

## INSIDE

Minutes of the  
October 7 Provincial  
Council meeting, p. 1

Minutes of the  
October 8 meeting of  
the Administrations  
of Canada and the  
United States, p. 5

Calendar, p. 9

Updates, p. 9

## Minutes of the 805<sup>th</sup> Provincial Council Meeting October 7, 2010, Montréal, Quebec

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Fr. Bill Pitcavage, guest of the council; and Mary Gorski, minutes.

I. Minutes — Councilors acknowledged that they had voted to approve the minutes of the 804th 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 said that he shared with Frs. José Ornelas Carvalho and John van den Hengel the Time Magazine article in which Fr. Bob Bossie is quoted. The article was in regards to women's ordination. Fr. Cassidy said that he also contacted Cardinal George's office to emphasize that the comments in the article were made by an individual, not the Priests of the Sacred Heart and that neither the community nor Fr. Bossie advocates anything other than the church's official teachings on ordination.
- Br. Lemke noted the frustration of Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas' visa concerns.
- Fr. Kilianski said that the SCJs are moved into the new rectory at Our Lady of Guadalupe and that it is good to be in a house. As he informed councilors prior to the meeting, Fr. Kilianski was recently diagnosed with chronic pancreatitis, which will require significant treatment in the months ahead.

III. Administration

A. Provincial updates — Fr. Cassidy updated the council on the following:

1. San Antonio — Fr. Cassidy visited with Br. Frank Snider and Fr. Nick Brown in San Antonio. Both are doing well. Fr. Brown is 68 and would like to work until he is 70. Br. Snider continues to teach.
2. Raymondville — Fr. Cassidy met with Frs. Richard MacDonald and Frank Clancy. Fr. Clancy is still in a significant amount of pain in his foot and is considering retiring in either Milwaukee or Pinellas Park. Fr. Clancy's smoking would make a move to Pinellas Park easier (there are other smokers). No smoking will be allowed within the new Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

A pastor and associate pastor have been appointed to take over ministry in Willacy County early next year. The associate pastor is already in Raymondville, learning about the area and its needs. Fr. MacDonald spoke well of the new associate.

When the new team takes over in February Fr. MacDonald plans to take a month or two away. This will allow the new priests to more easily settle in.

3. Fr. Guy Blair — The council voted to appoint Fr. Guy Blair to the South Dakota community as of July 1 and to propose him to Bishop Swain to be the pastor of St. James Parish in Chamberlain, S.D. beginning on the same date.

C. Sacred Heart School of Theology

1. Name — At their September meeting councilors heard representatives from the SHST board of directors present their reasoning for changing the school's name to include "seminary." The council proposed that the new name be "Dehon Seminary at Sacred Heart School of Theology," with the assumption that it would become known by the shorter, "Dehon Seminary." Soon after the council meeting province membership received an email asking for feedback on this proposal.

The council appreciated the number of responses it received. However, because there is such a diversity in opinion the council decided that this is not an opportune time to consider a name change. Fr. Cassidy will contact Fr. Jan de Jong, SHST president-rector, and Dr. Mary Meehan, SHST board president, to determine how best to proceed. It was suggested that the SHST board withdraw its request for the name change.

Fr. Cassidy will write to the province membership to thank those who responded to the request for feedback on the possible SHST name change.

2. Archbishop Jerome Listecki — The council voted to approve Archbishop Jerome Listecki as a member of the SHST board of directors.

- D. Correction to the Minutes of the 802 Meeting — The council voted to correct the minutes of the 802 meeting in section D, 1 regarding the Admissions Board. Fr. Joe Dean was reappointed to a three-year term as chairperson of the Admissions Board, not a two-year term as originally noted.

- E. Calendar — The council added May 9-11 to its meeting calendar. This will be the budget meeting.

- F. Role of Local Coordinator/Superior — Fr. Pitcavage has sent a letter to the local coordinators/superiors informing them of a meeting to take place March 1-2. He has given the coordinators until October 25 to propose issues for the meeting. The role of the coordinator/superior and common issues of concern will be the focus of the gathering.

The council hopes to better define and strengthen the role of local coordinators/superiors but also help local communities take greater responsibility and ownership of the operation and health of their community. Coordinators have become more like managers instead of superiors of religious communities. At the same time, members of local communities often act more like roommates rather than as members of a community who care about and are accountable to each other. There has become a sense of "intrusiveness" when people ask about one another's lives.

The role of the religious superior is an important one in religious life; it is a role that goes beyond organizing the day-to-day running of a community house. Too often it is seen simply as an extra job. There should be a ritual when a new superior/coordinator is installed to give the role more significant meaning in the community.

