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Minutes of the 819th Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., October 4-5, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Bill Pitcavage, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Byron Haaland, and Br. Duane Lemke councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes. Fr. Jack Kurps was excused. Joining the council for a report on the Philippines were Frs. Jose Benedito de Morases Machado, superior of the Philippines, and Francis Pupkowski, development director for the district.

- I. Council check-in – Councilors took time to update each other on themselves, ministries and personal concerns. Fr. Cassidy noted that he had visitations in South Dakota and Sacred Heart Monastery.

Br. Lemke told councilors that he had taken two of the formation students to South Dakota for the powwow at St. Joseph's Indian School. Both had worked at the school during the summer and asked to go to the powwow. It was a good experience.

Fr. Pitcavage has been traveling quite a bit on province business since the last meeting. He asked councilors to keep his sister in prayer as she gets a new start after losing her apartment and personal belongings to fire.

Fr. Kilianski said that Fr. Vien Nguyen arrived at Our Lady of Guadalupe on September 6 and has been helpful in the parish. Work continues on getting Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec's R-1 visa to allow him to come to OLG. Fr. Kilianski noted that OLG celebrated 66 confirmations last week.

Fr. Haaland is working to develop activities at Sacred Heart School of Theology around "Mission Effectiveness," the role he has taken on at SHST. He recently gave a presentation at SHST on Dehonian spirituality to the students and faculty. At the end of October Fr. Haaland will go to Cameroon to do days of recollection and retreats. He will meet with one of the ESL students while there.

Dn. Nagel said that the November General Finance Commission meeting scheduled for Germany had been cancelled. However, Dn. Nagel will be traveling for meetings in South Dakota and Mississippi in the weeks ahead.

- II. Visioning — Councilors discussed and reflected on the first chapter of John Allen's *The Future Church*. The book examines ten trends that the author states are "revolutionizing the Catholic Church." The first chapter was titled "A World Church" and looks at the changing demographic trends in the church and their impact. Comments (paraphrased):

- This sets the stage for the future; the author talks not just about a paradigm shift but of the need to look at the church from a new perspective; a non-European, non-Western perspective. In the United States the Hispanic population will continue to grow in the church yet the U.S. Province doesn't have many people prepared for or interested in such ministry. Is the province refusing to acknowledge the changes that are taking place?
- What was presented was very much like Fr. John van den Hengel's presentation to the province on the changing face of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

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- It's important to see that the priorities of the West are not necessarily those of the South.
- It was interesting to see how Vatican II affected the church in the southern hemisphere, especially in regards to the use of indigenous languages.
- Asia is an exciting new possibility for the church. It will help the church move beyond the thinking and models of Europe. There is still significant European influence in South America and Africa. We need to let go of that to be a universal church.
- It will be a very different experience for those who are in the majority now to be in the minority of the church (and the congregation).
- Much of what is spoken of in the first chapter of the book is being experienced in the congregation, and in the church of the United States.
- Can the U.S. Province envision the Priests of the Sacred Heart without the U.S. Province? The Dutch Province made the decision to allow itself to die; is this something that we might consider in the future?
- Can the province envision that it will continue to be a significant but much smaller entity in the congregation? Our charism and history as a province will continue to have a relevant voice in the United States.
- Is bringing in personnel from other provinces just postponing certain realities? Or, is this a moment that allows the U.S. Province and the church in the United States to become more universal?
- Is our diminishment an opportunity to be more generous with others?
- Are we individually willing to sacrifice? Are members of the U.S. Province, for the most part, willing to sacrifice to go to areas of need, or to take on tasks that might not be our preference? Is there a sense of self-giving or have many members of the province become more concerned with doing things that are personally comfortable? Why don't we have more people willing to go to places like Our Lady of Guadalupe, or to serve in formation?
- We have always been asked to let go of something. In years past, we let go of our seminaries. Is letting go of some things a positive direction for the province? Letting go can allow for creativity. Just because we have something now doesn't mean that we have to maintain it in the future. This includes large province commitments such as St. Joseph's Indian School and Sacred Heart School of Theology. We don't necessarily need to let these go, but what could the U.S. Province look like without them?

Councilors concluded their discussion. At their December meeting they will discuss the second chapter of *The Future Church*. Fr. Pitcavage will prepare discussion questions for councilors prior to the meeting.

