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U.S. Province
P.O. Box 289
Hales Corners, WI
53130 - 0289
414-425-6910

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Minutes of the 812th Provincial Council Meeting Dehon Formation Community, Chicago, May 24, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Bill Pitcavage councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes. Fr. Byron Haaland excused.

Councilors took the opportunity following their meeting with the Canadian administration to briefly meet and review several items. They concluded with reminders that they would have a conference call regarding formation on June 22 and that they were to have the first chapter of John Allen's *The Future Church* read in preparation for their August meeting. This will be the focus of the "visioning" session.

Minutes of the 813th Provincial Council Meeting Held by Conference Call, June 15, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, Fr. William Pitcavage, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. Jack Kurps and Fr. Byron Haaland. Also present were Dn. David Nagel, Provincial Treasurer, Ms. Kathleen Dahlgren, Province Attorney and Br. Frank Presto, Provincial Secretary

The council voted to appoint Br. Frank Presto as the managing director of the Province Development Office. His term was to begin on July 1, 2011.

Minutes of the 814th Provincial Council Meeting Held by Conference Call on June 22, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Bill Pitcavage councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes.

- I. Fr. Mike McMillen — The council voted to approve the process for an indult of excommunication for Fr. Mike McMillen for the purpose of incardinating into the Diocese of Joliet. Fr. McMillen has requested that Fr. David Szatkowski represent him in matters pertaining to his petition for incardination. The council was in favor of this.

II. Formation

- A. Br. Clay Diaz — The council voted to approve Br. Clay Diaz for vow renewal.
- B. Frater Fernando Luis Orozco Cardona — The council voted to approve Frater Fernando Luis Orozco Cardona for vow renewal.
- C. Frater Joseph Vu — The council voted to approve Frater Joseph Vu for vow renewal.
- D. Thank you — The formation team was thanked for its work in preparing the documentation necessary for the voting process.

III. Provincial Secretary — The council voted to approve Fr. David Szatkowski as provincial secretary, replacing Br. Frank Presto, who is leaving the office to become managing director of the Province Development Office. Fr. Szatkowski will begin his term on July 1 and it will run through the end of the current administration.

IV. Jubilees — Fr. Cassidy said that two of the Indonesian SCJs studying in Hales Corners will celebrate their 25th jubilee this year. He asked the council if it was open to having the Indonesians included in the province jubilee celebration. Councilors were in favor of this.

V. Minutes — The council approved the minutes from the 813th Provincial Council meeting.

Minutes of the 815th Provincial Council Meeting
Hales Corners, WI, July 14, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Bill Pitcavage councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Fr. David Szatkowski, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes.

I. Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid – Fr. Grizzelle Reid made a verbal request to Fr. Cassidy for exclaustation. He would like to pursue incardination into the diocese of St. Augustine, FL.

Fr. Grizzelle Reid will work with the province canonist, Fr. Szatkowski, to prepare his written petition.

The council voted to approve Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid’s petition for exclaustation. It was noted that this vote does not immediately take effect. Before it can, the bishop of St. Augustine must accept, in writing, Fr. Grizzelle Reid ad experimentum. This written acceptance must be sent to the Holy See. Also, the superior general and his council must vote on the request.

Fr. Cassidy has written to the bishop of St. Augustine regarding Fr. Grizzelle Reid’s request. The bishop has not yet responded.

Minutes of the 816th Provincial Council Meeting
Held by conference call August 17, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Bill Pitcavage, acting provincial; Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, and Br. Duane Lemke councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; and Mary Gorski, minutes. Excused: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, councilor.

I. Council check-in – Councilors briefly updated each other on personal news and ministries.

II. Provincial secretary — In the wake of Fr. David Szatkowski’s resignation as provincial secretary, Br. Frank Presto offered to take on the role part-time. Councilors appreciate Br. Presto’s availability. However, they also note that he has a full schedule

with his new job as managing director of the Province Development Office and with his work with the new building project.

The council voted to appoint Br. Frank Presto as provincial secretary. In doing so, the council noted that this is to be a temporary solution; within the next two months the council hopes to have a more permanent appointment.

- III. Fr. David Szatkowski — Fr. Pitcavage updated councilors on Fr. Szatkowski. Fr. Szatkowski was arrested in LaCrosse on charges of alleged inappropriate contact with a minor. He is in Milwaukee; his parents came to be with him. Fr. Pitcavage, Fr. Kurps and other SCJs have been in regular contact with him.

Mary Gorski briefly updated the council on media inquiry. The day in which the province received the most attention was August 11. There are concerns about follow-up from the *Journal Sentinel* reporter regarding the SCJs' interpretation of the Milwaukee Area Review Board's decision. Following the initial media attention there has been minimal inquiry from benefactors.

Fr. Kilianski said that he received a call from the Galveston Houston chancery since Fr. Szatkowski had served at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish years ago. Fr. Kilianski told the chancery that all media inquiry regarding Fr. Szatkowski should be forwarded to Mary Gorski.

Fr. Cassidy has been kept informed of the situation during his visit to India. Fr. General and Fr. John van den Hengel have also been informed. Mary Gorski has kept the chancery and communications offices at the Milwaukee Archdiocese updated on events.