It was suggested that the coordinators meeting include on-going formation and that the meetings take place one to two times each year.

- G. Areas of Responsibility — Members of the council have been assigned areas of responsibility for animating the life of the province, such as vocations, spirituality, and communications. Starting with the next meeting councilors will give updates on what is happening in their areas of responsibility.

- H. Visitation of 37<sup>th</sup> Street — Fr. Ed Kilianski will do a visitation of the 37<sup>th</sup> Street community in January. It was noted that the community will soon after be moving to the new development but councilors thought it appropriate to do the visitation before the move.

- I. Three-Year Plan — Councilors were reminded that it is hoped that drafts of action statements for the Three-Year Plan can be ready for review at the November council meeting.

- J. Justice and Peace Grants — Fr. Kilianski, director of JPIC, asked if he could utilize Kassandra Huerta for administrative work

concerning province grants. It was suggested that he contact Dn. David Nagel, her immediate supervisor. Fr. Kilianski also noted that the guidelines for grant-giving need to be reviewed and updated. It was suggested that perhaps Br. Lenny Zaworski, who is returning soon from India, might be good with this.

IV. Reflection on the Mission Statement — Just as local communities were asked to have a discussion on the Mission Statement, the council also reflected on the following:

As American SCJs, inspired by God's love, revealed in the Heart of Christ, how do you 1) experience God's love, 2) how does God's love inspire you and to what, 3) how does the image of the Heart of Christ affect you, 4) how do you feel about the term "Sacred Heart?" and 5) how do you feel about being called an "American SCJ?"

Comments, paraphrased:

- I identify better with the concept of the "pierced heart" rather than the "Sacred Heart" because out of that pierced heart comes life.
- In Houston there was a good conversation on this. Many said that they experienced God's love through the people they served. The emphasis Hispanic families place on religious displays, such as a home altar to the Sacred Heart or Our Lady of Guadalupe was noted. Their strong devotion to the love of God is evident. I feel very loved by the people I serve at Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- I never see myself as an "American SCJ;" I think of myself simply as "an SCJ."
- A member of our community said that he didn't identify with being an "American SCJ" but instead as a "Priest of the Sacred Heart" with an emphasis not on the ordained priesthood but on the concept of all being priests through baptism.
- "SCJ" doesn't mean a lot to many people outside of the community.
- I have experienced God's love in many ways with the community and in particular, in the many opportunities that I have received.
- I've experienced the love of God through others, especially those who have rallied around me in times of crisis.
- I never had a problem with being identified as an "American SCJ," though the term "SCJ" is very much an American one.
- I prefer the concept of the "Heart of Jesus" over the concept of the "Heart of Christ."
- I like the phrase "Sons of Fr. Dehon." Dehon is what we have in common as an international congregation. It connects me to the congregation.
- I rebel against the identification of "American SCJ."
- The Heart of Christ speaks to the humanity of Jesus.
- The Heart of a Mother, the Heart of a Father — that says a lot to me.
- There is something about us that makes us different from diocesan clergy in parishes. People see it in us.
- The humanness of the image of the Sacred Heart redeems me as a person.
- I struggle in my relationships with those I live with; how can I let the love of the Sacred Heart support and challenge me? It has helped me to come to realize that I don't have to like everyone, but I do have to love them.
- I want to always do things out of love; how can I do that in both difficult and routine situations?
- Personally, I struggle with the word "American" in the phrase "American SCJ." It can sometimes be divisive. It can also be incorrectly used to identify things that are of the "white culture."

V. North American Meeting — Councilors briefly talked about their upcoming meeting with the Canadian administration (scheduled for the next day). Those who had not been at previous North American meetings asked for a history of the tradition. Frs. Kurps and Cassidy both spoke of their experience of past meetings. Councilors hoped that the two administrations would speak about issues of common concern and possibly find ways in which the two entities could collaborate

VI. Future agenda — Among the items suggested for the next council meeting: a review of the lease agreement concerning the Baileys Harbor property, the integration of SCJs from other cultures with and in the U.S. Province, student formation placements (which ministries are best suited for such placements; is South Dakota a good environment for a person in formation or is it possible that students are left too much on their own there?), the workload of those who are retired (it can be easy for some to become over-burdened in part-time ministries), and how the council ensures that it follows up on tasks.

VII. Conference call — The council will meet by conference call at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 13, to review these minutes.

