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## Minutes of the 832nd Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., April 30 – May 1, 2013

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Cassidy, provincial superior (absent first day); Fr. Bill Pitcavage, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Fr. Terence Langley, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes.

- I. Council check-in – Councilors took time to update each other on themselves, ministries and personal concerns. Items of note:
  - Although it was abbreviated due to the snowstorm, many of the lay people who took part in Mission Education appreciated the experience. Most councilors experienced travel challenges trying to get home.
  - There was flooding in the neighborhood around Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston, but the church and rectory are ok.
  - The SCJ community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake celebrated Holy Week and Easter Vigil liturgies and prayer services in the main chapel. These were well attended by residents. Also, once a month an SCJ has been sharing his personal story with residents. These presentations have also been well-received.
  - Fr. Haaland noted that four seminarians are leaving Sacred Heart School of Theology; he said that the processes in reviewing the situations were very good and he is comfortable with the decisions made.
  - Br. Lemke was in Rome for the meeting of SCJ seminary/formation superiors. He said that he had a good experience and found it especially interesting to be one of the oldest SCJs in the room.
  - Bishop Joseph Potocnak is helping with confirmations in Mississippi while Bishop Latino recovers from surgery. The Diocese of Jackson is grateful for his assistance.
  - Fr. Pitcavage had been assisting Fr. Naglich during his initial recovery from a broken arm. Fr. Naglich no longer wears a brace and so is able to manage more so on his own now.
- II. Finance
  - A. Raymondville — The sale of the SCJ house in Raymondville is completed. The province received the current asking price of \$549,900. Fr. Richard MacDonald moved out of the residence on April 15 and is renting a house in Harlingen.
  - B. Province Development Office (POSH)
    1. Mission Statement — The mission statement of the office was revised to better reflect its purpose: “As the development ministry of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart we are called to raise funds for all ministries designated by leadership as we make known the love of the Sacred Heart.”
    2. Planning session — Key POSH personnel took part in an all-day planning session April 24. Dn. Nagel said that it went very well and that people are open to

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new ideas and finding ways to improve efficiency. Several have said that it feels good to move beyond discussion to decision-making.

3. Outside sources — Dn. Nagel has been working with a consultant that also does work for St. Joseph's Indian School. Quadriga Art recently did an audit of the donor file and found some of the same concerns that Steve Koepke and Kory Christianson noted during their review earlier this year. Representatives from Quadriga Art are coming to the office on May 2 to discuss ways in which POSH might be able to reduce costs.
  4. Retirement — Several long-time POSH employees will be retiring in the next couple of months.
- C. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Due to inclement weather, work on the third wing is slightly behind schedule but there shouldn't be any problem being done in time for the August 1 move-in date. There has been a minor problem with water from the pond getting into the subbasement of the elevator shaft. Fifty-one of the 66 new apartments are rented.
- D. Budgets — All of the budgets presented were reviewed by the Province Finance Commission and recommended for approval. Because of his travel to Vietnam for the opening of the first SCJ house in the country Fr. Cassidy was unable to be at the April 30 meeting when the council reviewed the budgets. Fr. Langley consulted with the province canon lawyer to determine whether the budgets could be approved without the provincial superior. He said that as long as a quorum was present the budgets could be reviewed and approved without the provincial superior. All five members of the council were present for the budget reviews and votes.
1. Province Development Office — Dn. Nagel was instrumental in preparing this year's budget. For FY2013 the office is projected to lose \$6.6 million. The FY2014 budget shows a \$1.8 million loss. This is prior to income from investments. Dn. Nagel believes that the FY2014 budget is realistic in its projections but notes that the office is going through tremendous transitions that could impact these projections.

Some of the changes for the next year include a reduction in staff, many through retirement. No luncheons are scheduled; instead, the office will focus on individual visits with key donors. Mississippi is doing the same. The luncheons are no longer as effective as they once were. St. Joseph's Indian School continues to do them but they have a very different donor base.