- IV. English as a Second Language — Fr. Szatkowski resigned from his role as director of the ESL program at Sacred Heart School of Theology. It is hoped that a new director can be in place by October. Until then, there are enough staff members to attend to most of the program's concerns.

Councilors discussed the role of the ESL director. Much of the program now falls under the jurisdiction of SHST. Could a non-SCJ be hired as ESL director? This is something that needs to be discussed with Fr. Jan de Jong, SHST president-rector.

It was noted that some students attached to ESL are not full-time students in the program. These include international SCJs in the United States for advanced studies outside of ESL.

- V. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston — Fr. Kilianski expressed his need for assistance at OLG. Although he has received help with Masses, he needs assistance with the other concerns of the parish including ministering to others who grieve the death of Fr. Rick DiLeo. Fr. Vien Nguyen is to come to OLG; however, he cannot move in until Fr. DiLeo's belongings are removed from the room he is to use. Fr. Pitcavage said that he would go to Houston during the next week to do this.

- VI. Fr. Rick DiLeo — His interment is scheduled for August 19.

- VII. Br. Bernard Taube — Br. Taube is back in Madison after time in Milwaukee to address health concerns.

- VIII. Next meeting's agenda — It was noted that representatives from St. Joseph's Indian school are meeting with the council at its August meeting. They will be present on the first day of the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Councilors wondered if this would affect their visioning session, which is always at the beginning of the council meeting. The time with the St. Joseph's people cannot be changed.

Councilors were reminded that their visioning session will focus on the first topic of John Allen's book *The Future Church*.

It was noted that the council will be asked to review a letter from the Admissions Board seeking direction in regards to certain situations. Also, the search committee for the rector-president of SHST may have an update following its upcoming meeting.

It was suggested that Fr. Jan de Jong meet with the council regarding ESL but not at the August meeting.

Minutes of the 817th Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., August 30-31, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Bill Pitcavage, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes.

- I. Council check-in – Councilors took time to update each other on themselves, ministries and personal concerns. Most acknowledged that the province, and they personally, have gone through a difficult period in recent months. Recent deaths not only meant the loss of active ministers but of friends and community members.

There is a need for creative responses to the concerns in the province — how does the council develop that?

II. Administration

- A. Strategic Plan, St. Joseph's Indian School — Frank Martinelli from the Center for Public Skills Training has been working with St. Joseph's Indian School to develop a strategic plan for 2012-2015. He joined the council to present preliminary work on the plan. Fr Stephen Huffstetter was to be present as well but was unable to get to the meeting due to flight delays.

Mr. Martinelli introduced himself and talked about how much he enjoyed working with St. Joseph's Indian School. He said that it has been a wonderful opportunity to learn about Native American culture.

1. Presentation — With PowerPoint slides Mr. Martinelli explained the planning process, starting with the gathering and analyzing of information. The process included a review of the mission statement, and the development of a vision, goals, strategies and actions.

Mr. Martinelli shared the revised mission statement: “We partner with Native American children and families to live a balanced and spiritual life.” St. Joseph's staff felt that the previous statement was too long; Mr. Martinelli concurred.

He then shared the vision statement: “Our Tiyospaye walks beside every student, ensuring all graduate from high school equipped to fulfill God's dreams for them and their communities.” Mr. Martinelli noted the significance of stating that the vision is that “ALL graduate from high school.” He said that it is a powerful vision.

Goals included 1) dramatically increasing student achievement and success, 2) securing the long-term financial viability of St. Joseph's Indian School, 3) fully engaging key partners in the mission and life of St Joseph's Indian School, and 4) building a collaborative, engaged and diverse workforce.

2. Feedback — Councilors gave feedback on the presentation. One said that while the goals were clear, it was not obvious as to how the objectives would flow from particular strategies. Several expressed concern that there seemed to be no mention of the school being Catholic or being connected to the Priests of the Sacred Heart. There does not seem to be a stated integration of Christianity with Lakota identity and traditions. “Spiritual life” in the mission statement seemed too ambiguous.

Councilors emphasized that it is out of Dehonian spirituality that the mission of the school flows. This needs to be evident in the mission, vision and strategic plan of the school.

Some felt that the mission statement was too vague

Several councilors were surprised to see “Increasing student enrollment and retention” as a strategy. Just five years ago there were waiting lists to get into the school. Now St. Joseph's is under-enrolled. What has changed? It was suggested that there is now more of an effort to keep “problem students” out of the school. They can be especially challenging for house parents. However, isn't St. Joseph's supposed to be a school that reaches out to “at risk” Native American children? Later in the meeting councilors revisited the concern and wondered if fewer children were applying to the school or if more of those applying were being denied entrance? Has the admissions process changed? Who is in-charge of the admissions process?

In regards to Goal 3, are benefactors considered partners? When the plan speaks about reintroducing the mission of St. Joseph's to the community, does it also take into account the need to address tensions that may be in the community in regards to Native Americans?

Should the student's family be a part of the vision statement? The family is noted in the mission statement.

Some councilors felt that the strategic plan was not specific to St. Joseph's, that it was a general plan that could be applied to a variety of schools.

3. Conclusion — Mr. Martinelli thanked councilors for their input. The next planning meeting will be on September 22. It is hoped that the strategic plan can be brought to St. Joseph's Board of Directors for approval at its October, 2011, meeting. Once the board approves the plan it will come back to the Provincial Council.

