

INSIDE

Minutes of the
September 14-15
Provincial Council
meeting, p. 1

Calendar, p. 8

Updates, p. 8

Necrology, p. 9

Minutes of the 804 Provincial Council Meeting September 14-15, 2010, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes. Fr. Jan de Jong, Dr. Mary Meehan, Fr. David Szatkowski, Br. Ray Kozuch and Keith Burdick were present for sections of the meeting for which they had concern.

I. Minutes — Councilors acknowledged that they had voted to approve the minutes of the July 12-14 council meeting during a prior conference call.

II. Personal Sharing — Participants took a few minutes to update each other on themselves and their ministries. Some items of note:

- Fr. Cassidy noted that the CMSM gathering in August was very good.
- Br. Lemke noted that it is a new academic year at the formation house and for the first time since he has been formation director there are two new candidates in the house. This has been a good experience for him personally and for the community.
- Fr. Kilianski said that the new rectory at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston is almost done; SCJs plan to move in on Wednesday, September 22.
- Fr. Kurps noted the personnel changes at Sacred Heart Southern Missions. Ed Savage is now the director of programs, which seems to be a good match. A new planned giving director is being sought.

III. Administration

A. Council Concerns

1. Vice-provincial — Fr. Bill Pitcavage is not able to serve in public ministry while the South Dakota complaint is being investigated. Because of this, Fr. Pitcavage resigned from the Provincial Council and from his service as vice provincial. It is hoped that Fr. Pitcavage's name can be cleared and that he can return to the council. Because of this, Fr. Pitcavage's position on the council will not be filled at this time. However, a vice-provincial needs to be named.

The council voted that Fr. Ed Kilianski be named vice provincial. Fr. Kilianski was the second councilor to be elected. If Fr. Pitcavage is able to return to the council it is the council's intention that he also be reappointed as vice provincial.

2. Role of Provincial Councilor — The council asked Fr. Szatkowski to review with them the role of a provincial councilor according to Canon Law. Fr. David emphasized that council is primarily a tool of the provincial superior; its members give advice to the superior. Most votes that the council makes are votes of consultation; however, there are instances when a provincial superior must seek a vote of consent

or deliberative vote before taking action. These instances are clearly defined in canon law. When such votes are taken they are also noted as such in the minutes of a council meeting.

A provincial superior generally has the right to act alone. However, when he does seek consultation, the consultation must be genuine.

Provincial councilors have no authority on their own, but the provincial superior can delegate his authority to a councilor, or to another member of the province. In some instances, the superior can delegate his authority to a non-SCJ. However, anything pertaining to orders can only be delegated to another priest.

The Provincial Council is not a representative body in the sense of elected representatives in civic life. However, councilors do represent the province and have the responsibility to share appropriate information with the provincial superior and other councilors to help them in their guidance of the province.

- B. ESL Program — Fr. Szatkowski, now the director of the ESL program at SHST, said that he is in the process of reviewing program policies. He questioned how some aspects of the program are divided between the province and SHST, as well as province financing of the program. He suggests that more policies be established regarding non-SCJ students — when is it appropriate to consider a grant for a non-SCJ? When the province does offer a grant that includes travel, it needs to have more involvement in regards to the student’s travel plans. Also, responsibility for non-SCJ students needs to be better defined. The province or SHST might have to guaranty that a student’s medical expenses are covered so that the international student can get a travel visa. However, that doesn’t mean that the student does not have responsibility to the province or SHST to cover expenses incurred during study.

Fr. Szatkowski said that there is an effort underway to make ESL a more “professional, academic” program. Councilors encouraged him to keep them updated on ESL.

- C. Assembly Follow-up — Councilors received written copies of the reports and statements from the July Provincial Assembly; the statements were from the discussion of the eight topics of focus presented by the council. Each councilor will take two to three of the topics, assemble a small working group and with it review the feedback given at the assembly regarding the topic assigned to the councilor and develop a goal statement and workable strategies for each topic (as assigned) for the next three years. The areas were divided as follows:

Spirituality: Fr. Haaland
Our Life in Common: Fr. Kilianski
Vocations: Br. Lemke
Formation: Br. Lemke
Justice, Peace and Reconciliation: Fr. Kilianski
Ministries: Fr. Kurps
Mission and International Collaboration: Fr. Kurps
Communication: Fr. Haaland
Collaboration: Fr. Kilianski
Provincial Gatherings: Fr. Kurps

Councilors hope to have a one-page draft written for each issue that can be reviewed at the November meeting. It is hoped that the goal statement and strategies for each of the eight areas can be a part of a Three Year Province Program that can be approved at the December meeting.

