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January 2014
Vol. LV, No. 1

Minutes of the 840th Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., December 18-19, 2013

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, provincial superior; Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Christianus Hendrik, councilors. Present after faith-sharing: Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary and Mary Gorski, minutes. Present for financial matters: Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer.

- I. Faith sharing – The council spent Wednesday morning in prayer and faith sharing. They reflected on the following questions and statements:
 - How do I try to live the vow of poverty in our religious community?
 - The theme of our general chapter is “Merciful in Community with the Poor.”
 - Pope Francis has said, “I want a church that is poor and for the poor.”
 - Reflect on Christmas, which calls forth tremendous generosity, and also has the temptation of materialism.
 - Share an experience of being with the poor that has enriched your life.
- II. North American Continental Conference — The council reviewed comments made during the NACC following table discussions. On the final day, participants were asked to recommend “next steps.” Several tables suggested the establishment of a follow-up committee to continue the discussions and work begun at the conference.

Fr. Kurps was the chairperson of the planning committee for the conference. However, he reminded others, that committee no longer exists. Its work ended with the conference.

Councilors agreed that follow-up is needed. Fr. Kurps said that he would be willing to serve on a follow-up committee but does not want to chair the committee. He suggested that there be representation from younger members of the province on it.

Fr. Huffstetter will send a letter to the province by the end of the year asking for volunteers for a follow-up committee. A follow-up letter reminding the membership of the request will be sent the second week of January. January 21 will be the deadline for responding.

Other province information will be included in the first mailing, such as a reminder about the retreat Fr. P.J. McGuire is giving for the Mississippi community.

The duties of the proposed committee concern follow-up for the US Province. However, councilors noted that follow-up should also be done together with the Canadian Region. This will most likely be discussed during the meeting of North American administrations in Montréal in March.

It was emphasized that both on the province and continental level that young SCJs need to be a part of the follow-up. The younger members need to continually be given the opportunity — and challenged — to make their voices heard.

III. 2014 U.S. Province Chapter

- A. Convoke — The council voted to have Fr. Huffstetter convoke the 2014 provincial chapter. Fr. Huffstetter and Br. Presto will prepare the convocation letter to be sent by January 3.

B. Steering committee — The council voted that the pre-chapter planning committee be named as the pre-chapter steering committee. Members of the committee: Fr. Joe Dean (chairperson), Br. Ray Kozuch, Fr. Kurps, Br. Lemke, Br. Presto, Fr. Jim Schroeder and Fr. David Szatkowski. Sr. Cathy Bertrand works with the committee as chapter facilitator. Mary Gorski assists with administrative functions.

C. Council input — The pre-chapter committee requested council input on the following:

1. Local coordinator/superior — The term “local superior” was changed to “local coordinator” by a previous chapter. However, the preferred term, and the one more in step with the rest of the congregation, is “local superior.” It has been suggested that the next chapter change the term back to “superior.”

Councilors agreed it would be good to return to the term “superior.” However, they questioned whether the change needed to be made by the chapter. Could the council make a change to the province directory?

Br. Presto contacted the general curia and was told by Fr. John van den Hengel (later in the day) that a chapter would indeed need to make the term change.

2. Province formation ratio — Because the general ratio is in the process of being updated the provincial ratio should not be brought to the provincial chapter for discussion. It was noted that much of the protocol regarding formation programs belongs in the handbook, not the ratio.
3. Provincial superior and council election process — Some members of the province have voiced concerns about the current election process. Does the assembly-style rush elections? Would discernment be better with mail-in ballots?

Councilors believe that it is a small minority who want a return to elections by mail. While concerns about adequate discernment time are appropriate, this can be addressed within the assembly process. Regardless of flaws within the process (and it was noted that any process will have flaws), the need for province membership to be together during such an important moment takes precedence. It is significant for those elected to leadership to be acknowledged – in person – by the membership when they agree to serve. It is also important for the membership to make leadership decisions together, in dialogue with each other. Several councilors thought that had the 2013 election been done by mail-in ballot the results might have been different.