- B. C-POSH Board of Directors — The council voted to approve the coordinator of the South Dakota SCJ community as an ex officio member of the C-POSH board. Fr. Joe Dean, as local coordinator, will now serve as a member of the board.
- C. Province Admissions Board — The Province Admissions Board would like to change the wording of the province policy regarding the TOEFL requirement to reflect the new numbering system. The council felt that this wasn't something that it needed to vote on; the board should simply revise the policy to reflect the new number system.

The council voted to appoint Frs. Bob Bossie and Pat Lloyd to replace Frs. Charlie Bisgrove and Rick DiLeo on the Admissions Board.

- D. Province Development Office — Br. Presto, in his role as managing director of the Province Development Office, shared the consolidated balance sheet of the Development Office with the council. He said that he inherited over a \$2 million deficit and unused inventory for which the office is still paying. The office has a cash flow problem and borrowed \$1.5 million last week to meet payroll and other expenses.

Br. Presto said that significant reorganizing is underway. Strategic planning needs to be done. The *Reign* magazine is being reevaluated. It is an expensive piece that losses money. There has not been a significant attempt to integrate it into an overall fund raising plan of the office. There will be two more issues this year but the mailing list has been reduced from 500,000 to 175,000.

There has been a consistent problem with over-ordering. The office is moving out material that can't be used. A policy change now only allows for a purchase of stock that is 1 percent over projected needs. Purchasing decisions have been removed from the fund raising department.

The office is looking at the budget shortfall and reviewing the reasons behind declining numbers. A fund raising consultant has been hired.

Communication in the office needs to improve, especially between departments. Weekly team management meetings have begun and Br. Presto has been attending department meetings. Br. Presto hopes to meet with every person at his or her work station; an employee survey in spring indicated that there had been a lack of communication from the executive director with employees.

When appropriate, Br. Presto is informing staff of province concerns such as the recent situation concerning Fr. Szatkowski.

Br. Presto would like to expand the board of directors by three people. It currently only includes the provincial superior, the provincial treasurer, the pastoral advisor for the office and the executive director. He believes that it is a conflict of interest for the executive director to serve on the board and will suggest that he be removed from the board. He will also propose that the director is evaluated on a regular basis.

Regarding office morale, Br. Presto said that it is mixed; the office has had a number of changes and stresses in recent years.

- E. Dehon Study Center — The council reviewed a report on the center submitted by Fr. P.J. McGuire.
- F. Search Committee for Sacred Heart School of Theology President Rector — Fr. Kurps distributed packets prepared by the search committee for the SHST president-rector. The council was invited to give feedback on the elements of the packet, which is to be sent to prospective candidates. The packet included a statement on the qualifications and expectations of the SHST president-rector, a statement regarding the seminary, and a four-color brochure that further describes the seminary and its mission. Councilors said that the material looked well done and professional.

The SHST staff will be spreading news about the job opening through bishops, religious communities who have sent men to SHST, alumni, SCJs and several other avenues.

- G. Province Plan — Councilors updated each other on their areas of responsibility in the Province Plan. Br. Lemke noted that there was a good meeting with the vocation and formation group; he said that it was the first time in many years that such a meeting took place. Several SCJs are attending national conferences in regards to vocation and formation ministry to create a pipeline of individuals for this ministry for the future.

Fr. Cassidy said that many of the entities within the province have gone through strategic planning; would the province itself benefit from this? Councilors suggested that this is something that should be done at the beginning of a provincial superior's mandate, not near the end. Also, it would have to be done in such a way that is appropriate to religious life, not just an adapted business model. It was noted that the word "planning" comes with baggage.

- H. July Province Assembly — The assembly seemed to go well and members were in good spirits. Many remember it as the last time Fr. Rick DiLeo was with the province. Starting with the jubilee celebration was good. The Justice and Peace presentation on the last morning was well-received. Having a different focus each day was beneficial. Dates should soon be set for next year's assembly.

- I. Council Minutes — A number of brief meetings were held, generally by conference call, during the summer. Councilors voted to approve the minutes of the following meetings: 812th, 814th, 815th and 816th. The minutes of the 813th meeting were previously approved.

- J. Cameroon SCJ in Brownsville Diocese — The Diocese of Brownsville made a contract with an SCJ priest from Cameroon to serve in the diocese as a hospital chaplain. However, the U.S. Province was not informed of the arrangement prior to its approval by the Cameroon council. Fr. Cassidy said that in a country where there is an SCJ entity, that entity should be consulted when a member of another entity is placed there. He said that he was not against a diocese making a contract with a priest of another province. However, for a variety of reasons, the province in the host country should be consulted. If the international SCJ came under scrutiny for alleged misconduct it would have significant implications for the U.S. Province.

Fr. Antonio Panteghini, the former provincial superior of Cameroon, wrote to Fr. Cassidy to apologize for not sending him earlier communication; he was recovering from a car accident.

Fr. Cassidy wrote a letter to Fr. John van den Hengel of the General Council to inform him of the situation and express his concern.