D. Appointments

1. Mission Secretary — The council voted to approve Dn. David Nagel as mission secretary.
2. Director of Formation and Vocations — The council voted to appoint Br. Duane Lemke as director of Formation and Vocations.
3. Director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — The council voted to appoint Fr. Ed Kilianski as director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation.
4. Director of Spirituality — The council voted to appoint Fr. Byron Haaland as director of Spirituality.

5. Director of Mission Animation — The council voted to appoint Fr. Jack Kurps as director of Mission Animation.

Councilors briefly talked about the title “director.” In the instances noted above, it is hoped that a word other than “director” can be used that can better describe the task. Each of these areas is to be “animated” by a councilor, not necessarily “directed” by him.

Fr. Cassidy will write a letter to the province about this to better explain the council’s intentions.

E. Name Change, Sacred Heart School of Theology — During the May, 2010 Provincial Council meeting, the council received an overview of a three-year plan developed by Sacred Heart School of Theology. Among the topics discussed in the plan was the possibility of changing the name of SHST to include the word “seminary.” From the minutes of the 800th meeting:

Perception — *SHST needs to enhance its image as an academically rigorous institution and also one that is faithful to the Catholic Church. There is a need to better define it as a seminary, not simply a school of theology. It is suggested that “seminary” be included in the school’s name. One possibility: “Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.” The council suggested “Sacred Heart Seminary at Hales Corners.” This would distinguish it from other “Sacred Heart” institutions; many people in the Church are familiar with Hales Corners through the ordo and other materials.*

Since the Provincial Council was near the end of its term, its members felt that it would be better for such a decision (a name change for SHST) to be made by the in-coming council.

On September 15th the newly elected Provincial Council met with Fr. Jan de Jong, president-rector of SHST and Mary Meehan, president of the SHST board of directors. The two reiterated the reasoning for the name change, including a need to appeal to bishops who may be more attracted to a “seminary” over a “school of theology.”

Councilors understood the desire to include “seminary” in the title and suggested the name “Dehon Seminary at Sacred Heart School of Theology” with the intention that the institution would be known more commonly as “Dehon Seminary.” Their reasoning:

1. It more clearly identifies the school with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. There are many Sacred Heart organizations. Placing “Dehon” in the name makes this a unique entity. Although it will require significant time and resources to educate the public on what “Dehon” means, it is also a wonderful opportunity to share who the Priests of the Sacred Heart are with the school’s immediate public (sponsoring dioceses and religious communities) and the wider public.
2. This would be the largest institution in the United States (and in North America) with the founder’s name. It would be a good way to make the SCJs’ presence known.
3. Fr. Dehon made priestly formation a priority. Having his name in the title of a seminary is appropriate. Also, including “seminary” in the title makes sense for the same reason — it is primarily what the school is and as such, it continues the dreams of the founder.
4. With a diminishing SCJ presence at the school (including the possibility that some day the rector might not be an SCJ) having “Dehon” in the title is another way to ensure that the charism of the founder is alive and associated with the school.
5. The SHST board opened the door to reclaim what the school is — a seminary. This is an opportunity to open the door wider and reclaim the seminary as a seminary owned and operated by the Priests of the Sacred Heart continuing the charism of Fr. Dehon.

The council would like to make a decision regarding the name change during its October 7 meeting. Mary Gorski and Fr. Haaland were asked to prepare an email memo to send to the membership to get input on the name change.

F. Province Vocation Office — Br. Ray Kozuch, newly appointed province vocation director, introduced the council to Keith Burdick, the recently hired office manager for the vocation office. Br. Kozuch and Mr. Burdick have already had a meeting with Milwaukee area vocation directors; they said it went well.

G. Praesidium

1. Jesuit Training Program in Response to “Hope and Healing” — Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Michael Burke and Fr. Bob Tucker were trained on September 3 to be facilitators for the Jesuit Training Program that has been developed in response to “Hope and Healing.” This is the program that the province will use to fulfill the training requirements of Praesidium.

Fr. Kurps spoke briefly about the program. It will take about three hours to present the program, which consists of videos and discussion questions. The trained facilitators will divide the province between them and present the program on the local level. A pre-test is also required by Praesidium. It is suggested that this pre-test be done on-line with a service such as Survey Monkey, so that there is a record of who has and has not taken the pre-test. The Jesuits have their pre-test on-line and this works well for them.

