

## INSIDE

Minutes of the  
February 7-8  
Provincial Council  
meeting, p. 1

Calendar, p. 8

Updates, p. 8

Necrology, p. 9

## Minutes of the 821<sup>st</sup> Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., February 7-8, 2012

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; Fr. Terence Langley, provincial secretary; Br. Frank Presto, moderator, and Mary Gorski, minutes.

### I. Council check-in – Councilors took time to update each other on themselves, ministries and personal concerns. Items of note:

- Fr. Cassidy just returned from Tuscan, where he took part in the annual CMSM retreat; it was a good gathering.

He noted his apprehension in regards to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee bankruptcy. Fr. Cassidy's apprehension isn't necessarily in regards to claims against the SCJs — the community's footprint is small in the archdiocese — but the media fallout that may surround the situation. The Provincialate had been questioned extensively by a *Journal Sentinel* reporter in regards to the impact of the bankruptcy on religious communities.

- Fr. Kilianski noted the year-long calendar of activities in place for the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. The pews have been removed from the parish for refinishing and last weekend he and other SCJs assisted parishioners in repainting the inside of the church. He also noted that Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec has been a helpful addition to the parish team and local community.
- Fr. Haaland said that the process for interviewing candidates for Sacred Heart School of Theology's president-rector has been going well. All levels of the seminary community have been involved.
- Br. Lemke spoke about the start of the spring semester at the formation community in Chicago. There is a good energy among the students. He also noted that it is nice to have a larger SCJ community with Fr. Tim Gray and Fr. Ed Zemlik in the house.
- Fr. Pitcavage said that he is completing a few tasks related to Fr. Jerome Clifford's death. He noted that the friends who took care of Fr. Clifford in his last days did an excellent job. Fr. Pitcavage joined Fr. David Szatkowski and Br. Lemke at the funeral for Fr. Tim Gray's mother. Fr. Pitcavage was the main celebrant at the funeral.
- Fr. Kurps said that Fr. Greg Speck is settled in with the Nesbit community and has joined the pastoral team. Fr. Ed Zemlik has moved to Chicago, and Fr. Langley is now in Wisconsin.
- Dn. Nagel said that he will be traveling to Rome in February, and perhaps April, for finance meetings.

### II. Visioning

- A. Discussion — During recent meetings the council discussed chapters from John Allen's *The Future Church*. This month councilors focused on the third chapter: "Islam." In particular, they reflected on how what was presented impacts the province and its ministries. Paraphrased comments from the discussion:

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- The area of the congregation that is most impacted by the Islamic faith is Asia. One of the reasons that the SCJs went to the Philippines was to be a part of Christian – Muslim dialogue. However, safety concerns forced the community to leave many of the areas it was initially in, especially after the kidnapping of an SCJ by an Islamic group. The SCJs are now ministering areas with larger Christian populations.
  - In Europe, Muslim populations are often more noticeable than in the United States.
  - Many Americans — SCJs included — are uninformed about the Muslim faith.
  - One thing to be admired in devote Muslims is their adherence to the five daily prayers.
  - Fear and stereotypes develop when people are uninformed about those different than themselves. Part of the SCJ charism is to help to dispel ignorance about the “other.” Is there a ministerial opportunity for SCJs in regards to dispelling ignorance about the Muslim faith?
  - SCJs from the Philippines and Indonesia have spoken about the challenges of living as a minority Christian in a Muslim society. It is in such areas that interfaith dialogue seems to especially be needed. In a predominantly Christian country, such as the United States, it is hard to get a sense of what it is like to be the minority religion.
  - The formation team has talked about ways to educate students about Islam; some education is done regarding Judaism.
  - As “prophets of love and servants of reconciliation” it is important that SCJs find ways to dispel ignorance in an attempt to bring about reconciliation.
  - People often point to apparent violence found in Muslim writings. However, it is important to note that the Christian faith also has violent passages in scripture and incidents of violence in its past.
  - There is good to be found in all of the monotheistic faiths; however, something that stands out in Christianity is the emphasis placed on forgiveness. It is also a challenge for Christians.
  - Some Muslims are easily identified by their dress; Christians often don’t have a visible form of dress that identifies them.
- B. Future visioning — Councilors discussed whether they wanted to continue to focus on *The Future Church* in their visioning session. It has been interesting, but some wondered if discussion could focus on just a few parts of the book instead of each chapter. Or, are there other topics that would be more pertinent for the council to reflect on?