It is important that procedures be understood prior to the election assembly. There needs to be good preparation of the membership so that good, deep dialogue can take place not only about what is needed in leadership but about who has and does not have the qualities sought. People should be able to honestly speak about one another without being, or seeming, mean-spirited when addressing concerns.

4. Number of councilors — Some have asked whether the province should go back to a four-member council. Councilors said that it is helpful to have five because it allows for wider province representation (ministry, location and age). If the councilor’s job was a full-time position then there would be reason to reduce the number but where the job is a part-time task, five seems appropriate.

The council noted that the chapter is a self-governing body. Members of the chapter have a right to bring the issue to the chapter floor for discussion if there is a significant desire to reduce the size of the council.

5. Provincial conferences — Should the chapter be asked to convoke a provincial conference before the next chapter? The Rule of Life calls for such conferences. During Fr. Tom Cassidy’s administration the three St. Louis gatherings satisfied the requirements of the Rule. During Fr. Richard MacDonald’s administration a provincial conference was held on the Dehonian Family.

Councilors do not think that this needs to be a chapter issue. The provincial administration has the responsibility to convoke a provincial conference.

6. Voting rights — At the last chapter there was discussion of allowing those in temporary vows to have voting rights. The discussion process came to a halt when there was a call for a secret vote. It was noted that a delegate has the right to request a secret ballot. However, such a request does not mean that the process at hand comes to an end. The discern-

ment/discussion process should continue until the facilitator deems it appropriate for a vote to be called.

The council referred the issue of voting rights to the pre-chapter steering committee. It should be included in the chapter agenda.

7. Consultation process for local superiors — Should the consultation process for local leadership be addressed by the chapter? Councilors suggested that it not be. However, Fr. Huffstetter said that he would like to – at some point — discuss guidelines as a part of his own preparation as he begins consultations for leadership.

D. Required tasks

1. Convocation letter — As noted earlier, the council voted to convoke the chapter
2. Delegates — Ex officio delegates are the provincial superior, provincial councilors, novice master, provincial treasurer, provincial secretary, and mission secretary (if the province has one). There must be at least one more elected delegate than ex officio. The pre-chapter steering committee suggests that the same process as last time for electing delegates be used for the 2014 chapter.

It was noted that a change in the Constitutions allows a province the option of an assembly chapter. At an assembly chapter at least 50% of those eligible to participate must be present. The council affirmed the pre-chapter steering committee's recommendation of following the same process of electing delegates as was used for the 2008 chapter.

A letter outlining the delegate election process will be sent soon. Local superiors/coordinators will be told that they need to hold a community meeting by a certain date to hold elections.

The membership must be informed that to be a voting delegate one must agree to participate in the entire chapter process. If a person wants to be present at some but not all of the chapter he can be an observer without voting rights. Those who are unable to attend will be encouraged to be prayer partners. These levels of participation will be detailed in the letter.

Delegates will be named by March 21. Formal communication of the delegate list will be finished by March 28.

3. State of the Province Report — The report prepared for the province elections cannot be used as the report required for the chapter. A new report is needed. Fr. Kurps suggested that the pre-chapter steering committee develop response questions for those preparing the report. A letter will be sent to those responsible for reports soon after the convocation letter is sent.
4. Required committees
 - a. Pre-chapter steering committee — As noted earlier, the pre-chapter planning committee was named as the pre-chapter steering committee. Once the chapter begins, this committee will be presented to the chapter delegates for affirmation as the chapter steering committee. The provincial secretary is an ex officio member.
 - b. Chapter finance committee — Three elected delegates are to be named as a pre-chapter finance committee. The provincial treasurer is an ex officio member of the committee without vote. The committee prepares a report for the chapter and may make proposals for discussion at the chapter.

IV. Personnel — Personnel issues and related concerns were discussed individually and in some cases, by community.

- A. Formation — Fr. Huffstetter and Br. Lemke spoke about future possibilities for Br. Lemke in South Dakota and in formation. Br. Lemke has much to contribute in both areas; however, the need in formation seems greater at this time. If a non-cleric can serve as novice master, Br. Lemke is open to replacing Fr. John Czyzynski when he retires.
- B. South Dakota — Fr. Huffstetter will speak to the leadership at St. Joseph's Indian School to find out how well the interim leadership structure is working and discuss possibilities for the future.