III. Administration

- A. Minutes — Councilors acknowledged that they voted to approve the minutes of the 817 council meeting during a prior conference call. During the October meeting they voted to approve the minutes of the 818 council meeting, a conference call during which Fr. Cassidy informed the council of the concerns Cardinal George raised about an event sponsored by the 8th Day Center.
- B. St. Joseph's Indian School — At its last meeting the council had questions about admissions at St. Joseph's Indian School. The topic came up during discussion of St. Joseph's strategic plan. Fr. Stephen Huffstetter prepared a summary of admissions for the 2011-12 school year as well as comments on the admissions process. This summary was distributed at the meeting.
- C. Visitations
 1. South Dakota
 - a. SCJ Community — Fr. Cassidy said that with Fr. Bernie Rosinski in residence there are now three SCJs living at St. Joseph's Indian School; Fr. Rosinski seems to be a good addition to the community and enjoys living in South Dakota. Fr. Guy Blair is at St. James in Chamberlain and joins the St. Joseph's community for morning prayer and some meals. On First Fridays Fr. Blair has adoration at St. James, which the SCJs from St. Joseph's attend.

Fr. Vincent Suparman recently joined the community in Lower Brule and has been a good addition both in ministry and in community living. All the men seem to be doing well, though the community needs to hire a cook. Fr. Hendrik has been preparing meals since the untimely death of the cook. He is good, but it takes him away from ministry. The community is trying to find someone.

It was noted that the Diocese of Sioux Falls is reconfiguring its parishes. This may affect the SCJs' ministries, perhaps adding more commitments to the pastor of St. James. If this is the case Fr. Cassidy suggested that a pastoral minister be hired to assist.

- b. House of Prayer — Writing for the filial house at St. Joseph's Indian School, Fr. Rosinski requested that the house and its community be designated as "a house of intercessory and reparative prayer and adoration." One of the reasons for the request is that the Provincial Directory provides for such houses and recognizes that retirement communities serve as such. Since a member of the community is in retirement (Fr. Rosinski) the house is technically a retirement community.

The council voted to approve the request, noting that the status can be reevaluated in the future depending on the membership of the community.

2. Sacred Heart Monastery — Fr. Cassidy reported on his visitation of the monastery community. He noted that it is a community in transition and that it has become a very small community with only three members of the province who are joined by several Indonesians. Fr. Wayne Jenkins is serving as treasurer. He is on a part-time sabbatical but able to do the treasurer's duties as well. Fr. Walters will also be taking sabbatical time next year. Fr. Jan de Jong will be moving to Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.
3. St. Joseph's Community — Fr. Cassidy asked Br. Lemke to do the visitation of the St. Joseph Community (4th floor of SHML) and the consultation for the superior/coordinator. He said that a superior should be in place soon. He asked Br. Lemke to do the consultation prior to the councils' meeting in Canada in November.

- D. Retired SCJs Living Alone — Fr. Cassidy asked that the policy regarding retired SCJs living alone be reviewed. While there are situations in which it is appropriate for a man to live outside of community, is it appropriate for most who request such status? Should there be limitations? Is there an additional cost when SCJs live on their own as opposed to being in a community?
- E. ESL Program — Fr. Cassidy met with Fr. Jim Walters regarding the ESL program. Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec will assist with student needs while he does studies and waits for his R-1 visa and Fr. Donatus Kusmartono will remain through the end of the year to assist with student concerns. Fr. Yulius Sunardi will also be available to help. This will take the burden of student needs off of the monastery community.

In the future a part-time person will be hired to handle the administrative needs of the program.

- F. Baileys Harbor — Fr. Pitcavage noted that he and Mike Erato from SHST had to change their plans for a visit to the Baileys Harbor property now being used by the Diocese of Green Bay. They hope to get there soon. There have been several concerns about the property including inappropriate use of the water pump and a lack of necessary water sampling. Kathleen Dahlgreen and Dn. Nagel contacted the Diocese of Green Bay about the concerns. The diocese said that it will hire a person to manage the property. Fr. Pitcavage will update the council at the next meeting.
- G. Houston — Fr. Kilianski said that Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to be very busy but that having Fr. Vien Nguyen there has been helpful. The parish is getting ready for its 100th anniversary celebration.