- K. Our Lady of Guadalupe — Fr. Vien Nguyen will begin ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston, at the beginning of September. The appointment letter from the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston states that he has a three-year appointment. This was not the province's intention. Fr. Vien is delaying his studies until Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec is in place. Fr. Morawiec is studying Spanish in Spain and is awaiting his visa to begin ministry. It was thought that Fr. Nguyen would only be at OLG for about a year.

- L. ESL Program — Since Fr. Szatkowski's resignation from the ESL program it has been operating without a director. Lay staff and SCJs have stepped in to assist. Fr. Jan de Jong said that the program can operate without a director through the end of the summer session (end of September).

Fr. Pitcavage and Fr. de Jong had a meeting about the program. Much of the academic portion of the program is administered by SHST — could a lay person direct the program? Dn. Nagel reminded councilors that academics is only one portion of the program. He believes that it needs an on-site director, one who can attend to situations that develop 24/7 with students who live at the seminary. The director also does more than coordinate students in the ESL program, he coordinates international students in other study programs, such as those doing graduate work. He also attends to international SCJs on sabbatical. Dn. Nagel said that in the absence of a director he has picked up many of these tasks but that this should only be considered a temporary arrangement.

Lay staff at the seminary have been invaluable in preparing the paperwork needed to allow for international students to come to the program, but the SCJs also have a significant component.

- M. Assistant Provincial Secretary — Br. Presto proposed that the province have a lay person serve as assistant provincial secretary, taking care of much of the day-to-day work of the office. The Franco-European Province does this.

The council voted to appoint Cassandra Wilson as assistant provincial secretary.

- N. Local Administrations — The consultation for the local administration of the former Villa Maria community will take place in January; the consultation for the administration of the fourth floor community at SHML will be done in October. Consultation for the Dehon Formation Community is scheduled for November.

- O. 37th Street Community — The council voted to suppress the 37th Street Community.

- P. 4th Floor Community at SHML — The council voted to establish a new religious community on the 4th floor of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. It was noted that a new community does not need to be established for the former Villa Maria community since that community simply changed buildings.

- Q. Milwaukee Area Review Board — In the wake of Fr. Szatkowski's arrest questions were asked by a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reporter regarding allegations against Frs. Pitcavage and Lind. The follow-up gave the impression that Fr. Cassidy misinterpreted or ignored the recommendations of MARB. Fr. Cassidy wrote a letter to the provincial superior of the Capuchins to express his concerns about the situation, in particular, the break of confidentiality by board members and the seeming "reinterpretation" of MARB's findings at the February 14 meeting. Br. Presto was to meet with MARB's director to discuss the province's concerns.

It is hoped that situation can serve as a learning experience and that the SCJs can continue their relationship with the board.

- R. Fr. Cassidy's Visit to India — Fr. Cassidy recently spent two weeks in India. The U.S. Province has supported the district financially and with personnel. The district had previously asked if Fr. Cassidy could visit. He went in August to help celebrate the ordination of 11 Indian SCJs. Fr. Cassidy briefly spoke about the visit noting that the emphasis in the district right now is on formation. Since ministries are limited (the district has three parishes) it is challenging to find ministerial experience for newly professed and newly ordained. Several Indian SCJs have gone to other provinces for experience; some will take on long-term assignments in these provinces.

Fr. Cassidy kept an extensive journal which is to be published on the province website.

III. Finance

- A. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Habitat for Humanity salvaged items from Villa Maria and the building was razed at the end of July. Heating/air conditioning units were saved for use at the Development Office Annex. Furniture went to the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago. The outline for Phase 2 has been excavated and some of the cement has been poured. Petroleum was found in the soil; it was thought to be contamination left from a gas tank. It will cost approximately \$25,000 to clean up. Overall, Dn. Nagel feels that progress on Phase 2 is moving well.
- B. 37th Street — The 37th Street property is being marketed by a real estate firm. The asking price is between \$500,000 - \$600,000. It is hoped that a non-profit can be found to purchase it. Full-time security has been hired to monitor the property.
- C. Raymondville Property — The original party that inquired about the SCJs' property in Raymondville is no longer interested. However, the Diocese of Brownsville has expressed interest.
- D. Investment Meetings — The investment group met with consultants on June 14 to review the results of the first quarter of 2011. The second quarter meeting was on August 9 and the stakeholders meeting was the next day. Reflecting the national situation, investments started a downward turn in June. Gains made in the first half of the year have diminished substantially.
- E. Employee Retirement Trust — The council voted to appoint Fr. Bob Tucker to a three-year term on the Employee Retirement Trust. He replaces Fr. Mark Mastin.

F. SCJ Medical Plan

1. Cash Transfer — The council voted to approve moving \$325,000 from the Support and Maintenance Trust to cover a shortfall in the SCJ Medical Plan.
2. Contract Renewal — The council reviewed the SCJ Medical Plan costs related to contract renewal. The new contract starts on October 1, 2011. The council agreed to discontinue the aggregate stop-loss coverage since the province has not reached that amount over the last five years. The council concurred with the general direction of the contract fees.
3. Increase in Medical Plan Contribution — To meet rising costs, Dn. Nagel proposed that the medical plan contribution be increased by \$75 a month, starting on July 1, 2012. This will bring the medical plan contribution to \$800 a month per SCJ. The council voted to approve the increase pending review of the increase by the Province Finance Commission.