The council decided that at its next meeting it would discuss President Obama’s proposal that religious employers not be exempt from the mandate to cover family planning expenses, such as contraception. This is not only a national topic of discussion but an issue of concern for the SCJs as a Catholic employer. Councilors received several articles on the issue to prepare for their discussion. Fr. Cassidy and Dn. Nagel will prepare questions focusing on how SCJs should respond to this issue.

### III. Administration

- A. Province Plan Reports — Before councilors spoke about their areas, Fr. Cassidy suggested that reports on the Province Plan be given at the spring, 2013 local coordinators/superiors meeting. This would be done in preparation for the Province Election Assembly and the “State of the Province” report. After their meeting, local superiors could take the reports to the local communities for discussion, again, in preparation for the Election Assembly. Fr. Cassidy asked that the date for the 2013 local superiors/coordinators meeting be set at the March 2012 gathering.
1. Spirituality — Fr. Haalaand said that he has worked with SHST staff to include a component in the orientation program for new employees that focuses on the SCJ mission at SHST. He is also plugging into several committees at SHST to help find ways to better incorporate the SCJ mission into the many facets of the seminary. The work has been very time-consuming as he develops his role. Finding ways to maintain the SCJ mission and charism at SHST will be even more important when a non-SCJ rector is named.

In March Fr. Haaland will give a parish mission on SCJ spirituality in Mississippi.

Councilors asked about the text that Fr. Jim Schroeder revised for a lay version of the Province Prayer Book. Fr. Haaland said that he will speak to Fr. Schroeder about this and report back to the council. Councilors said at their last meeting that they would like to review the text.

2. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — Fr. Kilianski is working with Kassandra Wilson at the Provincialate to get the year's grant request forms in the mail. He hopes to have a meeting with the JP&R Commission soon.
3. Ministries — Fr. Kurps said that the Dehonian Family Committee recently met by conference call. The next Mission Education gathering was set for 2012 but 2013 is preferred by St. Joseph's Indian School, host of the conference. The dates will be April 8-9, 2013 at St. Joseph's. The council approved the dates.

The Dehonian Family Committee will have a meeting in Hales Corners March 26. During its conference call, committee members suggested that the group be expanded. An SCJ and a parishioner from both Mississippi and Texas will be invited to join the committee. Fr. Haaland has also been asked to join. There is a desire by the committee to focus on developing Dehonian spirituality and awareness in parishes, thus one of the reasons that people in parishes are being sought for the committee.

Fr. Kurps noted that the committee is revisiting texts from the 2006 Provincial Conference on the Dehonian Family, as well as other gatherings, to see what has been done before and build on previous work.

4. Vocations and Formation — Br. Lemke said that the Vocation and Formation Committee has not met recently but that some of its members have taken part in national workshops. At its last meeting the group discussed how SCJs can communicate their charism in their every day living, such as in homilies. Upcoming discussions will focus on the *Ratio Formationis*.
- B. Rule of Life — The U.S. Province was asked by the Generalate to produce and distribute the English version of the revised Rule of Life. The books for the congregation outside of the U.S. Province have been printed but still need to be distributed. Mary Gorski will soon have the version for the U.S. Province completed. These will include the province directory.
- C. Corporate Secretary — The council voted to appoint Fr. Terry Langley as the corporate secretary for the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.
- D. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cameroon — The U.S. Province has been invited to send a representative to Cameroon for the November 30 celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of SCJ presence in the country. Frs. Haaland and Kilianski both expressed interest and will check their schedules. Fr. Cassidy will let the Cameroon provincial superior know that someone will be attending and that in March he will indicate whom.
- E. Pastoral Ministry at SHML — Fr. Cassidy suggested that a plan for the pastoral care of the general public at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake be established. Fr. Jim Brackin and Dn. Nagel developed a draft of a job description for a chaplain to SHML. During councilors' discussion of the job description they suggested that instead of a single person being named as a chaplain that the Sacred Heart retirement community take responsibility for pastoral care of the complex. The local coordinator/superior and community would then determine how pastoral care would be implemented and be accountable to the provincial superior and his council for it.