Fr. Bernie Rosinski returned to Chamberlain to join Fr. Anthony Kluckman at the community house. However, there should be at least three SCJs in community. Fr. Rosinski was said to have done very well in his studies at Sacred Heart School of Theology.

Fr. Huffstetter contacted the chancellor of Sioux Falls to let him know that St. James in Chamberlain has been open-listed but no one has expressed interest in serving. If no SCJ comes forward the province might not be able to staff the parish after July 1, 2014.

- C. Lay leadership training — Related to the discussion of South Dakota, where several lay people are in key leadership positions, Br. Lemke asked if it would be helpful to have a retreat/conference for non-SCJs in leadership positions. The Jesuits and other religious communities hold such gatherings. Br. Lemke said that he would be willing to organize it.
- D. Director of senior religious — Fr. Huffstetter said that at the recent CMSM workshop for those new to leadership it was strongly suggested that each community have a director of senior life. This position has been open in the province for several years.
- E. Br. Clay Diaz — Br. Diaz is in his final vows program with Br. Kozuch as his director. Br. Diaz will meet with Fr. Huffstetter soon to discuss possibilities for future assignments.
- F. Representing the province — Fr. Huffstetter sent a letter to the membership asking if there are SCJs interested in representing the province at international events. Fr. Leonard Elder volunteered to go to Congo next November; he served as a missionary for many years in Zaire. It was noted that if Bishop Joseph Potocnak would also like to go the Mississippi community could cover the parish in Holly Springs while they are gone.

Fr. David Szatkowski and Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec will go to Taubaté, Brazil for Anthropologia Cordis in February.

- G. Fr. Vien Nguyen — Fr. Nguyen would like to go to the Philippines to gain teaching experience. It would be a good opportunity for him to have interaction with an SCJ community.
 - H. Fr. Vincent Suparman — He has been granted a visa for another year.
 - I. Fr. Quang Nguyen — He will come to Hales Corners in late January or early February to transition into the vocation office.
Fr. Nguyen and Fr. Mike Burke will be traveling together to Vietnam early next year.
 - J. Fr. Wayne Jenkins — Fr. Jenkins does not yet have a date for returning to Rome. He might go to do archival work for about two to three months in late spring.
 - K. Fr. Terry Langley — He recently completed a retreat at a Trappist monastery and said that it went well.
 - L. Br. Andrew Lewandowski — He was recently treated for heart issues; it is thought that he will be able to attend to the concern through medication.
- V. Praesidium — Br. Presto noted the work that needs to be done in preparation for reaccreditation with Praesidium. He needs to verify whether safety plans were recently reviewed and, more importantly, document the necessary training hours of SCJs in public ministry. Also, provincial visitations, required as a part of the accreditation, need to be documented.

Training hours need to be done and verified by the end of April. The review team from Praesidium is expected in May or June.

It was suggested that training sessions be offered at province assemblies as a way for most of the membership to meet their requirements.

Br. Presto noted the new standards that require that applicants have background checks that include a national sex offender registry check. Related to this, most bishops are requiring such checks to allow a person to exercise public ministry in their dioceses. This is problematic for international SCJs; protocols are not the same in each country. Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, is working to update the background information of international SCJs so that it reflects their time of ministry in the United States.

Br. Presto asked the council whether it would be prudent to revise the province policy so that it requires background checks on all members after the next accreditation cycle (after July 2014). Councilors agreed but that it should be noted that the policy will

be revisited periodically.

Praesidium and related concerns might be a good topic for the spring local superiors/coordinators meeting.

Concluding, Br. Presto said that SCJs who were prepared as trainers would be asked to be trainers again.

VI. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — Dn. Nagel updated the council on the office. There has been a significant increase in the number of pieces returned (donations) in recent days. The new strategy for mail selection seems to be very good. Work on the strategic plan for the office will continue in the new year as data on recent efforts is evaluated. Morale at the office is good.
- B. Employee Medical Plan — As of January 1 the employee medical plan will be administered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The impact of the Affordable Health Care Act continues to be monitored.