G. Annual Corporate Meeting of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart

1. Election of Officers — The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Province of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart was held during the August 30, 2011, council meeting. After the meeting was called to order the following officers of the corporation were elected:

President: Fr. Tom Cassidy
Vice President: Fr. Bill Pitcavage
Treasurer: Dn. David Nagel
Secretary: Br. Frank Presto

2. Certified Corporate Resolution — The council voted to pass a corporate resolution that “authorizes Dn. David Nagel, SCJ, corporate treasurer, to execute any and all documents on behalf of the corporation in connection with corporate financial matters, including but not limited to applications, authorizations, agreements, purchases, account transaction and stock transactions.”

H. Philippine SCJs — Two SCJs involved with fund raising in the Philippines are planning to visit the U.S. Province in fall.

- IV. Vocations — Br. Ray Kozuch, director of Vocation Central, asked for the council’s input regarding an African man who would like to pursue a vocation with the U.S. Province. Generally, Africans are directed to discern their vocation with a community in their own country, or in a nearby SCJ province. Br. Kozuch said that this man appears to be an exceptional candidate. Would it be appropriate to have him come to the United States to be interviewed? Fr. Kurps said that when he was director he generally told international inquiries that he would be happy to interview them if they could get to the United States by their own means.

Councilors asked Br. Kozuch about the potential candidate. Br. Kozuch said that he had researched the province well, that he speaks English and that he has done well in academics. He is 21. Keith Burdick has been in contact with him. Councilors suggested that at 21 the person doesn’t have a long history. Has he applied to a diocese or another community previously? His academic record should be verified. What type of volunteer work does he do? Is he active with his parish? He should work (volunteer) at least a year in a pastoral setting before he is considered.

It was suggested that Br. Kozuch do a Skype conversation with the person so that he could get a sense of him visually. If he does come to the States, it would be good for him to spend time with the formation community; the students often pick up on things that the formation team might not notice.

Before concluding his visit with the council, Br. Kozuch gave a brief update on the work of the office. Three young men are coming to a Come and See weekend in October; there are two to three other possibilities for a future Come and See. Br. Kozuch said that he is excited by things the office is doing in advertising. The poster is at the printer and the calendar is almost complete. Br. Long Nguyen has done much of the work in designing and preparing the poster and calendar. Br. Kozuch will talk to Mary Gorski about including a Survey Monkey link on the vocation section of the website for inquiries.

- V. Upcoming Meetings — The council will meet by conference call at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, to review these minutes.

The council also scheduled its first meeting of 2012: February 7-8. The council will schedule meetings for the rest of 2012 at its October 4-5 meeting.

**Summary of the Meeting
of the SCJ Administrations of Canada and the United States
May 24, 2011, Dehon Formation Community, Chicago**

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

I. Introduction — Participants updated each other on themselves and their ministries. Some items of note:

- Fr. Cassidy concludes his term as president of CMSM this year. Several weeks ago he was in Rome for the organization's annual visits to various Vatican offices. He said that it was the best of the visits that he has done in his three years with CMSM. He will attend the US Bishops' meeting in Seattle in June and then end his term during the August assembly.
- Fr. Pitcavage will be in South Dakota in June to pack his belongings in Chamberlain and say good-bye to the parish communities at St. James and St. Anthony.
- Br. Lemke noted that the formation community will have four candidates in fall. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas got word that he will be granted a student visa so he will be returning to the program in June. Also, a new candidate was accepted in May.
- Fr. Tennyson said that the celebration for Br. Brian Tompkins' final vows in Ottawa was very nice. Many SCJs were there, including Fr. John Czyzynski and Br. Long Nguyen of the U.S. Province, and members of Br. Brian's family and friends from school attended. It was a good opportunity to show off the newly renovated church at Resurrection of Our Lord parish.
- Dn. Nagel updated the group on the construction of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. The new contractor has been good; it is estimated that the construction will be done on July 1 and that the community can move in mid-July. A contract has been signed for construction of the second phase, which includes apartments for non-SCJs (20% will be reserved for low income) and public facilities, such as large dining and gathering areas, and a chapel. Social activities for seniors, which SCJs will be able to take part in, will be offered once the second phase is complete. Dn. Nagel also updated the councils on a variety of financial matters, including the U.S. Province's commitment to support Asia (in particular, the Philippines as it prepares to become a region), and the recent driving tests for SCJs over 75. These are done not only for safety reasons, but to maintain lower insurance rates. The tests are administered by an outside agency.
- Fr. Marreeve said that Canada is continuing to welcome SCJs from other entities to the region. Fr. Alex Sapta Dwi Handoko arrived in Toronto in March; he will study Management and Human Resources. Fr. Rein van Leeuwen has been in contact with Indonesia to see if the province could send an SCJ to minister to the Indonesian community in Montréal, similar to the province's assistance in Toronto. An SCJ from Brazil is scheduled to join the community in Toronto in 2012 to minister to the Portuguese community; the Toronto Archdiocese is very excited by the possibility. An Indonesian member of the Philippine District is scheduled to do his sabbatical in Ottawa, and an SCJ from Cameroon will be doing scripture studies in Montréal. Fr. Marreeve said that hosting international SCJs both adds to the life of the region and is a way for Canadian SCJs to support the wider congregation.
- Fr. Bédard noted that fund raising in Canada is still going well with both the French and English-speaking benefactors; however the numbers of donors is diminishing as the population ages.
- Fr. Kurps talked about the impact of flooding in Mississippi. Most of the people Sacred Heart Southern Missions serves (and its employees) did not experience significant damage to their homes; however, many employed by the casinos lost wages while the casinos were closed due to the floods. Sacred Heart Southern Missions set up a fund to make low interest loans to people in SHSM-developed housing who need temporary assistance to meet mortgage payments because of wages lost due to the flood.
- Fr. Kilianski spoke about some of the activities at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston. The parish just held a successful festival and the school year is coming to an end. He noted the high number of sacraments and other events at the parish. There are generally 300 First Communions and 900 baptisms a year.
- Fr. Woodbury said that the merge of the three parishes with which he is involved is coming together. The merge took place in 2005 and it has been a slow process of bringing the three together into one new community. The parish hosted a 40th anniversary celebration for him that was both a good event for the parish and very affirming for Fr. Woodbury.