Previously, some members of the POSH staff have said that it is more challenging for their office to raise funds because they do not have the same types of needs and projects as Mississippi and South Dakota. Dn. Nagel is working with the staff so that they have a better understanding of the many compelling needs and opportunities for fund raising, including direct appeals for mission projects, SHST, capital needs and retirement.

As noted earlier, Dn. Nagel is looking at cost saving possibilities that may include outsourcing much of what is now done in-house.

The new development director, Sid Liebenson, is competent. He, the consultant John Ris, and Dn. David have been working well together.

The council voted to approve the budget of the Province Development Office for a total of \$15,222,500 including two capital expenditures totaling \$43,000. This allows for an excess of revenue over expenses of \$5,274,400 prior to transfers to the province. Transfer to the province is normally set at \$7 million; current projections are approximately \$1.8 million short of that goal.

2. Sacred Heart Southern Missions — The SHSM budget is balanced and includes a modest increase for salaries. The number of annuity contracts has been going up. Overall, the Finance Commission felt that it was a well-presented budget. SHSM will contribute \$800,000 to the province. The council voted to approve the SHSM budget for a total of \$23,128,650 including \$233,800 in capital expenditures for Holy Family School, Sacred Heart School, four social service program sites (Holly Springs, Walls, the Flanagan Center, and general office space), and the Development Office.
3. Sacred Heart Southern Missions Housing Corporation — Dn. Nagel noted that all of Dehon Village is now fully owned by SHSM-HC. Sacred Heart Southern Missions operates SHSM-HC. Dehon Village has one part-time employee. The council voted to approve the SHSM-HC budget for a total of \$283,395.

4. Sacred Heart School of Theology — Some items of note: fewer students now live on campus because religious students generally stay with their formation communities; several long-term employees are retiring; some bishops have stopped considering older vocations; tuition is about mid-range compared to other seminaries; and approximately 30 new students are expected, which is similar to last year.

The Finance Commission noted the expense of the seminary and asked whether some of the endowment principal could be used to help support the institution. Also, some members of the commission expressed concern about the province's ability to fund the seminary at its current commitment level.

The council voted to approve the SHST budget for a total of \$6,124,165.

5. SHM/SHST Major Maintenance — Dn. Nagel said that SHST is looking at ways to update its facility to keep it competitive with other institutions. Next year the lobby will be redone and a room is to be added, with a new elevator, near the dining room. Also, new bathrooms are to be installed near this area. This new area could hold approximately 250 people. Room 200 has been used for such needs but it does not meet current fire codes, and is far from the kitchen and bathroom facilities. Dn. Nagel said that such a project would be good material for a development office campaign.

Other major maintenance plans in the FY2014 budget: partial roof replacement, repair decorative roof overhangs, replace dishwasher, paint dining room windows and trim, replace outside doors, and seal coat roadways and parking areas.

The council voted to approve the budget for the SHM/SHST Major Maintenance Fund for a total of \$243,500.

6. St. Joseph's Indian School — The school is presenting a surplus budget; province support is being increased to \$2,060,000. Income and expenses are similar to prior years though there are increases to payroll expenses for new staff at the call center in Sioux Falls. St. Joseph's has a strong reserve fund (\$94.8 million); fund raising programs overseas continue to do well.

The council voted to approve the budget for St. Joseph's Indian School for a total of \$63,547,257, which includes the following capital expenditures that exceed \$25,000:

- Computer system upgrade (\$45,000)
- PC replacements (\$45,000)
- Promethean boards (\$32,000)
- Grounds equipment (\$30,000)
- Tipi Press graphic printing press (\$70,000)
- Vehicles (\$110,000)
- Roof repairs (\$30,230)
- Carpet in central offices (\$31,658)
- Disbursement Center storage (\$37,000)
- Loading dock renovations (\$42,931)
- Fire alarm system, central offices (\$51,785)
- Handicap ramp access Benedictine building (\$56,279)
- Lift, Processing Center (\$60,000)
- Remodel Mail Processing Center (\$75,000)
- Major Gifts building renovation (\$150,000)
- Afra Home renovation (\$168,433)
- Raphael Home renovation (\$168,433)
- Tuck pointing (\$171,438)
- New Facilities Shop; old building is being repurposed (\$400,000)
- Drainage plan (\$379,500)

7. Sacred Heart Center — This is an apostolate of St. Joseph's Indian School; St. Joseph's does its payroll and other HR functions. Much of the center's income is also from St. Joseph's. The new director, Margaret Donovan, is said to be doing a good job. Use of the facility is increasing; more room may be needed for the domestic violence center.