It was noted that some SCJs are under the mistaken impression that they need to sign up for the government health care plan. Dn. Nagel will send a memo to the membership (or place a notice in Fridge Notes) to state that this is not the case.

- C. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel met with the General Finance Commission during the Major Superiors Meeting in Rome in November. Issues discussed at the meeting included the missions and their financial needs. Garrett Stinson, the independent investment advisor for the province, was recommended to the general curia as one of the financial experts for the general chapter.

Fr. Huffstetter said that when he receives requests for financial assistance that if they are within his competency he runs them by Dn. Nagel. In reviewing requests, Fr. Huffstetter will focus primarily on the needs of Asia and Africa; this where the U.S. Province is committed financially.

The amount that each entity gives to the missions was shared during the Major Superiors Meeting. Not included in the amount listed for the U.S. Province is the approximately \$400,000 that the province uses to support the ESL program.

- D. Director of Dehon Associates — Dn. David presented the compensation package proposed for David Schimmel to serve as director of the Dehonian Associates. The package is based on three to four days of work, seven hours a day. If he works less than 32 hours he will be considered part time and benefits would be pro-rated. It was suggested that he work eight hours a day and be considered full-time.

The council voted to hire David Schimmel as the director of Dehonian Associates. He will meet with the Dehonian Associates Committee on January 20 to discuss expectations and will be asked to visit with the council at its February meeting.

- E. Director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — At its last meeting the council voted to approve the hiring of Mark Peters as the JPR director. He will begin in January. As discussed previously, with the hiring of a JPR director the province will no longer give JPR grants (except for the schools; these will continue). Grant recipients were informed of this possibility when they applied for grants for the current fiscal year.
- F. Convalescence home— A suggestion had been made to investigate the possibility of remodeling the former provincialate office building as a convalescence home for SCJs currently living at the Congregational Home. There are a variety of factors that could affect the cost but a general estimate for remodeling would be \$2.4 million. This is on top of staff and program costs. Compared to what the province currently pays for care at the Congregational Home the costs would be as much or perhaps more.

Councilors said that they would rather put their efforts into helping SCJs remain in community as long as possible. Could staff be hired to assist members of the community who might need assistance with bathing and other concerns: assisted living as opposed to nursing care?

Fr. Huffstetter is making arrangements for the province's senior care to be evaluated early in 2014. This will be one of several issues that he will seek review and advice on. Members of the community will be a part of the review process.

In a society that often tends to “warehouse” its elderly it would be a positive counter-cultural witness to keep SCJs in com-

munity as long as possible.

- G. Budgets — The budget process will begin with letters sent to budget preparers on January 4. Capital requests will be due by February 3. Overall budgets will be do on March 28. The council will review them at its May meeting.

Councilors talked about budgets in general. How are they monitored, especially in SCJ communities? Some communities seem very prudent with their budgets, others regularly exceed the budget. If a community exceeds its budget does that mean that its expenses weren't properly predicted or is there a concern about spending? The provincial superior periodically speaks to individuals who seem to spend excessively but communities as a whole are not generally reviewed. It was suggested that this be a topic for the spring local coordinators/superiors meeting.

- H. Sacred Heart School of Theology — Dn. Nagel shared information about SHST's Facility Master Plan. The seminary would like to do the first phase of the plan: remodel the front lobby for \$612,000. It would also like to consider re-doing the food service area for approximately \$250,000. Mark Wenzel is getting details about the proposal. The council will review these requests at its next meeting.

- VI. Meeting of the Board of Directors — The Board of Directors of the U.S. Province of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart held a special meeting on December 19. During the meeting, board members voted to approve Br. Frank Presto as secretary of the corporation, effective November 1, 2013.

VII. Administration

- A. Mission secretary — The province has a mission procurator but not a mission secretary. Before the next meeting Fr. Huffstetter will look for a job description for mission secretary and speak with possible candidates. The council will discuss the position at its February meeting. If a mission secretary is named he will be an ex officio delegate to the provincial chapter.