- Br. Presto noted that the province completed its work for reaccreditation with Praesidium; the last step of the process (the return of signature sheets from the membership) is winding up. Fr. Cassidy thanked Br. Presto for his work with the process, which has been very time-consuming.

II. Leadership and Community Animation — The council of the U.S. Province has been discussing leadership and community animation during its “visioning” sessions at recent meetings. It was presented as a topic of discussion for the North American meeting.

- A. Background — The dialogue on leadership and community sprang, in part, from the March meeting of local superiors/coordinators of the U.S. Province, although related discussions took place at the three province gatherings. One of the primary discussion topics at the meeting was “the joys and pains” of leadership. As members of local leadership reflected on their role, they also reflected on the role of community members and how one lives in community as an SCJ. The expectations of the coordinator/superior need to be defined, but also, what are the expectations of community members? Local and province leadership spoke of “animating” local communities.

This discussion of local leadership and community expectations will be continued at the July assembly of the U.S. Province.

- B. General dialogue — Meeting participants talked about leadership and community issues. Their comments, paraphrased:
1. Although the term “superior” can have negative connotations, the word “coordinator” seems to water down the role. People are not clear as to what a “coordinator” coordinates. It was noted that other religious communities struggle with terminology for leadership.
 2. We can’t speak of leadership in a vacuum. There needs to be co-responsibility in community life.
 3. Each community needs to define its expectations; things shouldn’t be done a certain way or at a certain time just because “that’s the way it’s always been done.” Schedules and other community issues should be revisited on a regular basis.
 4. It can be frustrating as a superior to have members of the community simply expect him to take care of everything.
 5. When expectations are defined, members can then be held accountable to each other. Accountability isn’t just a punitive action, it also provides a supportive role to individuals and the community.
 6. We are products of our culture. In Canada and the United States people’s lives have become more private and there is a greater emphasis on the individual. Individual televisions and individual cars have helped to increase individualism. Living in community is counter-cultural. People have to choose a community lifestyle if they are expected to live it.
 7. With smaller local communities it can be more disruptive than in the past (with larger communities) to incorporate or deal with a “challenging” individual.
 8. My vows are not just between me and God; we have taken vows with this group of men, with our religious community. How do we challenge each other to be accountable to our religious life? How do we encourage and support each other in community?”
 9. I hope that by discussing community life we can get to the bigger questions of religious life.
 10. I struggle with how to animate local communities. How do we call people from where they are at and find the things that unite us? Meals and prayers are a start. How do we encourage more activities together?
 11. How does Fr. Dehon’s charism infuse our lives? How can it? Fr. John van den Hengel suggests that there has been a discord in the interpretation of the charism and that discord continues today. He is to speak to this at the U.S. assembly.
 12. It can be difficult to reconcile our different identities. I am a pastor and have duties and ties to the parish, but I am also a member of a religious community. How do we reconcile the tension that many of us have in balancing community and ministry?
 13. It is true that those in parish ministry have an identity tied to the parish. But it is also true that the parishes ministered to by religious communities take on a certain identity because of the religious community. Parishes operated by religious have a different feel than diocesan parishes. Knowing this, we have to find a model different than the diocesan for being a part of parish ministry.

14. Brothers can be a good example of what religious is. It was noted that the novitiate took on a unique flavor the year that all three novices were preparing for a vocation to the brotherhood.
15. The community empowers the leadership of the community.