The council voted to approve the SHC budget for a total of \$1,909,544.

8. Lower Brule Ministries — This budget is for what the Priests of the Sacred Heart provide toward LB Ministries. Councilors said that it would be helpful to see a full budget for Lower Brule Ministries, not just the SCJ portion provided through St. Joseph's Indian School.

The council voted to approve the Lower Brule Ministries budget for a total of \$524,386.

9. Houston Community — Fr. Joseph Dinh will move to St. Martin of Tours in fall; Fr. Quang Nguyen completes his education and may be teaching in either Indonesia or Vietnam. The budget is for the eight SCJs expected to be attached to the community. The council voted to approve the Houston budget for a total of \$191,292. It was noted that the community sends its excess to the province.
10. Raymondville — The SCJ house in Raymondville has been sold. Fr. Richard MacDonald rented a house in Harlingen. The council voted to approve the Raymondville budget for a total of \$38,850.
11. Sacred Heart Monastery — The budget is for four SCJs in residence. The council voted to approve the SHM budget for a total of \$303,700.
12. St. Francis Residence — There is a decrease in expenses because Fr. Charles Brown will be away from the community on sabbatical. The council voted to approve the St. Francis budget for a total of \$140,550.
13. St. Joseph's Community at SHML — The budget is for seven members. It was noted that the local treasurer does not use the same format as the province treasurer's office so the narrative didn't line up appropriately with the line items. The council voted to approve the budget for the St. Joseph's Community for a total of \$487,882.
14. Dehon House — This is the first full year of a community in the house since Fr. P.J. McGuire moved to SHML, thus, much of the budget is based on estimates with three to four SCJs in residence. The council voted to approve the Dehon House budget for a total of \$129,630.
15. South Dakota SCJ Community — This budget includes eight members: three in Lower Brule, three at St. Joseph's Indian School, one at the parish and one in an apartment in Chamberlain. It was noted that Fr. Bernie Rosinski will be at SHST in fall, doing studies toward a master's degree. The council voted to approve the SD Community budget for a total of \$154,933. The community anticipates sending excess to the province.
16. St. Michael Community — This includes nine SCJs in Nesbit and Holly Springs, Miss. The budget is similar to the previous year. The council voted to approve the St. Michael budget for a total of \$410,750.
17. Sacred Heart at SHML — With 26 members, this is the largest community in the province; it includes seven men at the Congregational Home. It was noted that Br. Brian Tompkins from the Canadian Region is a member of the community; he plans to apply to be a member of the U.S. Province later this year. It was also noted that money is budgeted for Sodexo employees as extra compensation from the community for their work. The council voted to approve the Sacred Heart at SHML budget for a total of \$1,424,200.
18. Pinellas Park — There are six SCJs in residence, one of whom is in active ministry. The budget includes funds to replace living room furniture and kitchen appliances. The council voted to approve the Pinellas Park budget for a total of \$477,345.
19. Dehon House of Formation — The budget covers 12 people: four SCJs in final profession, four in temporary vows, three candidates and one non-SCJ. It is anticipated that two or three SCJs from other provinces will be studying with the community next year. Br. Clay Diaz will need a car, and perhaps one other SCJ in formation will need a vehicle. Br. Lemke said that he prefers that the community stay well below the \$20,000 limit for car purchases.

The Finance Commission suggested the possibility of renting unused space in the building to non-SCJ students.

The council voted to approve the Dehon House of Formation budget for a total of \$716,121.

20. Formation Department — The budget is the same as last year. The council voted to approve the formation budget for a total of \$4,150.

21. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — Province grants to Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Martin of Tours Schools are in this budget. Most likely the grant process will be reevaluated; it was noted that several grants continue to go to organizations that no longer have direct SCJ involvement.