It was noted that in some cases a diocese may demand that an SCJ do the diocesan training program in addition to the province program. For the province, the Jesuit program takes precedence. If a diocese requires another program SCJs in that diocese will have to take both.

All SCJs must complete the Jesuit Training Program by March 21. It was noted that the program isn’t just good for men in public ministry; it explores boundary issues, which is helpful for SCJs of any age and ministry assignment.

Fr. Cassidy will send a letter about the program to members of the province explaining that all SCJs in the province will need to take part in it and why. Fr. Kurps will order manuals for all members of the province.

2. Reaccreditation — Br. Presto informed the council that the reaccreditation process will soon begin and will cost the province approximately \$13,000. On-site visits will be done beginning March 21. Every location with a member on a safety plan will be visited; Mississippi will be the sample community visited.

H. Generalate Surveys — The Generalate asked the province to fill out a survey regarding missions and another concerning youth ministry. The province vocation office has been asked to fill out the one regarding vocations. After the council had a brief discussion of youth ministry in the province it was decided that Fr. Cassidy would respond to the youth ministry survey.

I. Interfaith Airport Chapel of Milwaukee — Fr. Cassidy shared a request he received for support — either financial or personnel — for an interfaith chapel at Milwaukee’s Mitchell International Airport. The council asked for more information before considering the request. In particular, will the chapel be in a convenient location for travelers so that it can be well-utilized?

J. Province Conference or Assembly — Provincial Directory No. 125.1 states that at least once between ordinary chapters a provincial conference or assembly will be held. Does one need to be scheduled before the next chapter? Councilors felt that the gatherings and assemblies held since the last chapter and expected before the next could easily fulfill the directory mandate. A future gathering will be identified as a province conference or assembly to ensure that the requirement is fulfilled.

IV. Finance

A. SCJ Medical Plan

1. Renewal — The SCJ medical plan is up for renewal in October, 2010. The medical plan is self-insured with a stop-loss limit of \$50,000 per individual and \$1,000,000 for overall claims. Dn. Nagel recommends staying with the current plan including the stop loss coverage. The council voted to approve the renewal.
2. Transfer of Funds — Medical expenses have gone up as the province membership ages. The Province Ministry Fund paid \$771,000 to cover a shortfall in the medical fund. Dn. Nagel recommends taking \$500,000 from the Support and Maintenance Trust to make up the majority of the shortfall. Councilors noted that the monthly medical contribution for SCJs needs to be increased. The Finance Commission will discuss this and make a recommendation before the Province Treasurer’s Office sends out budget letters at the beginning of next year.

The council voted to approve moving \$500,000 from the Support and Maintenance Trust to the Province Ministry Fund.

B. Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel informed the council that vacancies need to be filled on the Finance Commission. Councilors suggested several names, Dn. Nagel will suggest a slate of names at the next council meeting.

- C. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — The roof is on, brickwork is being done and the plumbing and electrical is moving along well at SHML. Porches are taking shape and windows are going in. The retention pond has been completed. The developer has a November 24 completion date set but Dn. Nagel believes that it probably won't be done until December or January.
- D. Milwaukee Area Housing — Dn. Nagel reported on initial discussions of an ad hoc committee on SCJ housing in the Milwaukee area. Besides Dn. Nagel, Frs. Jim Brackin, Byron Haaland, Br. Frank Presto and Yvon Sheehy are on the committee. The committee suggested that a new use, and most likely a new owner, be found for the 37th Street property. Perhaps a charitable group like the Benedict Center could use it. Dn. Nagel prefers that the property be sold. However, if the province decides to donate the property it should do so in full, meaning that the province would have no responsibilities for the property after it is given up. It is costly to be a property owner to an older building.

Councilors said that it would be good to have a plan in place for 37th Street before the community moves out so that it is not vacant. Dn. Nagel will continue to work with the ad hoc committee to develop possibilities for 37th Street.

It was suggested that the province hold on to the Woods Road property, at least initially.

- E. Raymondville Property — The Troppy family of Willacy Country has written to the Priests of the Sacred Heart regarding the province's property there. The family, under the partnership name of JOTRO LTD, owns the land that surrounds the SCJs' property. The partnership would like to purchase the SCJs' property. The family is open to having SCJs remain on the property under its ownership.

Fr. Cassidy will be meeting with the Raymondville community in two weeks and will discuss the offer with them then.