C. Animating local communities — Participants spoke about animating local communities. Paraphrased comments:

1. U.S. Council members individually wrote one-page reflections on what their ideal of a religious community looked like. It was a good exercise individually and provided a base for good discussion. In preparation for the July assembly, members of the U.S. Province will be asked to do the same exercise.
2. The challenge of animating local communities is finding a way to reengage and help to connect individuals who don't find community life to be a priority. These SCJs cannot be ignored, but they can't hold communities back either.
3. Would it be helpful to ask members what their expectations are when they choose a new superior on the local level? Why do they want that person?
4. Unfortunately, the local superior/coordinator's job is one that few want. It often falls to a person who grudgingly accepts it. Sometimes, a man is picked for the job in an effort to get him more involved in the community. This is not a good reason to make an SCJ a superior. Other times, a community seeks a man who isn't going to "rock the boat."
5. It seems that SCJs take selection of the major superior seriously but perhaps not that of the local superior.
6. Putting expectations on the table is one way of moving the job of "superior" to something beyond being a post that just needs to be filled.
7. Much of what we are seeking is what any couple or group of people living together expects: communication about when a member of the household will be gone, how tasks of the household are to be done and what the expectations are of members of the community to each other. Religious life is more than this, but at the very least the basics of community living should be addressed.
8. We counsel married couples that they have to talk to each other to maintain the relationship. We have to do the same in our communities.
9. If everyone has input into a community schedule, more members will buy into it and be willing to be accountable to it.
10. I am saddened when I hear an SCJ say that if he were younger he would leave the community. We don't want people to feel "stuck" with the community.
11. Estranged married couples are told to reflect on what initially brought them together; this can be a starting point in rebuilding relationships. Is it possible to recapture religious life in this way?
12. We have to stop looking at what my local community owes me and instead ask ourselves what we owe members of our community. Members of the formation community are asked to reflect on the question "How have I been generous in the last week, the last month." This can be a good exercise in discussing relationships and community living. Generosity is a building block of relationships.
13. It is important to not think of an SCJ as he may have been years earlier. There needs to be an allowance for the possibility that people can change and grow.
14. Good community living can be challenging in a community where SCJs are involved in different ministries. At the most basic level, schedules can be very different.
15. Religious communities seem to still be seeking a new model of community life since Vatican II. The balance between the monastic and apostolic life is hard to find. But it is the same challenge Fr. Dehon faced.
16. There is often a call for renewal but a renewal to what?

III. Updates on activities in the United States and Canada

- A. U.S. Province — Fr. Cassidy said that it is a joyful time in the province with the recent ordination of Fr. Greg Schill and the upcoming ordination of Dn. Duy Nguyen. Also, the province accepted a new candidate for fall, bringing the total number of candidates to four. Joining them will be three students in temporary vows in the formation house in fall.

Fr. Charlie Bisgrove's death had a significant impact on the province. Not only did the province lose a man at a relatively young age, but his death reinforces the fact that the province is shrinking in number and filling ministry obligations can be a challenge. For example, the council recently made the decision to open up the search for the next president-rector of Sacred Heart School of Theology to qualified non-SCJ candidates. This does not preclude an SCJ from being named now, or in the future, but it is the first time that a non-SCJ will be considered on more than a temporary basis.

Many in the province are looking forward to the move to the new Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. A variety of ministry options may open up with the completion of the second stage, which will be open to laity. Also, SHST might be able to offer continuing education opportunities for older adults aimed at those living at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

The work involved with Praesidium was extensive. However, transparency is the best way for the Church to regain its credibility regarding issues of abuse and administrative mismanagement.

- B. Canada — There was positive energy around Br. Tompkins' final profession; however, there is also concern about the reality of the Canadian Region's size and composition. Its membership is aging, and shrinking in number. The region's members are not fearful, but "we see the writing on the wall," said Fr. Marreeve.

There is also a disappointment in that more people are not attracted to the community. The SCJs appreciate the influx of people coming from other provinces [note Fr. Marreeve's comments in Section I] yet it would be nice to combine that with new members from within Canada. Without numbers, it is hard to make plans for the region.

Fr. Marreeve noted the work that Fr. McKenna has done with immigrants in Toronto. The region is also looking forward to completion of the Daly renovation project.

IV. Issues that arose from the updates on Canada and the United States

- A. Vocations — The SCJs talked about vocational efforts and how new candidates might be attracted to a community. As one person said, "We have to have something for potential candidates to come and see when we have a 'Come and See' weekend." In other words, a healthy and supportive community will attract others. It is not necessarily ministry that attracts someone to a religious community, but the way that community lives. And this gets back to earlier discussions on community life and living as religious.

What can SCJs in the northern hemisphere learn from the south where vocations are more plentiful? What is inviting about religious life in the southern hemisphere? The Priests of the Sacred Heart have a wonderful spirituality and charism. It can sell itself if we do a better job of getting the message out.

Could the SCJs offer homily guides that are inspired by SCJ spirituality? It is a way to have an impact on the Church, but also a way to attract others to the community. What is the message of SCJ spirituality? That God loves people unconditionally.

- B. Elder care — SCJs from both entities said that they hoped that more could be done for older and disabled members of the community to allow them to remain in community. It was noted that at a certain point some people do need nursing care and that such care is generally cost prohibitive to have at home. However, perhaps more can be done to delay nursing care.
- C. Making parishes "Dehonian" — Although councilors were not sure exactly what they meant by making a parish "more Dehonian," it was decided to pursue this effort jointly. Fr. Kurps will contact SCJs in North America who had taken part in the congregational workshops on parish life and organize a meeting to examine a way to address this issue.

- IV. Mexico — Fr. Cassidy had proposed that Canada and the United States jointly organize an SCJ venture in Mexico. Neither has significant personnel to offer the project, but perhaps it can help to support an effort staffed by SCJs from Venezuela and/or India. Fr. Cassidy spoke to Frs. Claudio Dalla Zuanna and John van den Hengel of the general council about Mexico. They were supportive of North America pursuing a Mexican venture. It was suggested that it be done in either Chiapas or Oaxaca, two of the poorest states in the country and areas that have a scarce presence of Catholic priests. Fr. Cassidy will speak more with the U.S. council about Mexico. If Mexico is pursued, it was suggested that it be done in a manner similar to Ecuador where a 10-year plan was developed before SCJs went to the country.

