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Minutes of the 781st Provincial Council Meeting May 6, 2008, by conference call

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior ; Fr. Yvon Sheehy, Fr. Vien Nguyen, Fr. Jim Brackin and Dn. David Nagel, councilors; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary, and Mary Gorski, minutes.

I. Minutes — The council voted to approve the minutes of the 780th meeting with minor corrections.

II. Administration

A. Fr. Paul Grizzelle-Reid — Fr. Cassidy informed the council that he spoke with Fr. Reid about continuing as coordinator of the monastery community until December. Fr. Reid said that he did not want to continue past the end of his current term (June 30).

A consultation needs to be done with the monastery community before July 1.

Regarding the ESL program, Fr. Reid said that he would remain through the fall semester. Br. Ray Kozuch, the new director, will move to the monastery in December.

B. Fr. Joseph Dean — Fr. Dean has been assigned to the Lower Brule Community as of December. Related to that, Fr. Cassidy said that he told Fr. Bill Pitcavage that he would be meeting with both of the South Dakota bishops to discuss the province's ministerial plans in the two dioceses.

C. Fr. David Jackson — The council made a vote of consent endorsing Fr. Cassidy's votum for Fr. Jackson's petition to Rome.

D. Fr. Brian McCullough — Fr. McCullough made a request, in writing, to be dispensed from the vows and priesthood.

Minutes of the 782nd Provincial Council Meeting June 17, 2008

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior ; Fr. Yvon Sheehy, Fr. Vien Nguyen, Fr. Jim Brackin and Dn. David Nagel, councilors; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary, and Mary Gorski, minutes.

I. Vow Renewals — The council voted (vote of consent) on the following for renewal of vows:

A. Frater Duy Nguyen — The council voted to approve Frater Nguyen for vow renewal.

B. Br. Clay Diaz — The council voted to approve Br. Diaz for vow renewal.

C. Br. Long Nguyen — The council voted to approve Br. Nguyen for vow renewal.

D. Frater Greg Schill — The council voted to approve Frater Schill for vow renewal.

Frater Nguyen, Br. Diaz and Br. Nguyen will renew their vows on August 2 at Sacred Heart

Monastery. Fr. Cassidy will delegate Fr. John Czyzynski to receive the renewals. Frater Schill will be in South Africa for his ministerial year. Fr. Jan de Jong is expected to be visiting South Africa at that time. If so, he will be delegated by Fr. Cassidy to receive Frater Schill's vow renewal.

II. Assignments

- A. Fr. Bernard Rosinski — The council voted to assign Fr. Rosinski to the South Dakota community as of August 1. The assignment is for one year.
- B. Fr. Quang Nguyen — The council voted to assign Fr. Nguyen to the South Dakota community. His term is to run from September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

III. Local Administrations

- A. Sacred Heart Monastery — Fr. Sheehy and Dn. Nagel did the consultation of the monastery community. Although he had initially said that he was not interested in continuing as local superior following the end of his term in June, Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid said that he would serve as administrator of the community until he begins his sabbatical in December. It was the community's desire that he continue as administrator.

The council voted (vote of consent), in separate votes for each, to approve the following as the administration for Sacred Heart Monastery:

1. Local Administrator: Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid
2. First Councillor: Fr. Jim Walters
3. Council: Entire community
4. Treasurer: Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid (it was noted that the Province Treasurer's Office will do most of the accounting work required by the community).

There will be another consultation in December to determine the local superior.

- B. Dehon Formation Community, Chicago — Fr. Sheehy did the consultation with the Chicago community.

The council voted (vote of consent), in separate votes for each, to approve the following as the administration for the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago:

1. Local Superior (administrator): Br. Duane Lemke
2. First Councillor: Fr. Vien Nguyen
3. Council: All members of the community who are in final vows.
4. Treasurer: Br. Pete Mankins

It was noted that the appointment of a non-cleric as superior (he would have the title "administrator") will require dispensation from Rome. Br. Presto will begin the process for dispensation soon.

