the hospice. The house is now being rented to a group that is also involved in care to people living with AIDS/HIV. The focus of this organization is on children and their mothers.

The Indonesian community in Montréal has been meeting with Fr. Rein van Leeuwen (former Indonesian missionary) once a month.

Br. Dieudonné Tchouteu, an SCJ from Cameroon who has been a member of the community in Montréal for several years, has been attempting to get permanent residency status in Canada for the past year. It has been a difficult process.

- Fr. Sheehy: As of January 1, Fr. Sheehy has been pastor of St. Martin of Tours in Franklin, Wis. He likes the change from vocations and enjoys the parish. There are about 1,500 families at the parish; the Vietnamese community in Milwaukee also meets and worships there (Fr. Francis Vu Tran ministers to them). Fr. Sheehy is also province formation director.
- Br. Presto: He said that he is still learning the job of provincial secretary. Much of his time has been taken up with the Praesidium accreditation process (it is hoped that the province will receive accreditation within the month), as well as with preparation for the provincial chapter.
- Fr. Kurps: Fr. Kurps noted the significant changes that have taken place in the Mississippi community in the past six months. When Fr. Cassidy took office, there were 14 SCJs in Mississippi. Now there are only nine. Two men died, one retired, one left to do vocation ministry, one has moved to nursing care and one left the community. Fr. Dermot Twomey is in the final stages of cancer. There has been one new person to the community, Fr. Bob Naglich.

Fr. Kurps said that the Mississippi community needs to take time to process all that has happened during the past year.

Following his death, Fr. Kurps cleaned out the house that Fr. Tony Kelly lived in. Fr. Kurps is also involved in clearing out Fr. Richard Zelonis' apartment (Fr. Zelonis went into nursing care).

Work at Sacred Heart Southern Missions and the Sacred Heart League is going well. Financially, SHL has done well in raising funds in recent years. In the near future the two Mississippi organizations are going to merge into one corporation under the name "Priests of the Sacred Heart."

## II. History — Fr. Cassidy asked those who had been a part of initial U.S. – Canadian gatherings to talk a bit about the history of the combined North American Councils' meetings.

A focus of initial gatherings was preparation for the General Chapter. It was thought that combined, instead of as separate Canadian and American entities, North America could have a stronger voice at the General Chapter. The British-Irish Province had also joined in chapter preparation.

Besides chapter preparations, common areas of interest and concern were discussed. North America has had a joint novitiate for several years (Br. Brian Tompkins was the most recent Canadian novice).

Several North American committees were established, including the Spirituality Committee. A joint personnel directory was developed. In 1999, North Americans held a joint assembly at Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners.

Approximately six or seven years ago, collaborative efforts, including meetings and committee work, lost momentum.

## III. Present needs — Councilors discussed possibilities for the future. Is there benefit to continuing the North American meetings? If so, should other joint efforts be pursued? The general feeling was that yes, North American dialogue should be renewed. Specific areas of focus:

- Community "Bonding" — French and Anglo Canada went through a process in preparation for its merge into one entity several years ago. Could the U.S. Province learn from that experience as it goes through a transformation that includes a withdrawal from several long-standing ministries? There has been a call for religious renewal in the U.S. Province; how was this done in Canada as the French and English-speaking provinces prepared to become one?

- B. SCJ Identity in North America — What does it mean to be an SCJ in North America today? What role should the community play in the Church and society in North America? In parishes, how do SCJs minister as Dehonians, different than as diocesan personnel? Both in Canada and the United States immigrants are a growing part of the Church — how do SCJs respond to that?

What makes a parish or ministry Dehonian? How is Sacred Heart devotion relevant to people in North America today? What are practical ways to live SCJ spirituality? How can SCJs in North America get beyond the theoretical?

Can the U.S. Province and Canadian Region set up a joint committee to discuss some of these issues? Spirituality is the greatest commonality between the two SCJ entities — should that be a starting point? If a committee was established to address this, an effort should be made to include fresh voices. An SCJ need not be a Scripture scholar to discuss issues of spirituality.

- C. Joint Ministry — Is there a ministry that North American SCJs can do together?
- D. Fraternity — Many SCJs in Canada spent time in the United States, particularly during formation. Several SCJs from the United States have ministered in Canada. Younger members of the province and region have bonds from their common novitiate experiences. How can this fraternity be continued and enhanced? The North American Assembly in 1999 was a good fraternal experience, but no follow-up was planned. Collaborative efforts and dialogue diminished soon after.

If plans are not made ideas often fade.

- E. Future Meetings — Meetings of the superiors and councilors are beneficial. At times, there will be tasks, but at other times simply sharing information and enhancing SCJ bonds is worthwhile. It was suggested that such meetings incorporate more SCJs. Perhaps in future meetings of North American administrations there can also be a gathering with the local community. For example, if the administrations meet in Ottawa on Monday, a dinner with the local community could be held Sunday evening.