- V. Mississippi — Fr. Cassidy informed the Canadian administration that the U.S. Province is tentatively scheduled to assume a new parish in northern Mississippi. It is near current SCJ ministries and serves a primarily poor, African-American population.
- VI. Assemblies — Members of the Canadian Region were invited to the July 11-14 assembly of the U.S. Province and members of the U.S. Province were invited to the August assembly of the Canadian Region. The jubilees for the U.S. Province will be celebrated on Monday evening, July 11.
- VII. Immigration — At its joint meeting in Montréal, the two administrations noted that immigration was something that the two entities could jointly address. It was noted that the Justice and Peace Commission of the U.S. Province is looking at ways to present the issues of immigration to the membership, and perhaps the wider public.
- VIII. Spirituality — Fr. Byron Haaland will be leading a retreat at the Canadians assembly in August. He is also presenting an SCJ retreat in Florida with Fr. Joe Dean November 14-16. SCJs from Canada are welcome to come.
- IX. General plan and province plan — All entities have been asked by the general administration to develop a three-year plan. The U.S. Province modeled its plan on the general administration's plan. Councilors found that preparation of the plan was a good process to go through. It has helped to create energy in certain areas, such as Justice and Peace, and Vocations and Formation. Although Canada is a smaller entity, it was thought that it would also benefit from development of such a plan. Last year the Canadian council focused on developing a way to welcome SCJs to the region. This was a good process and has reaped benefits. Although limited to this one issue, it was a plan for the region.
- X. European Conference on Secularity — Frs. Cassidy and Marvee will attend this conference in October. Meeting participants briefly discussed the impact of secularity in Europe compared to North America. There are similarities, agreed several councilors, but also significant differences in how secularity is interpreted and its effect.

Related to earlier discussions, it was suggested that the effect of secularity on religious life should be examined. What does the vow of poverty mean in today's society?

- XI. Committee on Aging — SCJs found that the information that came out from the February meeting of the committee on aging, which met in Rome, was interesting. It is hoped that the committee will continue to meet and look more at the impact of aging provinces on the congregation.
- XII. The merge of French and Anglo Canada — A member of the U.S. council asked the Canadians about their experience of the merge of the entities of Anglo and French Canada. Although it has taken some time, the region now feels like one entity and there is good participation in all of the events of the entity. One of most significant issues is language. Most can speak English, but not all SCJs can speak French.
- XIV. Support of the missions — Both entities give significant financial support to the missions. There is concern that mission entities have not made more of an effort to seek ways to become financially self-sufficient. As entities in the northern hemisphere diminish in size, their ability to fund operations in the south may diminish as well. How are southern entities preparing for this reality?
- XV. Next meeting — The next meeting of the North American administrations will take place November 8-9, 2011, in Ottawa. The schedule will be similar to past meetings — dinner together the first night, and then a full day of meetings on the second day. It is hoped that all participants can be available for the full day of meetings on November 9. Perhaps they can plan to spend that night in Ottawa so that afternoon discussions are not as rushed as they seemed to be at the May meeting.

It was noted that Fr. Kurps cannot be at the November 8-9 meeting.

Discussion of the each entity's response to the general plan was a suggested topic for the November meeting. Also, it would be interesting to learn about ministries in the area in which a meeting is held.

Br. Lemke and the rest of the formation community were thanked for their hospitality.

CALENDAR

September 28:	ESL Cultural Fair
October 4-5:	Provincial Council meeting
November 8-9	Combined councils meeting of the U.S. and Canada
November 14-16:	SCJ Retreat, Pinellas Park
December 14-15:	Provincial Council meeting
February 7-8	Provincial Council meeting

UPDATES

During the summer a number of SCJs relocated, with the largest group being those who moved to Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. Address updates have been posted in the *Fridge Notes*. For the most recent contact information SCJs are encouraged to use the online personnel directory under the Members' section of the province website at: www.sacredheartusa.org

The personnel directory is one of the items available in the Members' box on the upper right section of the Members' page. For assistance in accessing the Members section, contact Mary Gorski at marygorski@sbcglobal.net or call 414-427-4266.

NECROLOGY

Fr. Philip Heitzman, a member of the Dutch Flemish Confederation, died on June 28. He was born in 1921, professed in 1941 and ordained in 1951.

Fr. Paul Baeten, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died July 8. He was born in 1928, professed in 1949, and ordained in 1956.

Fr. Corrado Claudio Biada of the North Italian Province died July 21. He was born in 1933, professed in 1953 and ordained in 1963.

Fr. Lodewijk de Plecker, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died July 22. He was born in 1921, professed in 1941 and ordained in 1947.

Fr. André Mathias Engel of the South Brazilian Province, died August 9. He was born in 1925, professed in 1948 and ordained in 1952.

Fr. Humberto Penso, a member of the South Brazilian Province, died on August 31. He was born in 1928, professed in 1948 and ordained in 1953.