

# Cor Unum

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## Minutes of the 791<sup>st</sup> Provincial Council Meeting May 4-6, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

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. Fr. Joseph Dean, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, Fr. Bill Pitcavage and Fr. Bernie Rosinski joined the council for discussion of South Dakota.

- I. Minutes — Councilors acknowledged that they had voted to approve the minutes of the 790<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Provincial Council at an April 3 conference call.
- II. Updates and Sharing — Fr. Cassidy and councilors briefly updated each other on themselves, their local communities and ministries.

Fr. Cassidy said that he had a good experience in Rome with the week-long CSMC meetings. He said that he has a busy schedule before returning to Rome for the General Chapter.

Fr. Nguyen also said that he has a busy schedule prior to his departure for the General Chapter. He will be attending Fr. Joseph Dinh's graduation in Houston and has a number of formation tasks to take care of before leaving for Rome.

Since the last council meeting Dn. Nagel attended three board meetings. He has also been focused on health concerns; Dn. Nagel has begun a new treatment that often leaves him tired. He will be out of the office on Fridays for the next few weeks for the treatment.

Fr. Sheehy enjoyed Easter at St. Martin of Tours and has found parish ministry to be very enjoyable. Fr. Brackin said that the arrival of spring has brightened the mood of members of the Villa Maria community. He noted the Fr. Joseph Gole is now at the Congregational Home and that the transition went well. Fr. Mike Burke is expected to be at Villa Maria soon, and Brs. Andrew Lewandowski and John Monek will soon be moving to Woods Road; it is expected that they will have significant interaction with the Villa Maria community.

Fr. Kurps said his work in Mississippi is good. Br. Presto said that he is doing well and is glad that the 4/30 Summit is now behind him.

### III. Finance

- A. Budgets — All of the following budgets were reviewed and recommended for council approval by the Province Finance Commission:

1. Province Development Office — Dn. Nagel said that the new director, Bill Rondeau, has been in place for approximately a year. He recently received a favorable evaluation. A consulting fund-raising firm has taken on a more significant role that has benefitted the office. An appeal to fund new windows at Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology brought in \$695,000. December's revenue in 2008 was \$4 million — almost twice what the office brought in at the same time in 2007. Also, less is being used from the reserve fund than in past years.

There are some bookkeeping concerns that the office is addressing. Annuity rates from

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the office will be reduced in the fall, as is happening with most annuity programs.

The council voted to approve the budget of the Province Development Office for a total of \$23,605,066 which includes the following capital expenditures: 1) roof replacement for \$66,900, 2) printers for \$15,900, and 3) burster for \$20,000.

2. Priests of the Sacred Heart, Mississippi — The Sacred Heart League and Sacred Heart Southern Missions merged into one entity last year. Some items of note in the budget: 1) no salary increases are budgeted, 2) there is a deficit of \$657,235 budgeted but this is lower than the previous year and the trend continues to be toward a balanced budget, 3) grades 7 and 8 at Holy Family School have been eliminated, and 4) there is a decrease in postage and material because the production process has been changed.

The council voted to approve the budget of Priests of the Sacred Heart, Mississippi, for a total of \$22,138,200. There were no capital expenditures over \$25,000.

3. Sacred Heart Southern Missions Housing Corporation — The council voted to approve the budget of SHSM-HC for a total of \$19,925
4. Sacred Heart School of Theology — The budget was approved by the SHST board of directors as well as the Province Finance Commission. Items of note: 1) the seminary is working on a plan to replace 20% of the province grant (if, for financial reasons, such a reduction is necessary), 2) overall, the budget has few changes from the previous year, 3) 25 new students are projected for the next school year, similar to the current year, 4) SHST is doing more advertising, and 5) there will be a 6% tuition increase.

The seminary may have a slight deficit at the end of this year primarily because interest from the endowment fund is down.

The council voted to approve the budget for Sacred Heart School of Theology for a total of \$5,641,130. Capital expenditures appear in the Major Maintenance budget.

5. Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology Major Maintenance — The council approved the budget for the following major maintenance projects: 1) replacement of dining hall and kitchen roof for \$203,000, 2) rooftop caulking for \$9,600, 3) remodeling of SCJ rooms on the third floor for \$12,000, and road repairs for \$50,000. The total budget: \$274,600. In the future there will be a review of the library and gymnasium. The seminary would like to expand the library and the gym is in disrepair.
6. Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of South Dakota (St. Joseph's Indian School) — Items of note: 1) fund raising for the Sacred Heart Center in Eagle Butte did not do well separated from St. Joseph's so it will be brought back in-house, 2) the Akta Lakota Museum loses a slight amount of money each year but is thought to be a benefit to the school, 3) an increase in revenue is projected, as is a budget surplus of \$649,010.

The council voted to approve the budget for C-POSH for a total of \$55,300,261, which includes the following capital expenditures:

- PC replacement, \$45,000
- AS400 system upgrade, \$75,000
- 24" bracket padder for print shop, \$28,400
- Coolers for Food Service, \$30,000
- Security equipment, \$35,000
- Furnishings for Afra Home, \$30,000
- Furnishings for Fisher/Pinger Homes, \$120,000
- Vehicles, \$90,000
- Museum collections, \$50,000
- Health Center/Small Chapel air conditioning, \$25,000
- Central Offices fire alarm, \$32,000
- Valve control digital upgrade – Nagel Building, \$35,000
- CSC/NCM/FUP panels - \$50,000
- Valve control digital upgrade at elementary school, \$60,000
- Templifier replacement, \$100,00
- Afra Home remodel, \$115,000

- Nagel Business Office remodel, \$400,00
- Fisher/Pinger Homes renovations, \$760,000

7. Lower Brule Ministries — The Finance Commission asked that in the future the parish budgets be included. The council voted to approve the budget for Lower Brule Ministries for a total of \$463,956.
8. South Dakota Community — The council voted to approve the budget for the South Dakota Community for a total of \$351,291. It was noted that the budget forecasts a surplus of \$8,782.
9. Sacred Heart Center — The center is going through significant transition. Frank McDaniel, its director, recently left the organization. The Finance Commission did not have an SHC budget to review at its meeting. However, the commission did approve the grant to the center that was within the C-POSH budget. Fr. Stephen Huffstetter and Fr. Bill Pitcavage both sit on the center's board and will be able to review its budget and expenditures. The council voted to approve the Sacred Heart Center budget for a total of \$1,602,047.
10. Houston Community — Items of note: 1) the residence has moved from Gold Cup Way to Skylight Lane and the rent at the new residence is lower, 2) the community used to pay for some parish expenses but the parish is starting to pick up more of them; this is possible because donations have increased by \$2,000 a week, 3) the council questioned why some members of the community are in the budget and some are not; next year all members should be included (income and expenses), and 4) the community is drawing down its savings as an earlier council requested.

The council voted to approve the Houston Community budget for a total of \$178,280.

11. Raymondville — The council questioned funds budgeted for the social concerns minister; it does not appear to have been used in the previous fiscal year nor in the first part of the current one. Perhaps this expense appears elsewhere in the budget?

The council voted to approve the budget for the Raymondville community for a total of \$105,981.

12. Sacred Heart Monastery — Of note: 1) new cars are budgeted for Fr. Wayne Jenkins and Br. Ray Kozuch, and 2) the Finance Commission asked that the budget narrative state that the community has an employee and specify what she does.

The council voted to approve the budget for Sacred Heart Monastery for a total of \$284,375.

13. St. Francis Residence — Brs. Andrew Lewandowski and John Monek will be moving to the residence before the start of the new fiscal year. The council voted to approve the budget for St. Francis Residence for a total of \$141,248.

14. 37<sup>th</sup> Street Residence — The council voted to approve the budget for 37<sup>th</sup> Street for a total of \$575,471.