He said that the province needs to look at whether it can continue to staff the parish. His preference is to remain at OLG but there need to be at least two, but generally three Spanish-speaking priests at the parish.

- H. Name of Communities at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake
 1. Retirement community (floors 1-3) — The council voted to name the retirement community at the new development "Sacred Heart Community" which is at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.
 2. 4th Floor Community — The council voted to name the fourth floor community "St. Joseph Community" which is at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

- I. Suppression of 37th Street — The council voted to canonically suppress the SCJ community at 37th Street.
- J. CMSM Policy Regarding Disclosure of Names — CMSM is revisiting its policy regarding the public identification of those who have been accused of sexual offenses. Dioceses have publically named such men. Councilors were against public identification. If a man is convicted of a sexual offense, his name is in the national register. It is a public record and can be found without the assistance of the religious community. Councilors said that the CMSM policy should remain as it is.
- K. Provincial Secretary — Although the council appreciates Br. Presto's availability as provincial secretary, this should not be a long-term solution. A full-time provincial secretary should be sought.
- L. Updates on Sectors of Province Plan — Br. Lemke said that a formation meeting is scheduled for November and several members of the committee will attend a national formation conference soon after.
- M. Calendar — Br. Presto reserved Sacred Heart School of Theology for July 8-14, 2012, for a province gathering. Fr. Pitcavage suggested that the next assembly be on the vowed life. The council will discuss assembly topics at a future meeting.

The council will set dates for its 2012 meetings during its next conference call.

IV. Personnel

- A. Fr. Jerry Clifford — Fr. Clifford has moved from the hospital to a rehabilitation center. He is being treated for lung cancer. The treatment has reduced his tumor but he has had complications such as pneumonia, blood clots, and neuropathy in his feet. The neuropathy has made it impossible for him to walk without assistance.

Fr. Clifford's situation led to a dialogue on the possibilities for assisted living for SCJs at SHML. It is thought that more could be done in regards to assisted living but that it would be cost prohibitive to do nursing care at the residence. There is a significant difference in government regulations for such care.

- B. Fr. Bryan Benoit — Fr. Benoit has said that his Parkinson's has become more problematic.
- C. Fr. Joe Doscher — Fr. Doscher has been brought to Milwaukee for testing at the Congregational Home.
- D. Fr. Quang Nguyen — Councilors briefly spoke about what Fr. Nguyen will do when he completes his doctoral studies. He said that he is open to anything asked of him. It is thought that he would like to do economic development in Vietnam but that he could also be available for teaching at SHST.
- E. Fr. Joseph Dinh — He is to complete his studies next year and be available for assignment.
- F. Fr. Vincent Suparman — Fr. Suparman is preparing his letter to request a transfer to the U.S. Province.

V. Finance

- A. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Progress is moving along well in regards to Stage II of the new development. The province made a claim of \$1.3 million in the Carstensen bankruptcy proceedings. Most likely the province will not get anything from the claim. Dn. Nagel has met with Oakbrook Marketing in regards to the rental concerns. Oakbrook is developing a marketing plan. July 12, 2012, is the anticipated completion date of Stage II.

Later in the meeting a councilor asked about the financing of SHML. Dn. Nagel said that with the markets down, money that had been available for the project is diminished. However, there is still \$5 million in cash available, as well as the \$500,000 coming from St. Joseph's Indian School and cash from the Guiltane estate.

- B. Guiltane estate — Dn. Nagel anticipates that the province will soon receive the transfer of \$1 million from the Guiltane estate.
- C. Forest Home property — Dn. Nagel was contacted about selling property the province owns on Forest Home Avenue. It is approximately five acres that adjoins a property being developed for rental housing. This property has an easement for a fuel

oil pipeline. Several years ago a developer wanted to purchase the property. At that time the SCJs thought that it would be advantageous to hold on to the property. However, the City of Franklin may now develop a road along the boundary of the property; most likely the SCJs would be accessed a fee for the road, or the land might be acquired by the City of Franklin. In light of this, it seems that it would be a good time to sell the land.

Dn. Nagel asked the council if it was open to investigating a sale. Councilors said that they were, depending upon the price.