It would be good to meet in a variety of locations. Generally, in Canada the meetings alternate between Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal. In the United States, they are generally in Hales Corners. Perhaps the next meeting in the U.S. Province could be in Chicago so time could be spent with the formation community.

- F. Youth — In April, Fr. Cassidy is meeting with the younger members of the U.S. Province. Their input should be sought regarding “bridge building” between the North American entities. Perhaps the younger members of the Canadian Region should be invited to the meeting, or to a future gathering. The voice of the younger members is very important. How do they feel connected to the community? What are their concerns, especially in light of the fact that they belong to a province or region that is made up primarily of older men? How do they envision the future?
- G. Next Steps — Establish a forum (committees or simply gatherings) for dialogues on spirituality. Invite young Canadian SCJs to take part in the April meeting that Fr. Cassidy is having with the younger members of the U.S. Province. Have common dialogues with formation personnel.

#### IV. International Events

- A. Philippines — Fr. Bill Marvee will represent the Canadian Region at the Dehonian pastors gathering in the Philippines. The U.S. Province is sending several SCJs representing its various geographic regions. They are: Fr. Leonard Elder, Fr. Richard MacDonald, Fr. Bob Tucker, Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Chuck Wonch and Fr. Francis-Vu Tran.

It was noted that Fr. Tim Gray took part in a similar workshop that was held in Spanish in South America last year. He found it to be very beneficial.

- B. Superiors Gathering in Latin America — Frs. Cassidy and van den Hengel are to take part in the meeting of the superiors of North and South America later this year. Councilors asked if it might be beneficial to host an Americas meeting in the United States. One of the issues that could be explored is the impact of immigration on North America.

- V. General Chapter — In discussing how his region is preparing for its chapter (which, in turn, is preparation for the General Chapter), Fr. van den Hengel said that about a year ago the Canadian Region began a process of discussing what SCJs in Canada can and should do as a region. A statement was made at the convergence of the two Canadian entities. Now, the region

is determining whether the values and hopes of that statement are being lived. The region has discussed personal values and the values that bind members together as a community. It is hoped that the discussion will lead to a common understanding of what binds members together as a region.

The region is working with a facilitator. Currently, reports from the community discussions are being reviewed. Local communities are to reflect on their reports and from their discussions surface two issues that should be discussed at the regional chapter. This method should allow for many voices to be heard.

Once the responses are received, a committee on Dehonian Life and Community will review them, and along with the materials from Rome, outline topics to focus on at the regional chapter.

It was noted that the Generalate sent provinces, regions and districts three sets of questions: one for local communities, one for individuals and one for superiors and their councils to answer. Some at the meeting questioned the method of preparation for the General Chapter, but noted that it is important to have a voice.

It would be beneficial for the two North American administrations to collaborate on their response to the final set of questions — those for superiors and their councils. Perhaps a common voice would be better heard than individual voices. A councilor asked if North America should collaborate with South America on its response. Previously, North America has collaborated with the British Irish Province.

It was noted that one of the problems in preparing an international gathering is that the concerns of one area of the congregation may not be those of another. How do provinces, regions and districts respect the process and the work that goes into such preparations while making sure that their concerns are heard and understood by the wider congregation?

Following the regional and provincial chapters, the two administrations will meet again to discuss the chapter issues and work to incorporate them into a single response from North America for the General Chapter preparations.

## VI. Miscellaneous

- A. Canadian Administration — Fr. van den Hengel noted that his term comes to an end June 7. The region will soon begin the process for discerning the next administration. It is hoped that the new administration can be installed on feast of the Sacred Heart (May 30).
- B. Chapter Dates — Canada will hold its chapter August 11-14; the United States holds its chapter June 16-20. The Canadians were invited to send an observer to the U.S. Province's chapter. Once a schedule is established for the chapter in the United States, it will be shared with the Canadians.
- C. Eucharistic Congress — The Eucharistic Congress will be June 15-22 in Quebec City. It is the same week as the U.S. Provincial Chapter. Br. Brian Tompkins will attend the congress. Perhaps someone who is not taking part in the Provincial Chapter would like to join him, such as one of the candidates. There is a reasonable travel package from Toronto based on double-occupancy. Mary Gorski will place a notice about it in *Fridge Notes*.
- D. Final Vows Program — Fr. Cassidy informed the Canadians that in the future the U.S. Province will send its students to the final vows program in the Philippines instead of the one in La Chapelle. The Philippine program is in English.
- E. English Translations — The Canadian Region doesn't seem to be getting all of the English translations of documents from Rome. Br. Presto will determine how these documents are distributed and ensure that whatever the U.S. Province receives is shared with the Canadian Region.

VII. Next Meeting — The two administrations will meet Monday, November 10 in Ottawa, Canada. Attendees are asked to arrive by late afternoon on Sunday, November 9, so that they can join the Ottawa community at dinner.