15. Dehon House — Items of note: 1) The cleaning person is reducing her work schedule to every other week so wages have been decreased, and 2) maintenance on the house should continue to be done as needed. The council voted to approve the budget for Dehon House for a total of \$72,700

16. St. Michael's Community, Nesbit — Of note: 1) the community returned \$100,000 to the province in the current fiscal year and anticipates having a surplus of \$27,00 in FY2010, and 2) new items to be purchased include a car, furniture and the replacement of two air conditioners. The council voted to approve the budget for St. Michael's community for a total of \$357,470.

17. Villa Maria — Of note: 1) expenses for Villa Maria include retired SCJs with residence at the Congregational Home as well as some expenses for three retired SCJs living at St. Francis Residence, 2) there are four staff members, 3) the province subsidy increased by \$5,292, and 4) one car will be replaced (related to this, Fr Vien Nguyen requested that one or two cars replaced by Villa Maria or another community be given to the Chicago formation community for use by the candidates).

The council voted to approve the Villa Maria budget for a total of \$679,700.

18. Pinellas Park — The Finance Commission strongly recommends that the community not purchase a server as included in

the budget; the needs of the community do not seem to necessitate a server. If such a purchase is made it should be done with the assistance of a computer professional.

The council agreed with the commission's recommendation regarding the server though did not take it out of the budget. Instead, it asks that the Pinellas Park seriously evaluate its computer needs before major purchases are made.

The council voted to approve the budget for Pinellas Park for a total of \$599,119.

19. Chicago Formation Community — Items of note: 1) three novices are anticipated; SCJ medical insurance will be increased to cover medical expenses, 2) the province grant increased by \$115,882, 3) three new cars are being budgeted for the professed, 4) the cook's hours have been increased from 35 to 40 hours per week, thus the salary is higher, 5) Frater Greg Schill will be returning to the community and four to five new candidates are anticipated.

The council voted to approve the Chicago Formation House budget for a total of \$847,960.

20. Fr. Mark Fortner — This is his first year in his new location; rough projections were used for the budget. The council voted to approve Fr. Fortner's budget for \$41,850.

21. Fr. Dominic Peluse — The council voted to approve Fr. Peluse's budget for a total of \$19,050.

22. Fr. Guy Blair — The council voted to approve Fr. Blair's budget for a total of \$37,045.

23. Director of Senior Life — The council voted to approve the budget for the Director of Senior Life for a total of \$33,700.

24. Province Archives — The council voted to approve the budget for the Province Archives for a total of \$53,300.

25. Province Communications — The council voted to approve the budget for the Province Communications Office for a total of \$129,850.

26. Dehonian Family — It was noted that Mission Education will be at Sacred Heart School of Theology this year. The council voted to approve the budget for the Dehonian Family for a total of \$11,700.

27. Dehon Study Center — The budget is down \$8,500 from last year. The council voted to approve the budget for the Dehon Study Center for a total of \$60,950.

28. English as a Second Language — Items of note: 1) the SHST portion of ESL is \$261,916 and the province portion is \$54,963, 2) Br. Ray Kozuch is the new director, 3) the IVP program has been suspended, 4) the Finance Commission thought that medical expenses were low; Dn. Nagel noted that medical expenses for ESL students are only paid as needed and might fall under other budgets; 5) non-SCJs in ESL pay tuition to SHST, and 5) there are three teachers (two full-time, one part-time).

The council voted to approve the budget for the ESL program for a total of \$316, 879.

29. Foreign Mission — The budget has increased primarily due to support requests for efforts in the Philippines and Vietnam. Dn. Nagel noted that the province has agreed to the General Curia's request to support the congregation's work in the Philippines, Vietnam and India. These entities have developed three-year plans, which are a great assistance in developing the Foreign Mission budget.

The council voted to approve the budget for Foreign Missions for a total of \$1,566,590.

30. Vocation Department — Of note: 1) this is the first year with the new vocation team of Fr. Mark Mastin and Fr. Thi Pham, 2) the province grant is down \$50,790, and 3) it is anticipated that three applicants will be coming before the next admissions board and perhaps another three at a later board meeting.