IV. Boards of Directors

- A. Sacred Heart School of Theology

1. Alan R. Bembenek — The council voted to endorse the recommendation of the SHST board of directors to appoint Alan R. Bembenek to the board.
2. Officers — The council voted to endorse the recommendation of the SHST board of directors to appoint the following as officers of the board:
 - a. Chairperson: Dr. Mary Meehan, president of Alverno College
 - b. Vice-Chairperson: Dr. Barbara Ann Cusack, chancellor, Archdiocese of Milwaukee
 - c. Secretary-Treasurer: Alan Bembenek, general council for Catholic Knights.

All will serve a two-year term ending May 21, 2010.

- B. Sacred Heart Monastery Development Office, Hales Corners — The council voted to endorse the recommendation of the development office's board of directors to appoint the following as officers of the board:

1. President: William Rondeau
2. Vice-President: Fr. Thomas Cassidy
3. Secretary: Fr. Paul Kelly
4. Treasurer: Dn. David Nagel

V. Personnel Updates

- B. Fr. Tim Gray — Fr. Cassidy said that Fr. Gray's exit interview went very well at Southdown. He did well in the program. It is thought that Fr. Speck will be of great assistance to Fr. Gray.
- E. Fr. Brian McCullough — Fr. McCullough has begun the process to request a full dispensation from vows and priestly ministry.

Minutes of the 783rd Provincial Council Meeting July 15-16, 2008

Present — Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Yvon Sheehy, Fr. Vien Nguyen, Fr. Jim Brackin, Fr. Jack Kurps, and Dn. David Nagel, counselors; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary, and Lisa Brahm, minutes.

- I. Minutes — The council voted to approve the minutes for the 781st and 782nd meetings with minor corrections.
- II. Personal Sharing — Councilors took a few minutes to update each other on their lives and ministries. Fr. Cassidy also updated the council on recent visit to Washington, DC.

III. 14th Provincial Chapter

- A. Council Reflection — Councilors shared their reactions to the chapter and discussed possible ways to implement the directional statements. A summary of their initial comments include:

- Most felt that the chapter was a positive experience and that Sr. Barbara Stanbridge did a good job as facilitator. Because of conflicting schedules, she had had little contact with the steering committee prior to the chapter.
- Having an outside facilitator was important. The process she developed, which included a variety of different types of conversation, was seen to be helpful. The directional statements are good. The way we implement the directional statements from the chapter will be important.
- Switching to a canonical process for the discussion of the two Provincial Directory items was awkward at best. Discussion was minimal on the two items. In the future, a process needs to be used that ensures good and honest dialogue on any juridical items.
- There was a concern about the number of younger members who choose not to attend. Their involvement in any follow-up will be important.
- Most of the members of the chapter were open to the process; some had difficulty with the process and Sr. Stanbridge, and others might have felt that there was too much process. It was noted that most delegates were present from beginning to end.
- A difficulty is that this chapter took place only 10 months after the beginning of this administration. Previous provincials have also noted this difficulty.

- B. ACTA Minutes — The council reviewed a draft of the chapter minutes and made minor corrections. Br. Presto is assembling the rest of the documentation to be included in the ACTA. Once that is done, the ACTA, with the corrected minutes, will be ready for the council's approval.

C. Discussion Regarding Implementation and Follow-Up

1. Chapter Steering Committee — Fr. Cassidy expressed his appreciation for the work of the Chapter Steering Committee which had been chaired by Br. Frank Presto. He reported that he had met with several members of this committee prior to the Council meeting to discuss possible ways to implement the directional statements and follow-up on the work of the Chapter. It was agreed that participation in this process by as many members as possible was important and that the process needed to begin soon.
2. Implementation Steering Committee — Fr. Cassidy asked for recommendations for a steering committee for the implementation process. It was agreed that Br. Presto would serve as chairperson. The committee will meet with the Council during the September Council meeting.
3. Facilitator — It was agreed that having an outside facilitator is important. The question was raised whether it would be easier for a male religious to facilitate our group than a woman religious. It was thought that a woman religious might be able to encourage us to have conversations on a deeper level. Men tend to discuss things more with their heads. The Chapter was a good experience of sharing on a deeper level.