VIII. Evaluation — Before concluding for the day, councilors briefly evaluated their meeting. Most said that it was a good day and that much was covered. One of the councilors who is serving for the first time said that he is still getting used to the difficulty of discussing issues and making decisions that affect people's lives so significantly.

Councilors found that starting with issues of religious life worked well instead of beginning with more “nuts and bolts” administrative and financial concerns.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
SCJ Administrations of Canada and the United States  
October 8, 2010, Montréal, Quebec**

PRESENT: Fr. Claude Bédard, Fr. Richard Woodbury, Fr. Bill Marvee (regional superior of Canada), Br. Duane Lemke, Mary Gorski (minutes), Fr. Tom Cassidy (provincial superior of the U.S. Province), Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Paul Tennyson, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Maurice Légaré, Fr. Byron Haaland and Fr. Bill Pitcavage

- I. Introduction — Fr. Marvee opened the meeting with an update on Fr. Peter McKenna's health. Fr. McKenna had been hospitalized for complications from diabetes and recently diagnosed cardiac problems. Following the update, Fr. Marvee invited those gathered to introduce themselves and briefly talk about their ministries.
- II. General Administration's Six Year Plan — Last summer, Fr. John van den Hengel presented the Six Year Plan of the general administration in both the United States and Canada. In the U.S. Province, he shared the plan with provincial administration, while in Canada he presented it to the full region during its August assembly.
  - A. General Comments — Meeting participants comment briefly on the plan. *Paraphrased:*
    - Fr. van den Hengel gave an excellent presentation; the professor in him was obvious.
    - While the reasoning behind grouping all of the Americas into one geographic region is understood, it is not a practical concept. North and South America are very different. In a regional gathering the issues of the north would be lost since there are so many more SCJs in South America. The issues of North America are different than those of South America.
    - Fr. van den Hengel's presentation gave a picture of the congregation and how it is changing.
    - Fr. van den Hengel made the reality of the congregation clear but that reality has been easy to see for some time. Too many people have their heads in the sand. We get absorbed in our individual ministries and identify with our ministries instead of the larger congregation.
    - Important is how everything in the plan is based in spirituality.
    - The presentation made me a little nervous; it drew attention to the fact that North America is aging and diminishing while Africa, Asia and South America are growing. Are we ready for this shift? How will our community and ministry in the north continue?
    - We have begun to look outside of North America for SCJs to help us; how do we ensure that people come to minister here for the right reasons? How do we evaluate those who are willing to work with us to ensure that they are appropriate for ministry here?
    - What hit me was hearing that North America is only five percent of the SCJ membership. We are an aging minority; how do we react to this?
    - The general superior will use a different style for visitation; I'm not sure if this will be the best approach for the United States. It is important during a visitation for the general superior to help the province look outside of itself and get a broader sense of the congregation. Will the new style allow for this as well as the previous?
    - How do we make the plan better known [in the U.S. Province]? How does the vision get beyond the administration?
    - I'd be shocked if even 50% of the membership in the United States was familiar with the Six Year Plan and the statistics presented with it. The SCJs in Canada benefited from having Fr. van den Hengel present the plan to all of them.
    - With Fr. van den Hengel's presentation of the plan I was struck by the possibility that we [North American SCJs] might disappear.
    - Our number is small compared to the rest of the congregation but our disappearance from North America would have a large impact. North America has a large financial impact on the congregation. While money isn't everything, it is need-

ed to continue congregational ministries elsewhere. This is something that those who benefit from North American funds should keep in mind as they consider assisting the U.S. and Canada in maintaining an SCJ presence in North America.

- It would be interesting to learn what percentage of the congregation's finances come from North America.

- B. U.S. Response — After hearing Fr. van den Hengel's presentation on the Six Year Plan, the U.S. Council decided to model its own administrative style and three year plan on it. Just as with the General Council, members of the U.S. council have taken on areas of responsibility, or sectors for which they have the responsibility to animate. For instance, Fr. Haaland is responsible for animating spirituality and communication and Br. Lemke is responsible for animating vocations and formation.

Each councilor is working with a small committee (generally two to three others) to develop a goal statement and strategies for the following topics: spirituality, our life in common, vocations, formation, justice, peace and reconciliation, ministries, mission and international collaboration, communication, collaboration, and provincial gatherings. The statements and strategies will be the base of the province's three year plan, which the U.S Council hopes to finalize in December.

"We need a plan that gives a spirit of hope moving forward, a plan that gives life, a vision for our future," said a member of the U.S. administration.

Councilors from the U.S. noted that their approach is modeled on the general plan, but adapted to the reality that all of the councilors in the United States have full-time responsibilities beyond serving as councilors. General councilors serve in their role full time.