The council voted to approve the budget for the Vocation Department for a total of \$255,560.

31. Fr. Joseph Dinh — The council voted to approve the budget for Fr. Joseph Dinh for a total of \$50,400. Fr. Dinh will pur-

sue his Doctor of Ministry.

32. Fr. David Szatkowski — The council voted to approve the budget for Fr. Szatkowski for a total of \$34,150. Fr. Szatkowski is studying in Rome.
33. Fr. Quang Nguyen — The council voted to approve the budget for Fr. Nguyen for a total of \$74,500. He is studying for a doctorate in economics.
34. Fr. James J. Schroeder — The council voted to approve the budget for Fr. Schroeder for a total of \$57,955, noting that Fr. Schroeder gives \$60,000 a year to the province.
35. San Antonio — The budget is slightly less than last year. The council voted to approve the budget for the San Antonio community (Fr. Nick Brown and Br. Frank Snider) for a total of \$79,730.
36. Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Houston, Grant — This has been an on-going grant from the province which Fr. Ed Kilianski, OLG pastor, supports. The council voted to approve the OLG grant for \$45,000.
37. Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation — Of note: 1) the budget is up \$8,430 from last year, 2) there was an increase of \$25,000 for St. John's Homeless Shelter in Green Bay for a total of \$50,000, 3) the National AIDS Network is no longer in existence; the province had donated \$12,500 to it last year, and 4) there is an increase in tuition assistance at St. Martin of Tours school from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The council voted to approve the JPIC budget for a total of \$193,980.

38. Formation — The council voted to approve the Formation budget for a total of \$7,450.
  39. Province — It was noted that the province anticipates a surplus of \$139,413 in its FY10 budget. The council voted to approve the budget for the United States Province for a total of \$9,060,849.
- B. Building Project — Dn. Nagel updated the council on the progress of the building project on the Villa Maria property. He said that a name for the project will soon be needed. Several suggestions were submitted; Dn. Nagel said that his preference is "Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake." Later in the meeting councilors said that they were in agreement with Dn. Nagel's suggestion.

There have been several meetings with the developer (Mark Carstensen), including one on April 13 with WHEDA representatives, the mayor of Franklin, the state senator for the area, and others to review the application for subsidized housing for seniors. The project has been placed on the "second tier" of a list for WHEDA funding. A complex in Green Bay received the first tier of WHEDA funding. The SCJs' project has received high endorsement from the executive director of WHEDA so there is strong hope that there will eventually be funding or perhaps a bond through WHEDA. The City of Franklin is also very positive about the project and the General Curia is favorable toward it.

Dn. Nagel noted that the Department of Transportation has funding to build a culvert that could regulate the flow of water in Monastery Lake with no cost to the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Water levels on the lake are determined, in part, by action that takes place on the SCJs' property (for example, beaver dams).

The lake is thought to be both a draw to the property and a hindrance. It can be very beautiful, but it needs to be maintained so that it does not get overgrown with weeds.

- C. Baileys Harbor — St. Joseph's Retreat Center is now under the direction of the Diocese of Green Bay. The province ensured that the property was in good repair when the diocese assumed control.
- D. SCJ Medical Fund — Dn. Nagel updated the council on the status of the SCJ Medical Fund. There have been significant medical expenses but the fund, through increased contributions, is in the black.
- E. Mass Stipends — Fr. Cassidy suggested that all priests who are in school be asked to take daily Mass stipends. It could be a significant funding resource.