- B. South Dakota Administration — The South Dakota community held a formal consultation on November 3, 2013, regarding the administration of the community.

The council voted to appoint Fr. Christianus Hendrik as local superior/coordinator of the South Dakota community.

The council voted to appoint Fr. Anthony Kluckman as first councilor.

The council voted to appoint Fr. Bernard Rosinski as local treasurer.

The council voted to appoint the entire community as the house council.

- C. Pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe — Fr. Ed Kilianski's term as pastor of OLG ends on March 1, 2014.

The council voted to present Fr. Kilianski to the archbishop of Galveston-Houston for a term renewal as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe for three years.

- D. Jubilees — Fr. Leonard Tadyszak is the only jubilarian for 2014; he will celebrate his 70th anniversary of vows. It was suggested that a special liturgy and luncheon be held for him during the provincial chapter.

- E. Policies — Noting that they are works that will continually need to be reviewed and updated the council voted to approve the document on Electronic Communications as an interim policy, and voted to approve the Boundary Violation document as an interim policy. They are attached as Addenda A and B.

VIII. Future meetings

- February 4-5: new date for council meeting.
- March 3: North American Councils will meet in Montreal
- March 19-20: Provincial Council
- March 21: Local Superiors/Coordinators meet
- May 14-15: Provincial Council
- June: conference call to vote on formation advancements

- August 19-20: Provincial Council
- October 22-23: Provincial Council
- December 16-17: Provincial Council

ALSO, the council will have an informal conference call on January 9 at 1:30 p.m. central

- IX. Meeting of Dehonian Educators — Br. Roberto Garcia, vice general secretary, sent a letter regarding the June 21-17, 2014, Meeting of Dehonian Educators to be held in Valencia, Spain. One of the purposes of the meeting is discuss a network among the Dehonian educational institutions. In preparation for this, the major superiors have been asked to respond to several questions. Councilors received the questions and were asked to give Fr. Huffstetter input on them by January 15. It was suggested that Mike Tyrell be contacted to get input from Schools in Collaboration.

Councilors are in favor of the conference, and the proposed network.

- X. Visitations — Fr. Huffstetter asked councilors for input regarding visitations in the province. He will start provincial visitations in January with the Pinellas Park community. He shared suggestions given to him by Fr. Jim Schroeder in regards to visitation questions.

Councilors said that each visitation should allow for individual meetings as well as a meeting with the whole community, giving an opportunity for group dialogue with the provincial superior. This would be a good time for Fr. Huffstetter to share with the community things that are going on in the province. It doesn't need to be a formal presentation, but instead, a time for relaxed sharing with the provincial superior. Councilors said that simply spending time with the community is important, even if the time is unstructured: watching the news together, visiting at meals, etc.

During individual meetings and community time SCJs should be invited to indicate what they would like to talk about and what they would like the provincial to know about them and/or their ministries and community. Fr. Haaland said that Br. Lemke asked good questions when he did the visitation of St. Joseph Community at SHML. Br. Lemke said that he used questions from the PPF (Program of Priestly Formation).

It was noted that there are certain questions that Fr. Huffstetter is required to ask as a part of the Praesidium process. Also, the pre-chapter steering committee suggested that the visitations (and thus topics discussed during them) be a springboard for the Provincial Chapter.

A follow-up letter to the community from the provincial is good, something which is pastoral but also challenging. It is good to see in writing what the provincial saw and heard from the community. The letters should be shared with members of the Provincial Council.

Fr. Huffstetter was reminded that affirmation goes a long way.

It would also be good for Fr. Huffstetter to spend time with co-workers in SCJ ministries, visiting and learning about the ministry.

Fr. Huffstetter will make arrangements with each local superior regarding the dates he will be with a community. It will be up to the local community to then organize the provincial superior's time when he is there.

- XI. Local Superiors/Coordinators Meeting — The local coordinators/superiors will meet with the Provincial Council March 21. They will gather for dinner the night before (March 20) and meet until 3 p.m. on March 21.