There had been efforts to hire a full time justice and peace director but the province was unable to come to an agreement on compensation with the first candidate. There are a couple of other possible candidates but the search has been put on hold until the new province administration takes office.

The council voted to approve the Justice and Peace budget for a total of \$209,800.

22. Vocation Department — This budget is similar to last year with the exception of a new car. The council noted the comments of the Finance Commission, in particular, that it would be helpful to get information about how many vocation visits are done and how many candidates are being considered, as well as the fact that the office no longer sells brochures. The commission thought that it would be helpful if Br. Ray Kozuch and Br. Long Nguyen met with the Finance Commission for a dialogue so that the commission could get a better understanding of the office and its needs.

The council voted to approve the budget for the Vocation Office for a total of \$327,778.

23. Communication Office — The budget is down slightly from last year; expenses involved in the redesign of the province website are not needed in FY2014. The council voted to approve the budget for the Communications Office for a total of \$151,982.
24. Province Archives — The budget is similar to last year with the exception of the elimination of Fr. Wayne Jenkin's salary. The salary will now appear as a subsidy from the province to the Sacred Heart Monastery community. The council voted to approve the Province Archive's budget for a total of \$25,975.
25. Dehon Study Center — The budget is the same as last year. The council voted to approve the Dehon Study Center budget for a total of \$14,850.
26. Dehon Affiliates — The major expense of this budget is Schools in Collaboration. The council voted to approve the Dehon Affiliates budget for a total of \$11,200.
27. English as a Second Language — The budget is higher because more students are expected. The council voted to approve the ESL budget for a total of \$454,900.
28. Foreign Missions — The budget includes education expenses for two Indonesian SCJs in the United States, support sent to South Africa, Congo and Asia, as well as support to the Generalate and General Aid Fund. The council voted to approve the Foreign Missions budget for a total of \$2,040,000.
29. San Antonio Community — The budget for two SCJs is similar to last year. The council voted to approve the San Antonio budget for a total of \$91,000.
30. Fr. Jim Schroeder — It was noted that Fr. Schroeder contributes \$60,000 to the province in his budget. The council voted to approve his budget for a total of \$55,525.
31. Fr. Francis Vu Tran — Fr. Tran continues his studies in Rome. The council voted to approve his budget for a total of \$74,000.
32. Fr. Joseph Dinh — Fr. Dinh is expected to complete his studies this year and will be assigned to St. Martin of Tours in fall. This budget is just for the months prior to his new assignment. The council voted to approve his budget for a total of \$14,300.
33. Fr. Vien Nguyen — Fr. Nguyen continues his studies at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley. The council voted to approve his budget for a total of \$80,700.
34. Fr. Charles Brown — Fr. Brown will be on sabbatical next year. The council voted to approve his budget for a total of \$54,600.

35. Fr. Thomas Cassidy — Fr. Cassidy will be on sabbatical next year. The council voted to approve his budget for a total of \$38,265.
36. Br. Michael Fette — Br. Fette plans to study to become a drug and alcohol counselor. The council voted to approve his budget for a total of \$36,450.
37. Province Budget — The largest concern of the budget regards the Province Development Office. These concerns, as well as actions taken, were addressed earlier in the council meeting. It was also noted that medical costs are larger than what province members pay toward the medical plan.

The council voted to approve the province budget for a total of \$10,777,885.

### III. Administration

- A. Vietnam — Fr. Cassidy briefly discussed his recent visit to Vietnam. He went there to take part in the blessing of the first SCJ house in the country. The U.S. Province is a major contributor to the SCJ presence in the country.

He said that he was very glad that he went and was impressed with what he saw. He believes that the congregation's money and efforts are being well spent in Vietnam. The new house is very simple; the students sleep dorm-style on mats that are rolled up during the day. The relationship of the community with the government is good. The community is working to get recognized by the government. Once that happens international SCJs can live in the community house. Right now, they live in a separate residence nearby.

Fr. Cassidy visited the school for migrants that the U.S. Province helps to support; SCJ students do ministry at the parish attached to the school. Students also work with migrants. Fr. Cassidy visited the migrant area as well.