#### **IV. Administration**

- A. Milwaukee Bishops and Superiors — On May 7 Fr. Cassidy will take part in a meeting of the bishops and major superiors in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
- B. Mississippi — Fr. Cassidy will be in Mississippi prior to going to the General Chapter.
- C. 37<sup>th</sup> Street Visitation — Fr. Cassidy reminded the council that the visitation of the 37<sup>th</sup> Street Community needs to be done by July 1.
- D. Formation Dates — The dates for the following have been finalized:
  - Entrance to Novitiate: August 14, Sacred Heart Monastery
  - Vow Renewals: August 5, in Chicago
- E. Elder Care — Fr. Brackin reported that the Elder Life Committee was to meet the following week. Fr. Cassidy asked if the elder SCJs would be invited to review the plans for the new structure on the Villa Maria property. Dn. Nagel said that they have been kept informed of the process and when plans are developed they will be invited to review them.
- F. Procedure for Requesting the Ministries of Lector and Acolyte — The council voted to approve the revised procedure for requesting the ministries of lector and acolyte as found in the *Ratio Formationis Provincialias*. It is attached as Addendum A.
- G. Corporate Apostolates — The council decided to establish a committee to discuss how the corporate apostolates of the province (St. Joseph's Indian School, Sacred Heart Southern Missions and Sacred Heart School of Theology) carry on Dehonian spirituality and the mission of the community in light of the fact that at some point there may not be SCJs working in these apostolates. Other religious communities have or are beginning to have such discussions.

Fr. Kurps will chair the committee. Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto will also serve on it. The three will name the rest of the members of the committee. It is hoped that a non-SCJ can serve on it; Mike Tyrell was suggested. The committee is asked to be ready to report on its work by January, 2010.

#### **H. Province Gatherings**

- 1. July Gathering, St. Louis — Fr. Kurps confirmed that the province gathering in July would begin on Monday, July 20, at 3 p.m. and end at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 23. A contract has been signed with the Mercy Center. An invitation to the gathering will be going out soon.

The July gathering will continue the process started at the provincial chapter and continued at the January meeting, focusing on how SCJs are “prophets of love and servants of reconciliation.”

Fr. Cassidy plans to meet with the “young SCJs” prior to the gathering as he did last time.

- 2. April 30th Summit — Br. Presto thanked the council for its participation in the April 30<sup>th</sup> Summit (gathering of SCJs age 60-and-under). He shared the notes of the gathering and the evaluations. They will also be sent to the province membership with a preface note reminding SCJs that the summit was an exercise, not a decision-making gathering. Br. Presto was to share the note with the council before information from the summit is sent to the full membership.

Overall councilors felt that the day was good and the discussions were beneficial. In the planning exercise it was noted that ministry seemed to take priority over community. Many identify more so with their work than the community. Is this something that can be addressed? It seemed hard for participants to really “think outside the box.”

That said, there was good discussion and sharing and it would be good for this group to gather again. It was noted that those who are younger don't have a shared history in the same way as men 70 and older might. Many of the elder SCJs had the shared experience of the minor seminary, similar formation and early ministerial assignments.

#### **I. Sacred Heart Southern Missions**

- 1. SHSM Board — The council voted to endorse the nomination of Barbara Caldwell to the Sacred Heart Southern Missions board of directors. She will serve a three-year term beginning with the next board meeting in October, 2009.
- 2. Mission Statement — The council voted to endorse the new SHSM mission statement which was developed after the

merge of the Sacred Heart League with Sacred Heart Southern Missions. The statement reads:

"Sacred Heart Southern Missions, A Catholic ministry in northern Mississippi sponsored by the Priests of the Sacred Heart: Our Mission — to be a witness to the all inclusive love of God revealed in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be a voice of compassion for people in need, to be steadfast in our work for social justice."

J. International Vocation Program (IVP) — The IVP study group will meet on July 14. Fr. Nguyen is chairperson.

V. Personnel

- A. Fr. Charles Wonch — Fr. Wonch will be assigned to Sacred Heart Monastery and will be doing some work for Sacred Heart School of Theology. Fr. Cassidy would like him to fill the role of "province fireman," filling in for brief assignments as needed. Fr. Wonch will be taking a two-week vacation in Slovenia before summer.
- B. Fr. Charles Bisgrove — Fr. Bisgrove will be a member of Sacred Heart Monastery and assigned at SHST as of July 1, 2009. It is expected that he will be a spiritual director and assist with the liturgical life of the seminary.
- C. Fr. Byron Haaland — Fr. Haaland will become a member of the 37<sup>th</sup> Street community, will serve as a spiritual director at SHST and be available for retreat ministry.
- D. Br. Long Nguyen — Br. Nguyen will be assigned to Mississippi.

