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## Minutes of the 796 Provincial Council Meeting December 14-15, 2009, 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. Jan de Jong joined the council for discussion of the ESL (English as a Second Language) program at SHST.

I. Minutes — The council acknowledged that they had voted to approve the minutes of the 795th council meeting during a prior conference call.

II. Personal Sharing — Councilors took a few minutes to update each other on themselves and their ministries. Among the items noted: 1) Fr. Cassidy will have completed the province visitations by the end of the year with the exception of seeing Br. Bernard Taube, which he plans to do at the beginning of 2010; 2) Fr. Vien Nguyen noted that the formation team is discussing the possibility of making a human sexuality class at Catholic Theological Union a requirement for first or second year theology students; 3) Fr. Brackin reminded councilors that the Villa Maria community has been in transition — Fr. Don Barnd moved to the Congregational Home and Fr. Jim Schifano will soon be moving into the house; 4) Fr. Sheehy has been busy at St. Martin of Tours with Advent and Christmas activities; 5) Fr. Kurps said that Thanksgiving went well at the Nesbit community house; 6) Dn. Nagel reported that he completed radiation treatments six weeks ago and he is feeling good, he is also busy with the SHML construction project; and 7) Br. Presto noted that he will be contacting SCJs at the beginning of the year in regards to Praesidium accreditation.

III. Visitations

A. St. Louis — Visits with both Frs. Jim Schroeder and Jerry Clifford went well; the two get together regularly every few weeks for dinner and to visit.

B. Pinellas Park — Br. Ben Humpfer and Fr. Greg Speck are settling in well in the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park. Members of the community appreciate their presence. Fr. Steve Pujdak is doing well with the finances. The food service has worked out well.

C. Houston — Fr. Cassidy took part in the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at OLG in Houston. He said that it is a very busy weekend with a lot of work for Frs. Rick DiLeo and Ed Kilianski. However, it is also a very moving and inspirational time to be at the parish. The feast is one of the most significant celebrations in the Hispanic Catholic community.

While in Houston, Fr. Cassidy met with Fr. Dominic Peluse, who was in the area recovering from back surgery. Fr. Peluse was doing very well and looked forward to returning to Wisconsin. He will continue to need therapy but is responding well to it.

IV. Finances

A. Financial Audit — Schenck Business Solutions completed the financial audit for the province for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2009. Expenses for most province

items were similar to the previous year with the exception of departures from the congregation. The Province Ministry fund is at \$9.05 million whereas last year it was at \$8.69 million. Grants to the province from the Province Development Office have risen from \$6.3 million to \$6.97 million. St. Joseph's Indian School contributes \$1 million and Sacred Heart Southern Missions gives \$750,000.

Province investments were down 27.3% for 2008 but had a positive return of 12% in the first six months of 2009.

Other items that Dn. Nagel shared with the council in regards to the audit:

- Schenck did not identify any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in the organization.
- Schenck suggested the need for greater oversight of funded masses, such as those that are to be celebrated when someone dies. There needs to be greater assurance that when money is given for such masses that the obligation is fulfilled. This is being addressed.
- Dn. Nagel discussed how the value of an asset (such as a fund) is determined.
- Because of investment losses, the pension fund is underfunded; however, it is building back to appropriate levels.
- After some frustrations with the new auditing firm last year, Dn. Nagel was pleased with Schenck's work this year.

The council voted on two items. First, during the presentation of the audit there was discussion of temporarily and permanently restricted burses. Dn. Nagel discussed the various burses with the council and suggested that all permanently restricted burse donations be combined into one account.

The council voted to approve the following proposal: Be it resolved that all temporarily and permanently restricted burse donations will be combined into one permanently restricted account. Further, a second account for interest and present excess over the restricted amounts will be established as a Province Education Fund or as an Unrestricted Burse Fund.

Second, the council voted to approve the province audit as presented by Schenck Business Solutions.

- B. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Dn. Nagel reported that the City of Franklin Planning Commission met on November 5 and approved the request to establish a planning district. The Common Council discussed and approved the project on November 17. Permits are now in the process of being issued, as well as easements. A letter of credit is also in process. The province has \$10.5 million on hand for the project. Financing options are being investigated to cover some of the costs.

Mark Carstensen Construction was awarded the building contract. Seven companies were interviewed by a committee that included Br. Presto and Dn. Nagel.