The council is open to investigating a possible sale of the property.

F. POSH Lay Employees' Retirement Trust

- 1. Management of assets — The assets of this trust are divided between the Principal Group (assets for those already retired) and the province investment plan for those who are not retired. Dn. Nagel gave an overview of province investments and then suggested that the council consider having the trust assets managed by the province given to Principal to invest. Principal would be better able to anticipate the needs of the trust as people get close to retirement age.

The council requested a more thorough presentation on this at its November meeting.

- 2. Trustees — The council voted to approve the renewal of Br. Duane Lemke's three-year term on the Employee Retirement Trust. His current term ends in December, 2010. The council also voted to approve the renewal of Br. Frank Presto's three-year term on the Employee Retirement Trust. His current term also ends in December, 2010.

V. Personnel

- A. Fr. Charles Bisgrove — Fr. Bisgrove is the acting administrator of Sacred Heart Monastery while Fr. Charles Wonch undergoes medical treatment.
- B. Fr. Guy Blair — Fr. Blair completed his assignment in Green Bay and will soon visit South Dakota, where he will begin ministry next year at St. James in Chamberlain. During his visit he will meet with Bishop Swain. Fr. Blair will take time for a sabbatical prior to his assignment in Chamberlain. It is anticipated that Fr. Blair will be presented to Bishop Swain for confirmation as pastor of St. James as of July 1.
- C. Br. Clay Diaz — Br. Diaz will complete his assignment in South Dakota in December. He will then return to Chicago to begin his master's studies.
- D. Fr. Stephen Huffstetter — His health continues to improve and his recent check-up at Mayo was good.
- E. Br. Gabriel Kersting — Although his condition was considered to be quite grave, he is now doing much better in Pinellas Park. He continues to have problems with short-term memory.
- F. Fr. Mark Mastin — He is covering ministry at St. James Parish in Chamberlain.
- G. Br. John Monek and Br. Andy Lewandowski — They have both adjusted well to their move from Baileys Harbor. Fr. Jim

Brackin has asked them to decide if they are going to move to the new development or remain at Woods Road. If they remain at Woods Road they will be asked to be more a part of the Woods Road community. They will be welcome to fraternize with the SCJs at the new community but Fr. Brackin prefers that they make a choice: that they fully belong to one or the other (Woods or SHML), not just half time at each.

- H. Frater Duy Nguyen — He is back from his Spanish studies in Argentina and preparing for his October ordination to the diaconate.
- I. Frater Greg Schill — Fr. Schill is also back from his Spanish studies, as well as a trip to Chile. He is preparing for final vows in October.

The council voted to approve the Frater Schill's request for diaconate ordination. It will take place on November 20 at Sacred Heart School of Theology.

- J. Br. Frank Presto — Br. Presto is going to have surgery at the Mayo Clinic in late winter or early spring to re-set his eye.
- K. Fr. Tony Russo — Fr. Russo has had a number of health issues and finds that he may need to cut back on some of his activities.
- L. Fr. Vincent Suparman — Fr. Suparman is at Sacred Heart Monastery in the ESL program while working toward getting his R1 visa. When that is in place he will go to South Dakota to take Fr. Hendrik's place so that Fr. Hendrik can take a vacation in Indonesia. Fr. Bernie Rosinski will prepare Fr. Suparman for ministry in South Dakota and when Fr. Hendrik returns Fr. Rosinski will most likely retire.
- M. Br. Bernard Taube — Fr. Cassidy recently met with Br. Taube and asked if he would be interested in an apartment at SHML. Br. Taube would like to remain in Madison. It was agreed that he can stay in Madison but that he needs to have more contact with the community. Br. Taube will call Fr. Jim Brackin weekly and he will visit Fr. Brackin monthly.
- N. Fr. Tom Westhoven — Fr. Westhoven would like to retire in January. He will be 70.
- O. Fr. Chuck Wonch — He is at the Congregational Home for health assessment.
- P. Bishop Joseph Potocnak — Bishop Potocnak is returning to the United States from South Africa in fall. He will spend some time with family and then go to Pinellas Park. The bishop may pick up some of the pastoral duties that Fr. Charles Yost has been attending to. It was noted that his province status needs to be confirmed with the Generalate — is he a member of the U.S. Province or South African?

- VI. Visioning — Councilors will periodically take time at their meetings for "visioning;" talking about the province in general terms instead of simply administrative needs.