VI. South Dakota — The SCJ community in South Dakota requested time to talk with the council about its current situation as well as plans for the future. Fr. Joseph Dean, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, Fr. Bill Pitcavage and Fr. Bernie Rosinski from South Dakota joined the council. Fr. Gary Lantz was unable to attend the meeting but gave his input to Fr. Pitcavage to share.

Fr. Cassidy began the meeting by welcoming the South Dakota SCJs who had come to Hales Corners at the council's invitation. He then noted that since the South Dakota SCJs requested the meeting that they begin the discussion. Paraphrased comments from the discussion are as follows:

- There is a sense of vagueness about both the short and long-term presence of the SCJs in South Dakota. For both the SCJs in South Dakota, and the bishops of Rapid City and Sioux Falls, it would be beneficial to have a better sense of the province's commitment and priorities in South Dakota.
  - A response to this statement was that it has been difficult to make firm plans for any of the province's ministries in light of diminishing numbers and the province planning process. Now that there is a commitment from the Indonesian Province to assist in South Dakota it is easier to make plans, at least in the short term. However, even with help, the personnel situation is precarious and dependent on each member of the community being able to minister in the capacity that he is currently able.
- When the province left the Cheyenne River Reservation it was hoped that SCJs could build the community in Lower Brule and Chamberlain. The plan was for four SCJs in Lower Brule and three to four in Chamberlain. As the numbers go down in the province that scenario looks too optimistic.
- There has been talk of pulling out of the parishes in South Dakota and just maintaining the SCJ presence in Chamberlain. However, some feel that if the SCJs are not in reservation parishes they will have no credibility at St. Joseph's Indian School. The school and community would also lose the ability to enculturate people (including SCJs) in Native American concerns, lifestyles and traditions.
- South Dakota is a location with a variety of ministries that can be appropriate for brothers, seminarians, candidates and priests. Brothers in particular have a lot of opportunity for ministry that might not be available to them in other locations. There are a lot of possibilities for creativity.
- Some SCJs simply have to give South Dakota a try. Many of the SCJs who have come to love ministry there did not feel enthused about it when they first went. The two most recent transplants — Frs. Dean and Rosinski — are surprised at how much they enjoy the ministry there. Both indicated a willingness to remain in South Dakota for a significant period of time, assuming that their health allows for it.