## CALENDAR

2008

April 30 - May 2	Provincial Council Meeting (budgets)
June 16-20	Provincial Chapter
July 15-16	Provincial Council Meeting
July 14-23, 2008	Educators meeting, Salamanca
September 8-9	Provincial Council Meeting

## UPDATES

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## NECROLOGY

FR. ATILIO CARMINATI, a member of the North Italian Province, who died February 4. He was born in 1921, professed in 1940 and ordained in 1947.

FR. JOANNES HOOFT VAN HUIJSDUIJNEN, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Province, who died February 19. He was born in 1909, professed in 1930 and ordained in 1937.

## **Delegates to the 14th Provincial Chapter**

**June 16 –20, 2008**

The following members of the US Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart have been approved as delegates to the chapter. A total of forty-seven members have active voice and vote within the chapter's sessions.

The thirty eight delegates, by community, are:

Pinellas Park – Jim Schifano [Charles Yost is the alternate]

Chicago – Robert Bossie, Duane Lemke & Peter Mankins

Mississippi – Leonard Elder, Robert Naglich & Edward Zemlick

South Dakota – Michael Burke, Stephen Huffstetter, William Pitcavage & Charles Wonch

Houston – Richard DiLeo, Richard Johnston, Edward Kilianski, Quang Nguyen & Robert Tucker

Raymondville – Richard MacDonald & Frank Wittouck

Bailey's Harbor – Joseph Dean, Mark Fortner, Ray Kozuch & Dominic Peluse

Villa Maria – Patrick Lloyd, Michael van der Peet & Stephen Wiese

Sacred Heart Monastery – Jan deJong, Wayne Jenkins, Bernard Rosinski & James Walters

Saint Francis Residence – Charles Bisgrove, Jerome Clifford, Paul McGuire, Anthony Russo & James Schroeder

37<sup>th</sup> Street – Charles Brown, Paul Kelly, John Klingler & Mark Mastin.

De iure/ex officio – James Brackin, Thomas Cassidy, John Czyzynski, Jack Kurps, David Nagel, Vien Nguyen, Frank Presto, Yvon Sheehy and Francis-Vu Tran.

The Pre-Chapter Steering Committee's membership consists of Robert Bossie, Thomas Cassidy, Joseph Dean, Jack Kurps, Duane Lemke, Frank Presto and Stephen Wiese.

Frank Presto, scj

Provincial Secretary

## Survey on Community and Ministry

The following information was harvested from those who responded to this survey. The survey was originally sent in November 2007 within one of Tom Cassidy's letters. These results are compiled as of February 29, 2008. Your assistance in this endeavor is most appreciated. [Please note that percentages were rounded.]

Frank Presto, scj

*Total Number of Responses: 67* (Please note that not all responders answered all the questions)

### Individual Questions

Q.1: How many **are willing** to go to these specific priorities? (Three entry lines)

Vocations	22	33% of responders
Formation	14	21%
Elder Care	16	24%
Mission ad gentes	17	25%
South Dakota	17	25%
Mississippi	33	49%
SHST	17	25%
SMOT	19	28%
Other	7	10%
Prov Admin	3	4%
Specialized	1	2%

Q.2: Community life is \_\_\_ than ministry

More important	20	30% of responders
As important	37	55%
Not as important	1	1%

Q.3: How many **are not willing** to go to these specific priorities? (Three entry lines)

Vocations	27	40% of responders
Formation	20	30%
Elder Care	13	19%
Mission ad gentes	24	36%
South Dakota	33	49%
Mississippi	12	18%
SHST	18	27%
SMOT	15	22%

Q.4: SCJs and people I work with are \_\_\_ than ministry

More important	19	28% of responders
As important	37	55% of responders

Q.5: Where members have worked in the last 15 years (Four entry lines)

Vocations	8	12% of responders
Formation	12	18%
Elder Care	6	9%
Mission ad gentes	7	10%
South Dakota	13	19%
Mississippi	12	18%
SHST	10	15%
SMOT	5	7%
Special	8	12%
Other	15	22%
Texas	15	22%
In Formation	11	16%
Prov Admin	10	15%

Q.6: Living the charism is \_\_\_ than ministry.

More important	27	40% of responders
As important	25	37%

Q.7: When I turn 70 I plan

1. To Retire	5	7% of responders
2. To Retire but continue to assist in ministry	27	40%
3. I plan on continuing to work in active ministry for:		
a. Next 3-5 years	2	3%
b. Year to year basis	9	13%
c. As long as I enjoy good health	16	24%
d. RETIRED	8	12%

Age Group Demographics

70 & Older	19	28% of responders
60-69	22	33%
50-59	16	24%
40-49	2	3%
30-39	6	9%
Less than 30	2	3%

Abbreviations detailed:

SHST: Sacred Heart School of Theology, Hales Corners WI

SMOT: Saint Martin of Tours Parish, Franklin WI

Prov Admin: Provincial Administration