Issues of note: 1) if a team approach is taken for pastoral ministry at SHML (instead of a single chaplain) there may still be a need to name a "head chaplain;" 2) the relationship between the pastoral team and the management team of the complex needs to be well-defined (it is assumed that at times residents will share concerns with a chaplain that should be passed on to the management organization); and 3) the relationship of the Province Development Office to SHML will need to be defined (donors will most likely be among the residents; how will the office interact with them, how will it allow opportunities for relationships with new benefactors to develop?).

The council voted to assign the pastoral care of the non-SCJ sections of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake to the Sacred Heart retirement community under the direction of its local superior/coordinator and house council.

- F. Committee on Nursing Concerns — The council voted to establish a Province Committee on Nursing Concerns. This is to be a standing committee that will discuss issues in regards to in-house assisted living and criteria to help determine when

outside nursing care is needed for an SCJ. Five SCJs are to serve on the committee. Fr. Brackin and Fr. Pitcavage will be asked to bring suggested names for the committee to the March council meeting for a vote. Frs. Brackin and Pitcavage will also suggest a chairperson for the committee.

- G. Local Superiors Formation in Paraguay — Fr. Kilianski said that when he was in Madrid he was told about a formation conference for local superiors that was to take place in Paraguay. The language of the conference will be Spanish. If his schedule allows, Fr. Kilianski is interested in attending. The council was in favor of this. Fr Kilianski will get more information.

H. Local Administrations

1. Sacred Heart Retirement Community, Pinellas Park — The council voted to name Fr. Frank Burshnick as first councilor of the Pinellas Park community.
2. St. Joseph's Community at SHML — The council voted to name the entire community as house council. It was noted that Fr. Yvon Sheehy has already been named first councilor.
3. Sacred Heart Retirement Community at SHML — The council voted to appoint the following local administration to the Sacred Heart Retirement Community:
  - a. Fr. Jim Brackin as local superior/coordinator.
  - b. Fr. Michael Burke as first councilor
  - c. Fr. Tony Russo as second councilor
  - d. Br. Peter Mankins as local treasurer

The three-year term of the new administration begins on March 1, 2012.

- I. SHST president-rector search — Both Fr. Kurps and Fr. Cassidy said that the search process for the SHST president-rector has gone well and that all levels of the seminary population have been involved in it. The entire seminary has taken the task seriously and prayerfully. On March 7 the SHST board will recommend two names for the Provincial Council to consider. The council can then meet the two men before a selection is made.

The salary range for the position would be higher than that of the highest paid professor, approximately \$120,000 to \$140,000. The rector would be expected to live on the campus. All candidates know this. It has also been suggested that priests in the formation department also live on campus.

- J. Local superiors/coordinators meeting — Fr. Pitcavage presented a tentative schedule for the March 5-6 local superiors/coordinators meeting. A representative from Guest House will give a presentation on healthy living, with attention given to addictive behaviors and how and when to confront a member of one's community about such concerns. There will also be a discussion of accountability in community — not necessarily financial accountability, but accountability toward the expectations of community living. It is hoped that such a discussion can begin at the coordinators' meeting and move toward the assembly. Fr. Kurps will help to develop a process for this section.

Time will be given for staff reports. It was suggested that these be prepared and distributed prior to the meeting. Staff would then be available for questions and clarification during the gathering. There will also be time for a conversation with the province human resource director to address administrative concerns regarding employees.

Fr. Kilianski volunteered to lead morning prayer and adoration on the second day.

- K. Province Assembly — The province assembly will begin with the jubilee celebration on July 9 (generally a 4 p.m. Mass followed by a reception and dinner), run all day July 10-11, and end at noon on July 12.

Fr. Cassidy will contact fellow jubilarians to determine whether they have preferences regarding the celebration. Fr. Kurps said that if it is their desire, he could plan the jubilee.

Besides the jubilee, other components of the assembly are to include a day organized by the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission on *Caritas in Veritate*, the pope's encyclical on concerns of global development and the common good; a focus on province finances; and time to further process one of the topics developed at the local coordinators/superiors gathering.

Fr. Cassidy said that he would check into social possibilities for the week, such as a baseball game.