- D. 37th Street — There have been nine inquiries on the 37th Street property; it is hoped that a non-profit organization can buy it.
- E. Lay Employee Pension Trust — Dn. Nagel updated the council regarding the Lay Employee Pension Trust. Last year the council decided to move the money held by Merrill Lynch to the Principal Financial group. Since that move the trust has grown from being funded at 66% to 84% which is well above government guidelines.
- F. Development Offices — Dn. Nagel said that the Province Development Office took \$1 million out of its reserve. Sacred Heart Southern Missions also made a request to take \$1 million out of its reserve. The fund raising environment for Catholic organizations has been very challenging during the past year. Low to mid-range donors have not been able to give as much as previously in the midst of the difficult economy.

St. Joseph's Indian School has not seen a significant decrease in donations. The school is able to fund the museum project with income from this year and not tap into its reserve. This year St. Joseph's will also make its second \$500,000 contribution to the development of the new retirement residence at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

Br. Presto distributed a memo on the current and future directions of the Province Development Office. He said that the office is revising its bylaws and that they will be available for review at the December meeting. He has challenged the staff at the office to come up with something unique to the office to offer donors much in the same way that St. Joseph's has its quilts and dream catchers. The focus of the office with donors will be to "tell the story of the U.S. Province." First, the office will concentrate on its elders and then formation (members of the formation community will participate in donor luncheons). He added that the cash flow of the office is better but that there are still challenges.

- G. Audits — The province audit is done and will be ready for review at the December council meeting; the auditor will attend the meeting. The audits for the Province Development Office, Sacred Heart School of Theology, and St. Joseph's Indian School are done. They will be reviewed by their boards in the next few weeks.
- H. Management of Milwaukee Area Properties — Dn. Nagel has been in discussion with Sodexo to provide oversight for operations and maintenance of SCJ properties in the Milwaukee area including the Provincialate, Province Development Office, SHML, Woods Road, 37th Street and Dehon House, along with land that the province owns. It would not only be helpful but prudent to have one person or entity in-charge of the operations and maintenance of these properties taking care of everything from ensuring that washing machines are working at SHML to looking at long-range concerns like roofs and furnaces. This oversight would offer more than simply someone to "fix things." It would look at the big picture of the short and long-term needs of the SCJ properties.

The cost from Sodexo would be \$289,000 a year. It would include the cost of the on-site director as well as janitorial equipment and supplies, landscape items, maintenance supplies, minor equipment, technical resources and administrative support as well as an ADA compliance audit.

Councilors saw the benefit of having someone in-charge of property management but asked if the province could on its own hire someone for less money. Dn. Nagel said yes, but that for the extra cost the province has access to much more expertise and resources as well as needed supplies. There is also the concern that buildings are becoming more complicated with computerized systems.

Dn. Nagel noted that maintenance people already working for the Priests of the Sacred Heart would continue to do so. He said that when Sodexo took over food service at Villa Maria the employees who had been there were hired by Sodexo. There has been a good relationship between the SCJs and Sodexo.

The SCJs would retain authority for the buildings, meaning that Sodexo would only implement that which is approved by the province. The SCJs would not lose control of their buildings.

The council is in favor of Dn. Nagel's proposal. He will bring the proposal to the appropriate stakeholders for discussion, noting the council's support of it.

VI. Philippines — Fr. Jose Benedito de Morases Machado, district superior of the Philippines and Fr. Francis Pupkowski, the district's fund raising director, met with the council to talk about the ministries and goals of the district, as well as give an update on its fund raising efforts. Several years ago the U.S. Province gave the district \$250,000 of seed money to begin a development program. The U.S. Province has also supported the district with personnel for short-term concerns, such as ESL, retreats, and administrative issues, as well as with continued financial support.

Both Frs. de Morases Machado and Pupkowski thanked the U.S. Province for its continued support of the district. They noted that the relationship between the two entities goes back to the beginning of the Philippine venture when the first group of missionaries did their preparation in Hales Corners. They came to the United States not only to learn English but to build a sense of community before going to the Philippines. The district continues to be thankful for the support of the province, and grateful for the ESL program. They noted the two Brazilian SCJs who spent the past few months at Sacred Heart School of Theology preparing for their studies and future ministry in the Philippine District. Frs. de Morases Machado and Pupkowski said that the members of the district pray each day for the benefactors who support them.

