

INSIDE

Minutes of the
January 15th
Provincial Council
meeting, p. 1

Calendar, p. 4

Updates, p. 4

Necrology, p. 4

Minutes of the 789th Provincial Council Meeting January 15, 2009, Belleville, Illinois

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

- I. Minutes — The council acknowledged that it had approved, with minor corrections, the minutes of the 788th meeting during a December 22 conference call.
- II. Finance
 - A. Highway 100 Property — Dn. Nagel informed the council that the purchase of the property along Highway 100 in front of Villa Maria closed on December 23, 2008. This allows the province to move ahead with the proposed building project.
 - B. Villa Maria/Sacred Heart Monastery Project — Surveys are still being completed. On Monday, January 19, Dn. Nagel and Kathleen Dahlgren (province attorney) have a meeting with representatives from Mark Carstensen Construction and Development to review proposals for the project.
 - C. Province Audit — Dn. Nagel reviewed the management letter from Schenck Business Solutions concerning the province audit. Items of note:
 - Because the Provincialate Office is a small operation, management and council oversight are critical to avoid misappropriation of assets. This is something of which the Treasurer's Office has been aware. Monthly financial reports will continue to go to the Provincial Council as a way of further oversight.
 - The pension plan is underfunded primarily due to the recent problems with the financial markets. The underfunding needs to be recorded as a liability on financial statements. Dn. Nagel said that it is his hope that the plan's assets will rise when the financial markets begin to recover. An allocation will be made for all entities.
 - To ensure that checks are properly accounted for, a signer will now need to initial a log verifying the particular check(s) (identified by check number) that he signed.
 - The office will continue to further document its operational and accounting processes. This was begun last year but needs to be further refined.
 - Monthly journal entries will be designed to better mirror the format of the year-end report, thus making the yearly audit process more expedient.

Dn. Nagel expressed his displeasure with Schenck Business Solutions. Its people were extremely slow in finishing the audit and have still not completed the audit of the development office. This is not acceptable service. Dn. Nagel has spoken to Schenck about this.

The council voted to approve the management letter from the audit.

- D. Investment Audits — The annual investment audit is being conducted in January. The firm of Virchow Krause is doing the audit. They will audit the Growth Fund and the Charitable

Gift Annuity Fund. The Growth Fund is for investments for several of the province corporations, the province, and other related parties. The CGA Fund is for the annuity program at the Hales Corners Development Office.

- E. Investment Advisor — Garrett Stinson, a registered representative and registered advisor, has been hired by Dn. Nagel as an investment advisor. Previously, the province worked with investment consultants, but the consultants are limited in the type of advisory services they can offer. A registered investment advisor can lend much more concrete guidance to the Treasurer's Office in regards to financial strategy. Mr. Stinson will be at the February 11 stakeholders' meeting.
- F. Human Resources Meeting — The next meeting of the province human resources directors will take place on January 20 in Hales Corners. A representative from the Silverstone Group of Sioux Falls will be there to present a proposed insurance plan. Silverstone was hired by the HR directors to help them develop a plan to meet employee insurance needs. Executives from the corporations will also attend.

III. Administration

- A. Elder Care — Fr. Brackin reported that the Committee on Elder Life continues its work and is on schedule to begin its project with the province on 10-10-10 (October 10, 2010).
- B. International Vocation Program (IVP) — Fr. Sheehy would like to discuss IVP at the next council meeting. He will prepare information for discussion. Br. Ray Kozuch will be asked to attend in his role as director of the ESL program (it was noted that this will require that he travel to Mississippi).
- C. Philosophy Requirement — Currently, the philosophy requirement for SCJ students is 30 hours. It has been suggested that this be reduced to 15 for those entering as second-career candidates, as is the practice at Sacred Heart School of Theology. Currently, SHST only requires 15, though it offers 30 hours for bishops who request it for their seminarians (only one bishop has made this request). Catholic Theological Union requires 30 hours and SCJ students do their theology studies at CTU. CTU may consider reducing the requirement to 15. Fr. Cassidy's preference is for CTU be in line with SHST. If CTU changes its requirement, then it would be appropriate for the SCJs to change theirs.
- D. Post-Chapter Steering Committee — Br. Presto has asked to step down from his duties on the Post-Chapter Steering Committee. The committee has suggested that Fr. Kurps be named chairman. Fr. Cassidy agreed and named Fr. Kurps as chair.

IV. Personnel

- A. Fr. David Jackson — His paperwork has been received for dispensation from ordained ministry and religious life. It is assumed that he will soon sign and return the documents to the Provincialate.
- B. Br. Long Nguyen — Br. Nguyen will soon be available for assignment.
- C. Fr. P.J. McGuire — Fr. McGuire has been re-appointed as director of the Dehon Study Center for a three-year term that begins June 1, 2009.