- L. Election Assembly — Councilors were reminded that the Province Election Assembly is scheduled for the first week of June, 2013. A moderator, or a moderator team, needs to be chosen.
- M. Questionnaire on Aging — The General Working Group on Aging, chaired by Fr. John van den Hengel, sent a questionnaire regarding aging issues that is to be completed by all entities in preparation for several meetings. Fr. Langley and Cassandra Wilson will work together to complete the questionnaire.
- N. Milwaukee Area Review Board (MARB) — The Capuchins disbanded MARB on January 26, 2012. The communities that utilized the board, including the SCJs, need to either establish their own boards or join together to form a shared board. Fr. Cassidy briefly spoke to two provincials about this and they are open to a shared board. Fr. Cassidy will call for a meeting of several Milwaukee area provincials (with the option of the provincials sending representatives in their place) to discuss the possibility of establishing a board. It is hoped that this meeting can take place by the end of February.

#### IV. Finance

- A. Patrick Thompson — Civil litigation with Patrick Thompson has been resolved; the settlement agreement stipulates that none of the details can be shared publically
- B. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Dn. Nagel said that concerns regarding the compensation of sub-contractors hired by the previous contractor, Mark Carstensen, are still being sorted out.

Stage two of SHML is going well. Construction is on schedule for an August 1 move-in date for new residents. Marketing is underway; there were 224 inquiries about the apartments as of January 1. The marketing group will begin sending a newsletter to potential residents about the property. The marketing team anticipates filling the apartments within eight months.

Interviews are being done for an on-site manager.

Later in the meeting Dn. Nagel talked about phase three of SHML. This would include an additional 64 units. There are pros and cons to moving forward and building the third stage soon after the second is completed. If the province moves forward it would be able to utilize the current contractor (Horizon) which has been very dependable. Also, costs will only go up the longer the project waits. However, moving forward also means making a large financial commitment before the success of the second stage is measured.

This will come back for discussion in another meeting.

- C. Province Grants from Development Offices (“MAP”) — Dn. Nagel had Fr. Wayne Jenkins review the *Cor Unum* to find references to the term “MAP,” which has come to refer to the contribution given to the province each year from each of the three development offices. No definition of the initials “MAP” has been found. The term “province grant” will be used to refer to this yearly contribution.

The Province Development Office raises funds to support the work of the province, extraordinary medical expenses of SCJs, expenses of retirees, the province grant to Sacred Heart School of Theology, as well as the province’s commitments overseas. The office had been asked to expand its contributions to the province from \$5 million to \$7 million to meet increasing province and congregational expenses (including financial responsibility for much of the SCJs’ ministry in Asia). However, in the current economic climate this has been a difficult goal to meet.

Dn. Nagel suggested that grant levels from each of the offices be adjusted in order to raise the operating budget income of the province to \$10 million.

Dn. David will meet with representatives of the development offices to explain the needs of the province and the wider congregation to put in perspective the request for the grant increase.

- D. Financial knowledge and attitudes — During their discussion of province expenses councilors talked about the need to help members of the province become more cognizant of province finances and “appropriateness” in personal expenditures. There needs to be a conversation on the province level about decision-making in regards to expenses. It’s not that SCJs

should be asked to do without, but to perhaps do with less or with less expensive options than what are often chosen. For example, instead of a new car, could more SCJs consider “lightly used” program cars. Or, would it be practical to simply put more miles on a car one already has rather than to trade it in? Healthcare options as well should be reviewed.

Councilors said that a discussion needs to take place in which SCJs ask themselves the question “What is an appropriate lifestyle for a religious in the United States today?”

- E. Capital Expenditures — Dn. Nagel shared the capital expenditure requests that have come in so far. If councilors have questions about them they should ask Dn. Nagel before the requests are reviewed during the budget process.
- F. Support and Maintenance Trust — Fr. P.J. McGuire resigned from the Support and Maintenance Trust. The council voted to appoint Fr. Bob Tucker to replace him.
- G. Province Finance Commission — Fr. Terry Langley will need to resign from the Province Finance Commission now that he is provincial secretary. It was suggested that a younger SCJ be named to replace him so that younger members can get more experience in such matters.
- H. Properties — There continue to be inquiries about the 37<sup>th</sup> Street property; a real estate agent is working to generate interest in the Raymondville property.
- I. Dehon House, Franklin — Interior painting is being done at Dehon House.
- J. Sodexo — 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, 37<sup>th</sup> Street and Dehon House, along with land that the province owns. 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. 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.