With a PowerPoint presentation, the SCJs gave an overview of the district. There are currently 53 members, including 23 priests, one brother, and 27 in temporary vows. Seven of the professed are Filipinos. There are nine students in theology, one postulant, and four aspirants from Vietnam. The novitiate includes three Filipinos and seven Indians. The district population includes SCJs from seven countries. There are seven communities: three formation communities and four pastoral communities. The district is also involved in youth ministry as well as a program for young women and girls who have been sexually abused.

Fr. Francis talked about fund raising efforts. Although development is still in the formative stages, the district is bringing in more money each year with December being the highest month for fund raising. The district is not self-sufficient now, but Fr. Francis believes that it can be in the future.

This summer's Asian SCJ Conference was significant. SCJs in Asia are looking at more ways to collaborate, working together as a "continent" not just as individual entities. Manila has been chosen as a hub for study, not only for students in formation but for SCJs on sabbatical and those doing advanced studies. Manila has a number of well-respected universities and colleges, especially for those involved in religious, spiritual and/or theological studies. SCJs from around the world are invited to study in Manila.

The decision to make Manila a study center for Asia means that the district will have to renovate a building to house incoming SCJs. The district asked if the U.S. Province could finance \$100,000 in renovations. Fr. Cassidy said that the U.S. Province was open to such help but that the request would need to go through the Generalate.

Fr. de Morases Machado said that the general administration would like the district to have a house for its administration. The General Curia purchased land near the Manila airport for possible use in the future.

Frs. de Morases Machado and Pupkowski were asked about the variety of nationalities in the formation program — is this working well? They said that for the most part, yes. The Vietnamese students fit in very well.

When asked about the greatest challenges for the future Fr. de Morases Machado said that it is the preparation of formators. Good formation is the base of the district. It is not easy to convince young people to prepare for and go into formation. Also, the missionaries are working on helping the Filipino SCJs take ownership of their district so that they can eventually take leadership roles in it.

VII. Conference Call — The council will have a conference call on Monday, October 10, at 11 a.m. to approve these minutes and to set dates for its 2012 meetings. Fr. Cassidy will contact Fr. Kurps about this; he was unable to be at this meeting due to illness.

VIII. Evaluation — Councilors evaluated their meeting. Several appreciated the topic of the visioning session; the presentation on the Philippines was well received.

CALENDAR

- October 17-20: European Conference on Secularity (Frs. Tom Cassidy of the U.S. Province and Fr. Bill Marreeve of Canada will attend the conference in Clairefontaine, Belgium)
- November 2: Candlelight Mass and Dinner at Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology (contact the Province Development Office for details.)
- November 8-9: Combined Councils Meeting of the U.S. and Canada (Ottawa)
- November 14-16: SCJ Retreat, Pinellas Park
- December 14-15: Provincial Council Meeting
- February 7-8: Provincial Council Meeting
- March 27-28: Provincial Council Meeting
- April 15: Easter Concert at Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology
- May 15: Mass for the Anointing of the Sick, SHM/SHST
- May 30-31: Provincial Council Meeting (budgets)
- June 15: Feast of the Sacred Heart
- June 28: Provincial Council Meeting (conference call re: formation)
- Week of July 8: Province Assembly, Hales Corners
- July 16-21: General Conference, Neustadt, Germany

UPDATES

Fr. Jim Schifano

New email address: jschifano@poshusa.org

Fr. Bernie Rosinski

P.O. Box 89
Chamberlain, SD 53725
Cell phone: 605-730-3374
Room phone: 605-234-3422.

Fr. Leonard Tadyszak

Fr. Leonard is now at the Congregational Home; his room number is 2221 and his phone is: 262 373-1071

NECROLOGY

Fr. Joseph Lamber, a member of the Polish Province, died on October 3. He was born in 1956, professed in 1978 and ordained in 1984.

Bishop Marcellino Palentini, bishop of the Diocese of Jujuy in Argentina, died on September 18. Originally from Italy, he was born in 1943, professed in 1961, ordained to the priesthood in 1970 and ordained as a bishop in 1995.

Fr. Theodorus Nicolaas Rietveld, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died September 6. He was born in 1909, professed in 1932 and ordained in 1937.

Fr. Pasquale Marinucci, a member of the Region of Madagascar, died September 11. He was born in 1932, professed in 1950 and ordained in 1959.