- B. Sacred Heart Southern Missions Board

1. Mike Tyrell — The council voted to approve Mike Tyrell for a three-year term on the SHSM board of directors beginning October 1.
2. Bishop Joseph Latino and Chris Greer — The council voted to renew Bishop Latino and Ms. Greer to three-year terms on the SHSM board beginning October 1.

- C. Province Development Office — The council voted to appoint Sid Liebenson to the POSH board of directors effective immediately.

- D. Fr. Duy Nguyen — The council voted to appoint Fr. Nguyen as treasurer of the Houston community as of July 1.

- E. Review of Administrative Term — Since this was to be their last significant meeting councilors took a little time to reflect on their three years together. Comments, paraphrased:

- It was good that the council developed a pastoral plan based on the style of the General Council. Although not everything hoped for was accomplished in the plan, many things were and the council can be proud of that.
- Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake is almost done. It was good to see that project come to fruition; Dn. Nagel deserves much credit for his work on it, as does Br. Frank Presto who also assisted with the project in its early stages.
- Communication during this administration was good, both among councilors and from the council to the province. There was a good effort at transparency and speed in communication.
- There will always be challenging personnel concerns but this council seemed to work well together in addressing them.
- It is good to have a better plan in place for Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston.
- It is good to see a number of SCJs completing their advanced studies and getting ready for service.

- The province seems to be in a good space overall.
- It is good to have the 37<sup>th</sup> Street and Raymondville properties sold.
- Although there is always the desire for more vocations, it is good to see two excellent men in novitiate and good candidates in initial formation.
- It is important to continue to support the missions, even if only through financial contributions. It is a way to keep the missionary spirit alive, something which is vital for religious.
- Concern was expressed about a few of the council's decisions. Generally, the council communicated well but there were a few decisions made where dialogue with all affected was not as good as it could have been.
- Fr. Langley was thanked for his willingness to take the provincial secretary's job.
- The Province Development Office has been one of the most significant concerns of this administration. The council expressed its gratitude to Dn. Nagel for his extensive work in indentifying concerns and his current work in turning the office around.
- Mary Gorski was thanked for getting the minutes out in a timely manner.
- There is regret that it did not continue with the visioning process. It was suggested that the next administration give this greater priority, perhaps going on retreat together at the start of the term and then taking periodic days for reflection and visioning instead of just dealing with day-to-day crises.
- There is regret that the council didn't significantly address issues related to living the vowed life.
- The province is lucky to have excellent office staff, both SCJ and lay staff.
- The decision to hire Msgr. Ross Shecterle as president-rector of SHST was a good one and the process went well.
- Although a director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation was not hired, it was good that the council began discussion about the possibility.
- There was good communication among councilors but those who did not live in Milwaukee did not always have the same sense of province concerns and issues as did those who were in the area. Nothing was being hidden, but much gets said in day-to-day interactions that isn't easily picked up when one isn't close by. Perhaps there is a need to do more contact via conference calls or Skype meetings in-between council meetings.
- It is good that the annual meeting with Local Superiors/Coordinators was resurrected.
- There were some heavy personnel issues but the council members did not let themselves get bogged down in them.
- All councilors agreed that the most important thing that they can do at this point is work toward a smooth administrative transition.

#### F. Formation

1. Interns, Mentors and Internships — The council briefly talked about men who are in mentor or internship programs. It is important that goals and expectations be identified and that those who serve as mentors get preparation for their role. Each new priest should be able to have a basic set of experiences in his first year of ministry, and prior to that, during his deacon internship.

Also, there needs to be stated expectations and evaluation processes for students sent on ministerial experiences. Objectives of ministerial experiences must be clearly defined. This is something for the formation department to address.

In the future, contracts will be written for those doing ministerial years.

2. Final vow program — Fr. Cassidy urged the formation department to consider having men who are preparing for final vows take part in the final vow program in the Philippines. It was noted that the academic calendar would need to be adjusted to allow for this since the program begins in April.