- C. Canadian Response — One of the responses of the Canadian Region to the Six Year Plan was to revitalize its efforts to welcome international SCJs. Years ago an effort was made to develop an international community in Toronto but not much came of it. The Canadian administration recently developed a document regarding the welcoming of international SCJs.

The document addresses three groups of international SCJs: 1) those who come for long-term pastoral work, 2) those who come for study, and 3) SCJs on sabbatical.

Besides making a better effort to welcome international SCJs, the Canadians realized that they needed to develop guidelines concerning these SCJs, conditions regarding their stay, and accountability concerns.

The Canadian administration hopes to better coordinate its process regarding international SCJs. For example, communication regarding sabbaticals and long-term pastoral commitments of an international SCJ needs to go through the major superiors of each entity. Also, if an SCJ is going to make a significant pastoral commitment he needs to be given the opportunity to get a good understanding of Canadian life and culture. Pastoral ministry is more than celebrating Mass.

A member of the Canadian administration said that he initially was against actively recruiting SCJs of other countries to live and work in Canada. He said that it seemed like "we were trying to twist people's arms to come and help us." But he has since changed his mind. Canada is a part of the congregation and needs to be supported by the congregation. In turn, Canada can offer much to individuals, and the SCJs as a whole. It is not simply self-serving to invite international SCJs to live and minister in Canada. In some ways, Canada has become a mission that needs a missionary response.

Regarding a three-year plan, the Canadian council noted that they felt some urgency to develop such a plan in response to the general administration's request but had yet to do so. It was noted that much of the past ten years have been spent working on the convergence of the Anglo and French Canadian Provinces.

### III. Provincial and Regional Gatherings

- A. U.S. Province — The Canadian SCJs asked about the three province "conversations" that were held in 2009 and 2010. Fr. Kurps explained that the conversations developed out of the last province chapter. At that chapter, directional statements for the province were established on community life, aging and membership. The three province conversations, facilitated by the same person who facilitated the chapter, were a way to deepen the conversations begun at the chapter. It was estimated that about 70% of the province attended at least one of the three gatherings. Although not everyone was comfortable with the facilitator, the gatherings did seem to help SCJs develop a deeper level of sharing.

One of the concerns since the gatherings/conversations is how to continue the spirit that was developed and share what happened with those who didn't take part. Follow-up between the province gatherings was not significant.



On the local level, SCJs are now having conversations about the Mission Statement. It isn't that there is a desire to revise the statement, it is simply a topic to begin conversations on the local level. The community reflections are shared in reports posted on a website just for SCJ membership.

It is anticipated that there will be more province-wide gatherings about once a year. It was also noted that while there have been good conversations at the gatherings some find it difficult to get together without a business agenda.

The Canadians asked if there would be regional gatherings. It is hoped that this will happen. They also asked about other province meetings. Fr. Cassidy noted that the province held a gathering for those under 60, and before each of the province conversations he met briefly with the younger members of the province.

There was also an assembly shortly after the provincial elections; a tradition that began three years ago.

- B. Canadian Region — Members of the U.S. administration admired the fact that all members of the Canadian Region (except those limited by health concerns) regularly attend the region's August gathering and most come together for Feast of the Sacred Heart.

Although the Canadians do get together regularly, one of the Canadian councilors cited the difference between deliberative gatherings and social gatherings. For the deliberative meetings it is valuable to have a facilitator. It would be helpful on the local level to at times have a facilitator, especially in Ottawa where the community is undergoing significant change. The house on Daly is being renovated and it is anticipated that Frs. Greg Murray and Paul Tennyson will move there when it is done.

- IV. Collaboration and Common Issues — Administrations from both countries talked about previous collaboration and possibilities for the future.

- A. Feast-Day Letter; Retreats and Renewals — Members of both administrations commented on Fr. General's letter for Feast of the Sacred Heart. Several said that initially they just skimmed it because of its length. However, when they returned to it they found it to be very well done with "good stuff." The Canadian Region is considering using it as a starting point, or base, for an assembly in 2011, perhaps with the use of a facilitator.

Fr. Haaland spoke about developing a retreat that could be taken to locations in Canada and the United States. Perhaps some of what is in the letter can be a backdrop for that. Fr. Haaland will be in communication with SCJs in the Canadian Region as he develops the retreat.