- C. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel informed the council that he has been asked to serve on the General Finance Commission and that he has agreed to the request.
- D. Employee Medical Plan — As of January 1, 2010, all province corporations will be on the same medical insurance plan. It will be administered by the Provincial Treasurer's Office but managed by each location.

## V. Administration

- A. ESL Program — Fr. Jan de Jong, president-rector of Sacred Heart School of Theology, joined the council to talk about the ESL program. Fr. de Jong noted the positive impact that ESL has had in the congregation. It is well regarded and well utilized.

The program is in a time of transition; it is a good time for evaluation and planning. The director's position is open, and previous members of the support staff are no longer with the program. Fr. de Jong noted some of the issues to be addressed: namely, how does the ESL program best fit in the structure of Sacred Heart School of Theology and the Sacred Heart Monastery Community? ESL is an academic program of SHST but it is also a program owned and operated by the province. How do students fit into SHST and SHM socially and structurally?

Fr. de Jong plans to establish an ad hoc advisory committee to review the ESL program and give input on its future structure. The committee will include Fr. Javier Bustos (instructor of Moral Theology and an alumnus of the ESL

program), Fr. Jim Walters (director of Hispanic Studies at SHST), a former student such as Fr. Christianus Hendrik or Fr. Sunardi and Theresa Illingworth, the SHST secretary responsible for SEVIS (the US. government's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) documents.

Fr. de Jong envisions the program being led by an ESL manager who will coordinate recruitment, government documentation, and interaction with the sponsoring communities and dioceses. The SCJ component would then be overseen by the superior of Sacred Heart Monastery, or his delegate.

The council wondered if this was asking a lot of the local superior. The needs of SCJs in the program include health care emergencies and transportation issues. Any SCJ assuming the role of SHM superior would need to be aware of these added tasks. Also, there was discussion of the role of the ESL manager. For recruitment efforts, especially with non-SCJ entities, there will be an expectation of a priest-contact. A priest does not need to manage the program, but one will need to be a part of it to give it credibility with sponsors.

Fr. de Jong and the council noted the differences between the summer program and the one that runs during the fall and winter semesters. The summer program is much larger. Perhaps an SCJ could take charge of it during the summer and during the academic year SCJ students could fall under the direction of the SHM superior.

Fr. de Jong will report back to the council with recommendations from the ad hoc committee.

- B. January Gathering — Fr. Kurps reported that 32 people have indicated that they are coming to the gathering. Eight said that they are not able to attend. He expects more responses in the next few days and anticipates that there will be a total of about 50 SCJs in attendance.

There will not be open space time in the evenings. Instead, group activities will be offered, such as a movie or social outing.

- C. Administration, Sacred Heart Monastery — The council voted to appoint Fr. Chuck Wonch as superior of Sacred Heart Monastery, Fr. Charles Bisgrove as first councilor and Fr. Walters as second councilor and treasurer.

Related to discussion of the SHM administration, councilors asked who is now responsible for Sunday liturgy at SHM/SHST. This used to be the responsibility of the monastery community but it was thought that it now was a seminary responsibility.

- D. December 2 Vocation Brainstorming Session — Fr. Sheehy briefly spoke about the meeting, noting that it was a good mix of participants, there was a nice sharing of ideas, and there was a positive spirit. Notes from the meeting have been sent to the province. The council endorsed the idea that this type of meeting, or that of a province vocation committee, continue and that it eventually be chaired by the director of vocations.
- E. International Vocation Program — Councilors briefly discussed IVP. It has been suggested that if the program continues that IVP students only study at Sacred Heart School of Theology during the summer when there is a larger ESL program. During the academic year they would be a part of the Chicago formation community. If this is to be considered, the formation team will need to discuss the impact of the change and give a recommendation to the Provincial Council. The council could then consider changing current policy.

Councilors reviewed challenges of the program. A significant concern is the ability to do adequate background research on a person from another country. This is not only an important assessment tool in considering if a man would be appropriate for the program, but it is also a Praesidium requirement. In the future, it would be important to develop a strong relationship with the bishops of dioceses from which potential IVP students would come. A bishop, and an applicant's pastor, could give vital input on the applicant's suitability for the program and potential candidacy with the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

For now, recruitment for IVP will be put on hold. Fr. Vien Nguyen will research possibilities for better background checks and report back to the council at the May meeting.