In the past the meetings have included business items, as well as formation or educational programs. It is an opportunity for the administration to be in dialogue with local superiors.

It was suggested that Mark Peters, the newly hired Justice, Peace and Reconciliation director and David Schimmel, director of Dehonian Associates, be given time at the meeting. Also, Mark Wenzel (buildings and grounds) and Sid Liebenson (development director) should meet with the local superiors.

A formative piece could include a conversation around the challenge of living "poverty" in modern society. A councilor suggested that the reflection questions discussed during their own faith sharing would work well at the meeting.

XII. Future agenda — Suggestions for future agenda items:

- A. St. Francis Community (Woods Road) — The St. Francis Community is unique in that it is seemingly a community without a local superior. The provincial superior, who does not reside in the community, is the superior of the house. Dehon House has a relationship to the St. Francis Community but it is unclear as to whether it is attached to the community. Historically, SCJs who do not reside in an SCJ community have been attached to one of the two residences.

The community's situation needs to be defined. If it is a local community, it needs to have a local administration and it will have to have representation at the Provincial Chapter. .

- B. New employees — The council should meet with David Schimmel (director of Dehonian Associates) and Mark Peters (Justice, Peace and Reconciliation director).
- C. Local Superiors/Coordinators meeting
- D. Provincial Chapter preparations
- E. Mission secretary

ADDENDUM A

Electronic Communications (Interim Province Policy)

Introduction

The ability to communicate with others has changed dramatically in the last century. Humans have moved from hard-wired rotary dial phones attached to party lines to instantaneous messages on personal devices. It is foreseeable that tomorrow's technology will continue these advances and changes. No matter what format or device SCJs utilize to share our thoughts, either verbal or written, there are some guidelines to remember. This policy will help as we strive to act ethically and appropriately.

We are PUBLIC Figures

As members of the US Province of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, we are public figures. We represent our religious institute and the church whether we are in public ministry or not. We freely chose this identity with our profession. It is who we are regardless of the medium.

The Congregation's core values call forth compassion and prophetic witnessing to the love of the Sacred Heart. We strive to promote the dignity of all whom we meet or interact.

Our words and images speak about the values we collectively hold and reflect back upon the Congregation and the church. Proper conduct is vital in all conversations whether these are face to face with another, by telephone, in emails or text messages and in electronic postings such as Facebook, Twitter or blogs.

General Guidelines

Electronic forms of communication are permanent and global. Once the message, photograph or image has been posted, it is available to an audience beyond the original recipient. A permanent footprint is established that cannot be deleted given today's technology.

In posting your thoughts, words and images within this public forum, it is necessary to be prudent and careful. Electronic conversations must mirror personal, face to face contacts. If there would be hesitation in saying something personally, it should not be said electronically. Always consider how the other recipient might react and respond.

If one's ministry requires a SCJ to communicate electronically with minors, it is necessary to be extraordinarily cautious. There are some specifics that need to guide this interaction.

Be transparent and accurate in identifying yourself.

Communicate with all minors through the ministry's established electronic presence (web page or Facebook page of the parish, school, and public institution). Refrain from *private* email, text, social media or other communications with minors.

The content must be shared with the minor's parent or guardian when possible.

The content needs to be related to your ministry and be specific.

You are not the parent or guardian. It is not your responsibility to track the minor's entries on Facebook, Twitter or other similar sites.

Know and follow the guidelines established for electronic communications established by your particular ministry and/or the province.

Because of the anonymous reality of electronic media and communications, it is possible that minors will access your postings or interact with you without acknowledging that they are minors. This is a case where it is better to be safe rather than sorry.

Guarding against Inappropriate Behavior

SCJs are public people and required to identify themselves as such.

Pornography is an offense against the vow of celibate chastity. The Vatican has proclaimed that child pornography is a moral delict and an extremely grave offense. All attempts to access pornography electronically are prohibited and subject to possible criminal prosecution.

On-line gambling is prohibited.

Refrain from abusive language of any form, harassment or insulting and degrading behavior.

Electronic communications are not a valid medium for administration of any sacrament or matters concerning the internal forum.