- B. Joint Assembly — The last joint assembly was very good. The interaction prior to the gathering was also very good (preparatory meetings).
- C. Common Issues — Is there an issue, such as immigration, that SCJs in North America can collaborate on? Could two SCJs from each entity form a discussion group to look at how SCJ spirituality can speak to the current reality of North America? It doesn't need to be a large plan; perhaps there is a certain area – again, like immigration — where SCJ spirituality is uniquely suited to serve.
- D. House of Reconciliation — There had been discussion years ago about having a house of reconciliation. Is something like that possible? What does it mean?
- E. Making SCJ Parishes More "Dehonian" — The congregation has hosted conferences on developing the SCJ presence in parishes. Is this something that can be done with a North American focus? Related to that, there is a need to ensure that all SCJ ministries, especially corporate apostolates (such as Sacred Heart School of Theology) have a strong Dehonian identity in light of the fact that the SCJ presence is diminishing in these ministries.
- F. Better Use of Committees — Both entities noted that their use of committees diminished in recent years. This didn't just mean that the work of the committees slowed, but that a valuable communications tool was lost. As people gather for committee work they share news of their communities and ministries. Committee meetings became an informal communications network.

- G. Accountability — The U.S. Province is struggling with issues of accountability — how can men in community be more accountable to each other and live their religious life in a more supportive manner?
- H. Collaborative Possibilities — The two administrations agreed to explore possibilities for collaboration at their next meeting. They agreed that it is important to start small and not take on a project too large to address adequately.
- V. Major Superiors Meeting — Fr. Marvee invited those gathered to give input regarding the upcoming SCJ major superiors meeting in Rome. Councilors said that it was difficult to do so since they did not know what was on the agenda. Fr. Marvee said that he assumed that there would be discussion of the Six Year Plan. Councilors hoped that the voice of North America wouldn't be lost in the discussions in Rome. Other hopes or expectations for the Major Superiors meeting:
- A. Needs/Concerns of Northern and Southern Hemispheres — One councilor said that he expected that the general treasurer would talk about the desire for more provinces and regions to become financially independent. It is hoped that those in the southern hemisphere also take time to discuss the impact of the lack of vocations in the northern hemisphere. Just as Europeans brought the church to Africa and other developing areas, perhaps it is time for these areas to help bring the church back, or help to revitalize it, in Europe and North America.
- Do SCJs of the south see ministry in the north as important?
- Related to that, one councilor suggested that an interesting topic for a general conference would be “The Church in a post-Christian society.”
- B. European Collaboration — It is hoped that there will be discussion of European SCJ collaboration. The European major superiors have met and there has been discussion of a common project. Will that be shared at the October meeting?
- C. Congregational Website — It is hoped that [www.dehon.it](http://www.dehon.it) can be made more inviting and useful.
- D. Common Vocabulary — Is there a common understanding of the vocabulary that we use in our religious life? Do the vows mean the same thing in all of our entities? How is poverty and obedience interpreted in other cultures? What does dependence mean? How are we accountable to each other?
- E. Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults — Fr. Cassidy said that he had been asked to share some of the work that has been done in the United States regarding the protection of children and other vulnerable people, as well as what is done in the United States when an allegation is made.
- VI. Financial Requests — Fr. Marvee asked for input on how financial requests are addressed. Fr. Cassidy noted that the U.S. Province has financial responsibility for Asia, as well as a special relationship with South Africa. Special requests, beyond these regular financial commitments, must go through the general treasurer. Canadians agreed that this is appropriate since the general treasurer has a better picture of the larger congregation.
- A member of the Canadian administration asked how the U.S. Province handles international students; does the province pay all of the student's expenses? Fr. Cassidy said that is generally the agreement since visas do not allow for the students to work and that the province takes full financial responsibility for them. The U.S. Province works with the home province or region to determine what the student's needs are and how to best meet them.
- VII. Evaluation — Each meeting participant was invited to reflect on the day's gathering. Overall, people felt that it was a very positive meeting that left participants with a sense of energy. There is a desire to maintain the momentum begun and work together to enhance the SCJ presence in North America. Several said that the meeting surpassed their expectations and that a lot of good ideas were brought forth. There was good sharing and a good sense of shared fraternity. It is hoped that much can be built on what was started during this meeting.
- VIII. Next meeting — The two administrations will next meet at the Dehon Formation House in Chicago May 23-24.



## CALENDAR

2010

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  
May 9-11 Provincial Council meeting (budgets)  
May 23-24 North American councils meeting (Chicago)

## UPDATES

FR. CHUCK WONCH

Villa Maria

7330 S. Lovers Lane Rd.

Franklin, WI 53132-1849

Cell: 414-573-9515