- Fr. Dean noted that he came with the intention of committing to three years of ministry. Now that he is there he thinks that a longer commitment of six years would give him more credibility in the community.
- If the SCJs are going to continue to serve in South Dakota they need to do so in community. There may need to be some creative ways to ensure that community life happens but ministry without a base in community is not a do-able situation. If there can't be community, there can't be ministry.
- The SCJs in South Dakota were very impressed by Fr. Hendrik of the Indonesian Province. He visited during his Easter break. He seems like he will be an excellent addition to the SCJ community in South Dakota. One concern is his visa — all international SCJs working in the United States are dependent on the visa process. Fr. Cassidy has spoken to an official in Rome about religious worker visas and both Bishops Cupich and Swain have offered assistance in the visa process.
- There has been talk of developing a vision statement for South Dakota but more pieces need to be in place before such a statement makes sense. If there isn't a good sense of continuity in the future, a vision statement has no point. Also, all local planning has to be done in light of plans for the wider province.
- It is often said that SCJs do not want to come to South Dakota. Why? Reasons suggested:
  - Fear of isolation
  - Fear of limited social life (SCJs need to drive a distance to go to the movies, do major shopping, go to a restaurant, etc.)
  - Fear of the lack of peers (both SCJs and non-SCJ friendships)
  - Fear of the environment; South Dakota has a reputation for harsh winters and hot summers.
  - Fear that once there a person is “stuck.” Some SCJs who have gone to South Dakota stay there for years; an assignment with a limited commitment would be easier for many to accept. However, it was also noted that many people who come to South Dakota soon fall in love with it and want to stay. Not all, but many.
- What is needed for adequate community living and ministry in South Dakota? The response: at least three SCJs, though four would be better. The SCJs do not necessarily need to live in Lower Brule.
- There are opportunities for older SCJs to live and minister in South Dakota on a part-time basis.
- An SCJ in a summer master's degree program could work as chaplain at St. Joseph's during the fall and spring semesters.
- An SCJ has to be community-minded to live and work in South Dakota. Community has to come first and there has to be a sense of “OUR” ministry not “MY” ministry.
- There needs to be discussion about what St. Joseph's might look like if there isn't an SCJ presence. The preference is to keep the SCJ presence there but a variety of scenarios need to be explored.
- It has been difficult to keep the SCJ vision alive at the Sacred Heart Center in Eagle Butte without an SCJ presence. However, the work there is significant; it is an important ministry. More needs to be done on addressing how it can work better. Perhaps it will be a good “experiment” for the province as it looks at how to maintain the SCJ vision in its corporate entities.
- Ministry to Native Americans is what the U.S. Province is known and admired for in the rest of the congregation. It is a part of the identity of the province, and thus a part of the identity of the international congregation.
- Wherever the SCJs are in the United States — South Dakota or elsewhere — we need to develop a vision soon and commit to it. How can we model a commitment if we, as a province, are not committed to community life and ministry? Commitment to both will significantly attract vocations. A lack of commitment will be noticed by those who make inquiries about the SCJs. However, there is also the reality that the province can only commit to what its resources allow it to commit to. If the province doesn't have people able to do the ministries it is committed to, the commitments are impossible.
- Fulfilling the founder's vision to work with the poor has never been easy.

- While the province does its planning, it needs to be cognizant that the dioceses are also looking at long-range plans. There has been discussion of having one pastor serve St. James in Chamberlain along with another parish in Kimball. That would significantly impact whoever is pastor of St. James.
- One SCJ in South Dakota suggests that in the future there will be fewer students at St. Joseph's Indian School because he sees better family bonding on the reservations. Families may be hesitant to allow their children to leave home for school. Others acknowledged that this is a possibility but that there are still waiting lists to get into certain grades at the school.
- How can South Dakota be better integrated into the formation process? Instead of simply *asking* students to spend part of their summer in an SCJ ministry, it should be expected. Councilors noted that if a local community invites a person in formation to spend time with the community generally a student will show interest. However, the local community needs to make a commitment to host the student well. He will most likely be there without any peers. SCJs need to make an effort to be a part of the student's life when he is with the local community. The student's ministry is secondary to his exposure to the community and the culture in which it serves. All communities, not just South Dakota, need to be more inviting to those in formation.
- Could all of the students in formation go to a particular location each summer, allowing them to learn about an area and have peer support? For example, all could go to South Dakota one year, then Mississippi the next, etc.
- Many of the issues raised are not unique to South Dakota. As a province SCJs have to "buy into" working together, as a community, on the future presence of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in the United States. All SCJs have a favorite place or ministry but individuals have to be willing to put everything on the table to make the province's future better. Turf protection won't help the province move forward.
- Looking ahead at the next three years seems like a reasonable period of time. Acknowledging that South Dakota cannot be in isolation from the rest of the province planning process it would be helpful for its members to have some type of vision in the near future. What can it do with six SCJs; how would community life and ministry look with six men in South Dakota?
- The council encourages the local community to continue to discuss how it can best live and work together and to look at ways to invite others in the province to be a part of its ministry. South Dakota SCJs should invite — as they have — men in formation to join them for periods of time. They should also invite SCJs for short-term work, such as having a retired SCJ come to assist for a period of time with sacramental ministry.
- If the SCJs leave the East River ministries, would there be financial assistance to the diocese? It is thought that there would be, but not as significant as the assistance given for the Cheyenne River Reservation because the SCJs history with the area is not as long.