It was decided to ask Sr. Barbara Stanbridge to be facilitator. It was noted that some delegates had difficulty with her style. Yet others found her process helpful. It would be important for the steering committee to work closely with her and give her feedback during any future gatherings. Sr. Stanbridge developed a good process for the chapter. As we work to implement the directional statements from the Chapter and work on a similar directional statement on ministry, we need to continue that process. It would be difficult for a new facilitator, who did not experience the Chapter, to continue the process.

4. General Comments Regarding Implementation and Follow-Up

- a. Purpose of Gatherings – The primary purpose of these gatherings is to continue the work of the Chapter. The directional statements need to be implemented. Several times during the Chapter reference was made to the “elephants in the room.” We need to identify and deal with the “elephants.” We need to strengthen the bonds between us, to increase our level of trust and to deal with our pain and our need for reconciliation. The younger members have a different experience of the province than the older members. The issues may be different. How do we talk together so that we support each other?

The directional statement on ministry calls for additional conversation on our ministry on a deeper level similar to those during the chapter.

- b. Scheduling of Gatherings – Although no dates were established, the Council discussed the possibility of 3-4 province gatherings during the next two years. It was suggested that these gatherings would begin with a social and dinner on Monday night and end early afternoon on Thursday. The first gathering would be held early in 2009, the second next summer. It did not seem to be important to hold all of the gatherings at Sacred Heart Monastery. There could be advantages to having the meeting off-site, perhaps at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois or some other Catholic center with a chapel and conference center. It was noted that a good sound system was important so that presenters and individual speakers could be heard.
- c. Participation of Members – All the members of the province will be encouraged to attend these province gatherings. The process used for these gathering will build on the work of the Chapter, but will take into consideration that not all the participants were delegates to the Chapter. It is especially important that all the members involved in active ministry be encouraged to attend. Our community life together is important. We need to find ways to address our issues. When members decide not to participate, their voices are not heard and their concerns might not be addressed. How can what is happening at these gatherings be communicated to those who choose not to participate?

IV. Finance

- A. Audit information — The audit firm of Schenck Business Solutions will be conducting the audits for the Provincialate Office and the Development Office. The firm is looking forward to doing the audit and established a timeline for the audit process. The former accounting firm has been cooperative with Schenck Business.
- B. Investments — The market continues to be volatile. Consultants have recommended reducing the exposure to

stocks and investing more in bonds. The changes in the investments are in line with the investment policy statement, which allows equities to be as low as 50%. Stocks struggled for the worst June for the S&P 500 and the Dow Industrials since the Great Depression, amid rocketing oil prices and ongoing financial market woes. However, SCJs saw capital gains through the sale of stocks. Even though the overall market is down 14%, the SCJs were down 11%. The next investment meeting to review the first and second quarters of the year is scheduled for August 13, 2008; council members are invited to attend.

- C. Baileys Harbor Property — A map of the area was handed out along with an overall listing of the appraisals for the various parcels. Dn. Nagel feels that parcel number five is undervalued; he did have a second appraisal company that has knowledge of lake property look at it. In addition, Dn. Nagel is waiting for the official appraisal of parcel number six (the retreat center).

An official appraisal of the retreat center is being done so that the value can be sent to the General Curia when the request is made to suppress the community at Bailey's Harbor. Parcels 14 & 7 are not apart of this possible sale and parcel 13's status is open for possible sale to the Wisconsin Conservancy.

The septic field is going to be moved from the north side of O'Brien Road closer to the retreat center. This will allow the 40 acres north of O'Brien Road (parcel 5) to be sold, as it is the most valuable section of the property. The Diocese of Green Bay visited the property on July 1, 2008. The O'Brien Family is very concerned about who their neighbors will be. Dn. Nagel suggests donating the center back to the O'Brien Family if the Diocese of Green Bay, or some other Catholic Agency, will not take the center. Green Bay now has a new bishop which may mean that a decision from the diocese will come soon.