The focus of the September discussion moved toward community life, especially on the local level. Some have suggested that there is not the same "joy" in SCJ community as there may have been years ago. Individually and as a community SCJs need to work on their physical, spiritual and community health. Better communication is needed between individuals and among local communities. SCJs need to learn how to share their lives with one another and how to be more accountable to each other as members of the same religious community, and sometimes, simply as members of the same household.

The membership needs to better understand the difference between a right to privacy and a desire for secrecy. Privacy in some areas needs to be respected but this is much different than secrecy.

The skills learned during the province conversations were helpful but not everyone in the province took part in the conversations. Could a renewal program be the basis for strengthening local communities? It could be a way of bringing communities together for sharing and discussion.

One councilor said that change needs to start on the individual level; people need to learn to communicate one to one and from that expand to larger and larger groups. SCJs have become disengaged, they need to learn how to become re-engaged.

Another councilor suggested that strengthening the role of the local coordinator/superior is the key to enhancing local communi-

ties. Fr. Cassidy has asked Fr. Pitcavage to look into the possibility of organizing a local superiors meeting.

It was suggested that a coordinators meeting be planned in March, or perhaps late February. Before the meeting takes place local communities could be asked to have conversations about community living and leadership. What are the needs that local communities see for themselves? How do they believe their religious life can be enhanced? What do they think is lacking? What is the local understanding of the coordinator/superior? Should the superior meet individually with members of the community on a regular basis?

Local communities need to ask themselves and decide for themselves, “how will we live together as a community?” Accountability is a two-way street. Members of the community need to be accountable to each other and the superior and the superior needs to be accountable to the community.

Others suggested that perhaps it would be better to have a province gathering to discuss these issues and to have that gathering in March before a coordinators/superiors meeting takes place.

The council will continue this discussion at its October 7 meeting.

VII. Scheduling

A. Future meeting dates — The council set the following meeting dates:

- January 11-12
- February 17-18 (finishing at noon on February 18)
- March 29-30

The rest of 2011 will be confirmed at the October 7 meeting.

B. Absence — Br. Presto informed the council that he will not be at the October or November council meetings

C. Conference Call — The conference call to approve these minutes will be on September 23 at 11 a.m.

CALENDAR

2010

October 2 Final Vows (Br. Long Nguyen and Frater Greg Schill)
October 6 Provincial Council meeting (Montréal)
October 7-8 North American councils meeting (Montréal)
October 10 Frater Duy Nguyen's diaconate ordination (Southaven, Miss.)
November 3-4 Provincial Council meeting
December 14-15 Provincial Council meeting

2011

January 11-12 Provincial Council meeting
February 17-18 Provincial Council meeting
March 29-30 Provincial Council meeting

UPDATES

FR. STEVE WIESE

Congregational Home
3150 Lilly Rd., Apt. 2206
Brookfield, WI 53005-7623
Phone: 262-373-1288.

FR. JOE DEAN

New email: frjdeanscj@parishmail.com

BR. BERNARD TAUBE

Please note that there was a typo in Br. Bernard's phone number as listed in the printed and online directories.
His correct number is: 608-245-0437

FR. PETER BOTMAN

New e-mail: botmanscj@yahoo.ca

FR. RICHARD JOHNSTON

New e-mail: rv12rjrj@att.net

FR. FRANK WITTOUCK

7303 Skylight Lane
Houston, TX 77095-1305
Mobile: 956-966-0551

BR. LUC COURSOL (Canadian Region)

New email: lcoursol@scjcanada.org

FR. MARK MASTIN

400 S. Main St.
Chamberlain, SD 57325

BR. LONG NGUYEN

Mobile: 414-943-6362

FR. TONY RUSSO has a new email address:

thedonscj@gmail.com

BR. RAY KOZUCH has a new email address for vocation business
brrayscj@wi.rr.com

FR. VIEN NGUYEN has a new email address:
vienguyenscj@gmail.com

NECROLOGY

FR. PAUL VERNOOY, a member of the Canadian Region, died July 30 in Toronto. He was professed in 1959 and ordained in 1966. Fr. Paul was 70 when he died.

FR. JOSÉ LEOPOLDO RAMOS, a member of the North Brazilian Province, died August 3. He was born in 1923, professed in 1942 and ordained in 1948.

FR. LEONARD VAN MARREWIJK, a member of the Chilean Province, died August 3 in The Netherlands. He was born in 1923, professed in 1952 and ordained in 1957.