The council thanked the South Dakota SCJs for their input. One councilor noted that the concerns of South Dakota are not just "South Dakota's problem" or the "council's problem." These are concerns of the province that need to be addressed together.

## VII. Future Meetings

- A. September — The September council meeting has been changed from September 14-15 to September 15-16.
- B. Conference Call — The conference call to review these minutes will be on Monday, May 11 at 10 a.m.

## ADDENDUM A

Procedure for requesting the ministries of Lector and Acolyte as found in the *Ratio Formationis Provincialis*

### B. Lector and Acolyte

1. A professed SCJ can be called to the ministries of Lector and Acolyte. The provincial superior with a deliberate vote of his council makes this call in the name of the Priests of the Sacred Heart and the Church.
2. Although the ministries must be received by the SCJ religious who is a candidate for ordained ministry, they are not steps toward ordination and are open to all SCJs.
3. Procedure for requesting the ministries of Lector and Acolyte

- (a) SCJ Brothers in Initial Formation: The SCJ religious who is a brother may choose to request to be instituted to the ministry of Lector or Acolyte after his perpetual profession of vows. The request is made to the provincial superior. Ordinarily, the ministries are separated and spaced six months apart.

SCJ Clerics in Initial Formation: During the second year of theological studies, the SCJ religious who is a candidate for ordained ministry may request the ministry of Lector or Acolyte from the provincial superior through the local formation director. The religious SCJ who is seeking to be ordained must receive the ministries of Lector and Acolyte prior to his ordination to sacred orders. Ordinarily, the ministries are separated and spaced six months apart.

- (b) At least two months prior to the anticipated date of institution into the first ministry, the individual should send the following to the provincial superior through the local formation director:
    1. A formal handwritten letter of application expressing an understanding of the ministry and his intent to accept it freely together with all its privileges, obligations and responsibilities.
    2. A more personal statement to provincial superior and the members of his Council expressing the applicant's reasons for requesting the ministry at this time. This statement should be discussed with the local formation director prior to its transmission.
- c. The local formation director presents the request for the ministry to the local community along with his own recommendation.
- d. Following community consultation, the local house council votes to approve the request for the ministry.
- e. It is the local formation director who forwards the request letter, the most recent formation review results, the outcome of the local community consultation, and the local house council vote to the provincial superior.
- f. When the provincial superior has received all of the above, he will decide the matter with deliberative vote of his council.

### 4. Following approval:

- (a) The provincial superior is the ordinary minister of the ministries of Lector and Acolyte (though he can delegate an extraordinary minister). The celebration of the rite ordinarily takes place in the SCJ community where the applicant resides.

## CALENDAR

2009	
May 17 - June 12	General Chapter (Rome)
July 20-23	Province Gathering
July 23-24	Provincial Council meeting
August 5	Vow Renewals
August 14	Entrance to Novitiate
August 15	Jubilee Celebrations
September 15-16	Provincial Council meeting
October 8-9	North American meeting in Montréal
October 26-27	Provincial Council meeting
December 14-15	Provincial Council meeting

## UPDATES

FR. RICHARD JOHNSTON has a new home phone:  
281-856-2234

FR. MARK FORTNER'S correct phone number is:  
920-421-0040

FR. JOSEPH GOLE, an honorary SCJ who is a member of the Villa Maria community, now has residence at the Congregational Home. His contact information:

The Congregational Home  
Room 1275  
3150 Lilly Road  
Brookfield, WI 53005-7623  
Private phone: (262) 373-0791

FR. CHARLIE BISGROVE has a new e-mail address:  
[charlesbisgrove@rocketmail.com](mailto:charlesbisgrove@rocketmail.com)

## NECROLOGY

FR. HOWARD MELZER, a member of the U.S. Province who died April 11; he was 78. A Chicago native, Fr. Howard professed his first vows in 1950. He was ordained to the priesthood at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee in 1958.

FR. ANTOINE BANTZ, a member of the Franco-European Province, who died May 1. He was born in 1922, professed in 1943 and ordained in 1948.