Other information and concerns regarding the Baileys Harbor Property:

1. The Farm — The farm is ready for sale. Mr. Olejniczak, an attorney from Green Bay, who represents St. Norbert's and other Catholic religious, called for a client who is interested in purchasing the entire farm including equipment, livestock, etc. They are reviewing the appraisals for the property and made a purchase offer.
2. Parcels 14 & 7 (South Lakefront Property) — On June 25, 2008, Fr. Cassidy, Br. Presto and Dn. Nagel met with members of the O'Brien Family to discuss Parcels 14 & 7, which is five acres. The property is located along the lake and is valued at \$465,000. The parcels are small but a house could be built on the property. The O'Briens have letters from Fr. John Czyzynski indicating that the land would be given to them.

History:

- a. In 1966, Parcel 14 was deeded by Mrs. Eleanor O'Brien to the Priests of the Sacred Heart. The property was intended to be used as an alternate road for a public boat launch so that O'Brien Road could be made a private drive but the change never took place.
 - b. In 1984, Mr. Hedeem of the Rushes deeded Parcel 7 to the Trust of Mrs. Eleanor O'Brien and the Priests of the Sacred Heart. The property included in Parcel 7 appears to have belonged to the O'Briens.
 - c. In 1984, the Priests of the Sacred Heart began to pay taxes on the Parcel 7 and have done so for the last 20 years. This gives the Priests of the Sacred Heart a claim to the property since the O'Brien Trust did not pay taxes for 20 years.
 - d. Parcel 7 belonged to Mrs. Eleanor O'Brien following the death of her husband in 1954 when the transfer was made to her. The property included in Parcel 7 was listed in the name of Mrs. O'Brien until 1984. It is unclear if the deed naming the Priests of the Sacred Heart was lost or if that parcel was never transferred to the community.
 - e. It is not clear why Mr. Hedeem had a quick claim deed written to transfer land to the Trust of Mrs. O'Brien and the Priests of the Sacred Heart.
3. Summary — The Priests of the Sacred Heart have been paying the taxes on this property — both parcels — for a number of years. Councilors were asked their opinion about donating the property of Parcels 14 & 7 to the O'Briens or to the Wisconsin Conservancy. Dn. Nagel is not opposed to either. The council has agreed to allow the O'Briens to decide if they want this land or if it should be donated to the Wisconsin Conservancy. Fr. Cassidy will send a letter to the Nimrods with these options. After a decision is made, this information will be sent to Rome. The council voted [unanimously] in favor of this course of action.

- D. Human Resources Update — There was a meeting of the province HR directors July 22-23. All groups in the province are currently on same life, dental, long-term disability and short-term disability plans. If progress continues to go well, the next move is to transition all employees to the same medical insurance.
- E. Housing — Dn. Nagel met again with developer Mark Carstensen to discuss SCJ housing needs, in particular, housing for elder SCJs. As stated in an earlier council meeting, Dn. Nagel said Mr. Carstensen is good to work with because he is familiar with the Priests of the Sacred Heart (his company remodeled the SCJ recreation room) and has good connections with local governments.

The developer identified a number of areas on the SCJs' property along Highway 100 that could be developed for SCJ housing. There is also the property along Highway 100 that the SCJs hope to purchase from Milwaukee County. The purchase is almost ready to be completed. There has been a slight delay due to problems with a county survey.

In discussing options, Mr. Carstensen asked if the SCJs would be open to a larger retirement complex that would be owned by the province but not operated by it.

A complex could be built where Villa Maria currently is located. This could be a joint venture with part of the complex for SCJs and the other part rented to others. It could become a source of income for the province, allow for more activities and services (since there would be a larger base of residents), and later, it would be a more "sellable" property if it was no longer needed by the province in the future. This is a project that would be done in stages, starting with meeting the needs of the SCJs.

Several councilors said that they were open to the larger, mixed-living complex as it could also provide a way for retired members to continue to minister. Dn. Nagel is meeting with Carstensen on Thursday to see a sample of the proposed "campus."

There is also the possibility of having a complex that would be built for use by SCJs only. This would be a two to three story building with underground parking. It was suggested that it be built where the Villa Maria parking garage is located. It would be a 36-unit building with common areas, a chapel, and community dining area. The units would have a living room area, kitchenette, and 1-2 bedrooms. The cost range for this facility is \$2.5 million. It is expected that it would meet the needs of the province for the next ten years. There would be independent, semi, and assisted living apartments.