G. Our Lady of Guadalupe — The community at OLG may not have enough space to house all of the SCJs expected to be in residence during the next year. Fr. Kilianski proposes that the province rent a small house near the rectory for excess space. Those in formation would remain at the rectory, others would live at the house. Meals would be at the rectory. The council is open to this.

#### H. Election Assembly

1. State of the Province Report — Only one local community has sent in its response to the State of the Province Report; however, several communities have plans to discuss it in the near future. Communities will be reminded to discuss and respond to the report when they receive the tentative schedule of the election assembly in the next few days. Fr. Langley will have Mary Gorki send this.

Fr. Langley will send members of the council the feedback from the SHML community discussion and later forward any other reports he receives.

2. Proxy votes — Approximately 10 people have requested proxy votes.

3. Moderator — Fr. Peter McKenna will be the assembly moderator. Fr. Jim Casper had to decline because of his mother's health.

I. North American Conference — There has been an in-person and a conference call planning session. One of the primary concerns at the moment is finding housing for participants. Because SHST will be in session there will not be enough room for all visiting SCJs. Fr. Kurps is exploring hotel possibilities. Dn. Nagel asked how housing costs will be dealt with. Fr. Kurps said that he assumed that the province would pick up this expense. The U.S. Province and Canadian Region have agreed to split most of the costs of the conference between them.

Those attending will be asked to go through the organizing committee for their room assignments instead of making their own arrangements. Those staying the shortest amount of time will be assigned to the hotel.

J. Provincial Chapter — The Pre-Chapter Planning Committee next meets on May 8. The chapter will take place the week of July 7, 2014.

#### IV. Personnel

A. Novice James Nguyen — The council voted to approve novice James Nguyen's tentative academic plan for an MDiv and MA in pastoral counseling with a licensure. They did so knowing that the program is dependent upon him being accepted for and making vows with the community. James is also aware of this.

B. Br. Andrzej Gancarczyk — The Polish SCJ is completing a term of ministry in Uruguay and is interested in serving at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston. Fr. Kilianski has been in contact with him via Skype and Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec was his formation director. Both think very highly of him.

Fr. Kilianski will write a letter to Fr. Cassidy formally requesting that he ask the provincial superior of Poland to allow Br. Gancarczyk to come to the United States for possible ministry. If the Polish provincial approves, the process will be started to get Br. Gancarczyk into the ESL program at SHST.

In the meantime it was suggested that Br. Gancarczyk visit OLG and perhaps Hales Corners. He can do this with a tourist visa before returning to Poland for a vacation.

#### V. Future meetings

A. Conference Call — The council will next meet by conference call on Thursday, May 9, at 10 a.m. central to approve these minutes.



B. Formation — The council will meet on Wednesday, June 5, at 7 p.m., in the Miller Room at SHST to review formation requests. All paperwork regarding formation advancement will be to the provincial secretary to disperse to the council by May 23.

VI. Evaluation — During their evaluation of the meeting councilors thanked Dn. Nagel, his staff and the Finance Commission for their work in the budget process.

## CALENDAR

Week of June 3: Province Election Assembly  
June 5: Provincial Council meeting re: formation reviews; 7 p.m., Miller Room at SHST  
June 17-21: International SCJ secretaries meeting, Rome  
July TBA: Joint meeting of outgoing and incoming provincial administrations  
August 1: Installation of new administration  
September: Fr. General's visitation to North America  
September 23: Province Jubilee Celebrations  
September 24-27: North American Conference, Hales Corners  
November 4-9: Major superiors meeting, Rome

### 2014:

July 7-11 Provincial Chapter

## UPDATES

### FR. DUY NGUYEN

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**BR. BEN HUMPFER** has a new email address: [brobenscj@gmail.com](mailto:brobenscj@gmail.com)

### FR. RICHARD MACDONALD

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**FR. JIM SCHIFANO** has a new email address: [jim.schifano@gmail.com](mailto:jim.schifano@gmail.com)

## NECROLOGY

**FR. CORNELIS WILHELMUS VAN DEN BERG**, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died March 30. He was born in 1935, professed in 1957 and ordained in 1963.