- F. Future rector-president of Sacred Heart School of Theology — A committee has been established to review the selection process and possibilities for the future in regards to the role of SHST president rector. Committee mem-

bers include Fr. Brackin (chair), Dn. David Nagel, Br. Frank Presto, Dr. Mary Meehan (SHST board chairperson and president of Alverno College), Fr. Peter Schuessler (SHST staff), and Sally Smits (SHST vice president of finance). Marge Lirette will serve as secretary to the committee.

The committee will meet five times between now and May. A report of its work will be made at the June council meeting.

- G. “Out of the Box” — Frs. Guy Blair and Byron Haaland held a brainstorming session to discuss new possibilities in ministry for the province. Invited to the meeting were a variety of people — ordained and lay — who are involved in pastoral and social ministry. The council reviewed the notes from the discussion and thanked Frs. Blair and Haaland for their work.
- H. Mission Education Conference — The council voted to approve the proposed dates of October 1-2, 2012 for the next Mission Education Conference. It will be hosted by St. Joseph’s Indian School. The council also reviewed a letter sent to Fr. Cassidy from Br. Duane Lemke. Br. Lemke shared the work of the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery who make similar efforts in institutionalizing their charism and values. The council thanked Br. Lemke for the information.
- I. Congregational Plan — The six-year plan for the congregation had been released by the Generalate shortly before the December council meeting. Fr. Cassidy suggested that time be set aside at the next council meeting to discuss it.

#### VI. Personnel

- A. Fr. Byron Haaland — Fr. Haaland will be filling in for an ailing staff member during the spring semester at Sacred Heart School of Theology.
- B. Fr. Pat Lloyd — The council voted to present Fr. Pat Lloyd to the bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay as pastor of the four-parish community of St Anthony, Tigerton, St Mary, Marion, St. Mary, Leopold and Holy Family-St. William, Wittenberg.
- C. Fr. Zbigniew Kazimierz — Fr. Cassidy informed the council that he has asked Fr. Kazimierz to work toward a doctorate in theology with a focus on sacramental theology. It is thought that he could later teach at Sacred Heart School of Theology. He taught previously in Poland. His paperwork for a visa is still in process. The province is waiting for information from the Polish Province to complete the next stage in the process.
- D. Br. Long Nguyen — Councilors discussed Br. Nguyen’s request to begin a final vow program. He has approached Br. Presto to serve as his mentor and Br. Presto said that Br. Nguyen is proposing an intense program. Fr. Sheehy said that Br. Nguyen has been very beneficial to St. Martin of Tours parish and it was also noted that he has been an asset to the ESL program. The council voted to approve Br. Nguyen’s entrance into a final vow program.
- E. Br. Ray Kozuch — Br. Kozuch will be on a sabbatical through the summer of 2010; part of his sabbatical will include a trip to Poland.
- F. Fr. Christianus Hendrik — He is spending Christmas in South Dakota. After, he will continue to study with the ESL program while work continues on his visa.

VII. Conference Call — The council will meet by conference call on Monday, December 21, at 8:45 a.m. to review these minutes.

## CALENDAR

2010

January 18-21	Provincial Gathering, Belleville, Ill.
January 30	Frater Duy Nguyen's final profession, Sacred Heart Monastery
February 2-3	Provincial Council meeting
March 10-11	Provincial Council meeting
April 18-19	North American Councils meeting, Montréal
May 10-12	Provincial Council meeting
June 14-18	Election Assembly, Hales Corners, Wis.
July 12-13	Provincial Council meeting
August 14	Entrance to Novitiate, Sacred Heart Monastery
August 15	First Professions, Sacred Heart Monastery
August 16-17	Province Assembly (tentative)

## UPDATES

New personnel directories for the United States and Canada have been distributed. If you need an extra copy, please contact Lisa Brahm at [provadm@poshusa.org](mailto:provadm@poshusa.org).

## NECROLOGY

FR. FRANCISCO ROBL of the North Brazilian Province who died November 4. He was born in 1924, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1955.

FR. EDDY WIJNEN, a member of the Flemish-Dutch Confederation, who died October 28 in Cameroon. He was born in 1930, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1956.

FR. FRANCISISKUS XAVERIUS DHARTA WARDAYA, a member of the Indonesian Province, who died November 14. He was born in 1944, professed in 1967 and ordained in 1976.