Dn. Nagel said that the final draft of the agreement between Sodexo and the Priests of the Sacred Heart looked good. He reminded councilors that no current employee of the SCJs will lose his or her job because of the agreement.

A councilor said that he heard that Sodexo has been accused of mistreatment of workers. Dn. Nagel will investigate this concern. It was noted that Sodexo is a very large, international corporation.

## V. Personnel

- A. Fr. Bob Bossie — During a conference call in September the council reviewed concerns Cardinal George had in regards to Fr. Bossie and the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center. The concerns stemmed from 8<sup>th</sup> Day’s support of a screening of “Pink Smoke Over the Vatican,” a film that explores issues surrounding women’s ordination in the Catholic Church.

At that time the council made the following decisions that were to be reviewed in six months: 1) the province will suspend its funding of the Eighth Day Center for an indefinite period of time; 2) the province will no longer be a sponsor of the Eighth Day Center; and 3) Fr. Bossie’s activity with the Eighth Day Center will be suspended for an indefinite period of time (including voluntary activity with the center and its sponsored events).

All of the actions were to be reviewed by the council. The council will now begin that review beginning with a conversation with Fr. Bossie. Fr. Cassidy will see him the week of February 13; he hopes to share the results of his conversation with Fr. Bob when the council meets by conference call that week. Also, the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission will review the province’s support of 8<sup>th</sup> Day at its next meeting.

- B. Fr. Mike McMillen — Fr. McMillen received his first canonical warning regarding dismissal from the congregation. The second is to be sent on February 24. Fr. McMillen was given notice to expect the warnings. He would like to leave the SCJs but not leave the priesthood. He has not found a diocese for incardination so this is the next step in the process as regards the SCJs. In spring the province will petition Rome to have him dismissed. At this time he still has the option of finding a

diocese in which to incardinate.

The council voted to endorse the continuation of the dismissal process of Fr. McMillen.

- C. Fr. Paul Kelly — At the end of his sabbatical Fr. Kelly will move to Sacred Heart Monastery and work in formation at SHST
  - D. Juan Carlos Castaneda Rojas — He requested and was approved for entrance to the novitiate in June, 2010. However, he was unable to enter the novitiate because he was detained during a home visit in Colombia. He is now requesting once again to enter the novitiate. The formation team endorses his request and asks if it is necessary for Juan Carlos to retake the canonical questionnaire and do the physical exam. The council said that it will give a waiver for the canonical questionnaire but that he should still have the physical exam.
- VI. Evaluation — Councilors briefly discussed their meeting, noting that it moved well. Br. Frank Presto was thanked for his service as provincial secretary, especially during recent months when he held jobs both at the Province Development Office and at the Provincialate.
- VIII. Conference Call — The council will next meet by conference call at 1:15 p.m. (central), Tuesday, February 14, to review these minutes and discuss other items.

## CALENDAR

March 5-6:	Local Coordinators/Superiors 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)
July 9:	Province Jubilees
July 9-12:	Province Assembly, Hales Corners
July 16-21:	General Conference, Neustadt, Germany
July 23-25:	SCJ Major Superiors Meeting, Neustadt, Germany

*Looking ahead to 2013, the next Mission Education Conference will be held at St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota April 8-9, 2013, and the province election assembly will be the week of June 3, 2013.*

## UPDATES

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## NECROLOGY

**Fr. Celestino Llamazares Redondo** a member of the Spanish Province, died February 3. He was born in 1949, professed in 1967 and ordained in 1991.

**Bishop Evert Baaij**, a member of the U.S. Province, died January 31. He was born in 1921, professed in 1942, ordained in 1947 and consecrated as a bishop in 1974.

**Fr. Jerome Clifford**, a member of the U.S. Province, died December 19. He was born in 1933, professed in 1956 and ordained in 1974.

**Fr. Angelo Veneziani**, a member of the South Italian Province, died December 13. He was born in 1923, professed in 1942 and ordained in 1962.