V. January 12-15 Province Gathering

- A. Evaluation — Councilors discussed the recently completed gathering. Most felt that it went very well. There was a better comfort with the moderator and she seemed more comfortable with the SCJs. A helpful dynamic was that those who attended WANTED to be there. The gathering was optional.

The fishbowl with the council was an excellent exercise with significant sharing. Overall, there was good interaction among the participants during the days. Some SCJs saw each other in a new light. Others seemed more open to change, even when change might mean withdrawal from an area with is dear to them. That's not to say that all participants were comfortable with the possibilities for change, but many were open to a new future. The suggestion that the process was a like the "birthing of a baby" was very apt. The "baby" of a new future needs time to gestate before it can come to a healthy birth.

There is a need to keep the process alive in-between these province gatherings. Sr. Stanbridge suggested that a book by Fr. Robert Schreiter that would be helpful to SCJs. The Steering Committee and council are going to review the book and see if it can be utilized on the local level as a way to continue the process.

Those who took part in the gathering need to share what they experienced with those who could not be there. They also

have to start living what they are learning in regards to deep-level communication.

The fishbowl experiences brought to light the need for different forms of communication. Much information goes out from the administration but generally it is in written form. The membership seems to be calling for more in-person communication. Br. Presto and Mary Gorski are going to look into the possibility of web-conferencing as a way of better connecting with SCJs. For example, this could be utilized during a council meeting. If an issue of concern is going to be discussed that regards a particular community, its members could join the council during a portion of the discussion via web-conferencing.

- B. Villa Maria/Sacred Heart Monastery Building Project — Of the optional evening sessions, it was noted that there was a good turn-out at the session regarding the possible building project on the Villa Maria property. Approximately 30 SCJs came to the gathering led by Dn. Nagel. He presented ideas for the project and answered questions. Many left the meeting with support for the project. The council suggested that the name of the project be associated with Sacred Heart Monastery, not just Villa Maria, because it affects not just the retirement community but the wider SCJ community. Living space at the complex is being suggested for both retired SCJs and those in active ministry.
- C. Sixty-and-Under Gathering — During the January gathering there was a frequent call for the younger members of the province — those who will carry on the future of the province — to meet and dialogue. Fr. Cassidy asked Br. Presto to schedule a gathering of those 60-and-under in spring, most likely in April.
- D. Location — Councilors agreed that having the gathering at a non-SCJ location was beneficial. It allowed SCJs to fully concentrate on the gathering and simply be together without being distracted by other obligations. It was suggested that the July gathering also be at a non-SCJ location. Our Lady of the Snows is already booked, but perhaps a moderately-priced hotel in the St. Louis area could be utilized, or a retreat center elsewhere. Fr. Kurps will investigate possibilities. The January 2010 gathering will again be at Our Lady of Snows.

VI. Conference Call — The council will meet by conference call on January 22, at 11 a.m. (central) to review these minutes.

CALENDAR

2009

March 22-23	North American Councils Meeting, Mississippi
March 24-25	Provincial Council meeting, Mississippi
April 30	Meeting of those 60-and-under
May 4-6	Provincial Council meeting
May 17 - June 12	General Chapter (Rome)
July 20-23	Province Gathering
July 23-24	Provincial Council meeting

UPDATES

BR. RAY KOZUCH

As noted earlier, Br. Ray moved from Baileys Harbor to Sacred Heart Monastery in December. You can now reach him at the following numbers:

Office: 414-425-8300, ext. 7205

Room: 414-529-6962

FR. BOB TUCKER

2564 Virginio St. No. 11
Berkeley, CA 94709

FR. JOE DEAN

SCJ Community House
185 Gall St., P.O. Box 185
Lower Brule, SD 57548
605-743-5487

FR. PAUL GRIZZELLE REID (As of February 8)

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church
609 Pier View Way
Oceanside CA 92054
Phone: 1-414-349-2788

NECROLOGY

FR. ADRIANUS VAN DEN BOSCH, a member of the Flemish-Dutch Province who died December 25. He was born in 1920, professed in 1941 and ordained in 1946.

FR. ERNESTO TONIN, a member of the North Italian Province, who died December 26. He was born in 1930, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1959.

FR. FRANÇOIS RIETSCH, a member of the Francophone Province who died December 26. He was born in 1936, professed in 1958 and ordained in 1966.

FR. MARIO CASAGRANDE, a member of the Portuguese Province who died January 4. He was born in 1930, professed in 1948 and ordained in 1957.

FR. LUIGI GASPERETTI, a member of the North Italian Province, who died January 4. He was born in 1920, professed in 1939 and ordained in 1946.