The council was in favor of building a retirement village with Carstensen's Construction and asked Dn. Nagel to move forward.

V. Personnel Updates

- A. Br. Leonard Zaworski — Br. Zaworski will go on one-year sabbatical.
- B. Fr. Wayne Jenkins — Fr. Jenkins will go to India this summer to assist in the district, and then again in October to help in Andhra Pradesh while Br. Zaworski is on sabbatical.
- C. Fr. Tom Westhoven — Fr. Westhoven will work and assist with the Archives while Fr. Jenkins, archivist, is assisting in India.
- D. Fr. Rob Naglich — He will join the 37th Street Community and be assigned to the pastoral team at St. Martin of Tours.

VI. Admission Board — The council discussed the minutes from the June 8 Admission Board meeting. Frs. Charles Bisgrove and Jim Walters were appointed to the board. TOEFL scores were discussed. It was decided that a minimum score of 500 would remain the standard; however it may be further studied and reviewed. Further discussion was held regarding the minimum age that a candidate can enter the formation program. Praesidium and others recommend that the minimum be 18. The council agreed that 18 should be the minimum age at which a man can be admitted to candidacy with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Exceptions must be approved by the provincial superior in advance of the Admissions Weekend.

VII. Fr. Jan de Jong's Artwork Request — Fr. de Jong has requested that some of the artwork at St. Joseph's Retreat Center be hung at Sacred Heart School of Theology. All artwork located at the St. Joseph's Retreat Center is the property of Priests of the Sacred Heart. However, once the retreat center is closed, Dn David will work the archivist regarding distribution of the SCJs' artwork.

VIII. Consolidation of Legislation — Many of the documents which the provincial secretary uses on a regular basis are in different formats. Years ago, the provincial handbook and directory were separated and there is some confusion regarding various policies. Br. Presto requested the endorsement of the council to consolidate and create uniformity. The council was in favor of this.

IX. Visit by Fr. Giovanni Pross, Provincial Treasurer of Republic of the Congo — While Fr. Cassidy translated, Fr. Pross discussed current and on-going ministries and projects in Congo. He expressed a deep appreciation from the Congolese Province for the assistance the U.S. Province provides. He further expressed his deepest appreciation for the care provided to Fr. David Maher. He noted that Fr. Maher is deeply loved and sorely missed in Congo.

CALENDAR

2008

September 8-9 Provincial Council meeting (Mississippi)
November 9-10 North American councils meeting (Ottawa)
November 11 Provincial Council meeting (Ottawa)
December 15-16 Provincial Council meeting (Hales Corners)

2009

January 26-27 Provincial Council meeting
March 9-10 Provincial Council meeting
May 4-5 Provincial Council meeting (budgets)

UPDATES

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NECROLOGY

BR. GERMANO BONACINA of the Argentine Province who died May 23. He was born in 1934 and ordained in 1951.

FR. FORTUNATO PEGOLOTTI of the North Italian Province who died June 10. He was born in 1923, professed in 1942 and ordained in 1950.

FR. STEFANO BUCCELLA, a member of the North Italian Province, who died June 15. He was born in 1929, professed in 1946 and ordained in 1955.

FR. PASQUALE ZILLI, a member of the South Italian Province, who died June 28. He was born in 1939, professed in 1959 and ordained in 1967.

FR. KEN MITCHELL, a member of the U.S. Province who died July 2. He was born in 1920, professed in 1943 and ordained in 1948.

FR. JOÃO LUIS TEIXEIRA GASPAR, a member of the Portugese Province who died July 7. He was born in 1956, professed in 1977 and ordained in 1985.

BR. ALOYSIUS SCHAAF, a member of the German Province, who died July 23. He was born in 1929 and professed in 1952.

FR. ALPHONSUS MARIA STRIJBOSCH, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Province who died August 2. He was born in 1919, professed in 1941 and ordained in 1946

FR. GIOVANNI CARLESSI, a member of the North Italian Province, who died August 4. He was born in 1930, professed in 1948 and ordained in 1957.

BR. PIETRO CAMPLANI, a member of the Mozambique Province, who died August 6. He was born in 1937 and professed in 1966.