Considerations for Social Networking

Social networking is used by minors for a variety of reasons. Because of the degree of anonymity involved, caution and prudence are essential values to practice.

Be respectful of others. If you would hesitate to share your thoughts or material in a public situation do not share them on social networks.

Sacraments and issues of internal forum are interactions involving persons within the context of the faith community. These are not matters for social networking.

Being Safe

Be truthful and transparent; do not represent yourself as anyone other than who you are and specifically do not represent yourself as a minor.

Harassment and abuse of any type, insulting behavior or degrading postings are not consistent with the Gospel values or the love of the Sacred Heart and must be avoided.

Be aware that others could use your thoughts and images without your knowledge and consent. Since your content could go “viral”, ensure that it is something you would be proud to say in a public forum.

Friending, Invitations and Being Included

Do not invite minors to be your “friend” or accept their invitation(s).

Respect the privacy of others. Tracking, tailing or continuous following of a person via their pages, postings or entries is not appropriate.

Concluding Remarks

Once adapted by the provincial and his council, this policy will be a living document. As technology and devices change, so too these thoughts will be further developed and refined. SCJs are public people by our own choice. We are required to act and speak appropriately throughout all of our interactions.

Adopted December 19, 2013.

ADDENDUM B

Boundary Violations (Interim Province Policy)

Research has demonstrated that boundary violations are frequent precursors to abusive behavior. Boundary violations tend to be warning signs that one's conduct is inappropriate.

Common violations include the following scenarios.¹ [Please note that these are not all inclusive.]

Too much physical contact. Physical contact may include hugging, touching or roughhousing with minors.

Communication is too frequent. This interaction may involve a variety of times and media:

One to one conversations occur with the minor during or outside scheduled ministerial activities.

Conversations are in person or conducted by private email accounts or social networking sites.

Conversations are held in private and unobserved by adults.

Too few differences in behavior.

The person is acting "like one of the kids" instead of being an adult.

The person prefers the company of minors instead of one's peers.

The person is sharing personal information which is not appropriate to the relationship.

Too much special attention is being given to an individual minor or vulnerable adult.

Too many personal questions are being asked of the minor. These questions may reference personal relationships that the minor has with others or identification issues.

There are few, if any, limits being set in place.

The person is allowing the minor(s) free reign without question or restrictions.

The person allows the minor(s) to set the rules of interaction.

Parents and guardians are not informed.

Responding to Boundary Violations and/or other Inappropriate Behavior

Any member of the US Province who observes any action of a confrere which is contrary to the policy statement "Appropriate Behaviors with Minors" (promulgated May 2011), or who receives an oral or written report of such activity from another person, must inform the Provincial Superior immediately. The member who observes these activities is strongly encouraged to let the confrere know of his concerns and that the Provincial Superior has been contacted.

Even a singular occurrence of inappropriate behavior or boundary violation constitutes an important warning sign which needs to be addressed appropriately and quickly.

If the behavior is observed again, regardless of the time frame between episodes, the Provincial Superior must be informed of the repetition.

In all cases the Provincial Superior will ensure that the necessary steps to interrupt and terminate the inappropriate behavior will be taken. His remedies will be informed by Canon Law, established norms of the Vatican offices and/or the USCCB as well as particular law defined by the congregation and the province.

¹ Adapted from "Six Common Boundary Violations", Praesidium Inc, 2007.

Adopted December 19, 2013

CALENDAR

February 4-5:	Provincial Council meeting (new date)
March 3:	North American Councils meeting in Montréal
March 19-20:	Provincial Council meeting
March 21:	Local Superiors/Coordinators meeting
May 14-15:	Provincial Council meeting
July 7-11	Provincial Chapter
August 19-20:	Provincial Council
October 22-23:	Provincial Council
December 16-17:	Provincial Council

NECROLOGY

FR. VICTOR GILSON, a member of the Franco European Province, died December 26. He was born in 1928, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1947.

FR. LUIGI SABINI, a member of the North Italian Province, died December 25. He was born in 1931, professed in 1953 and ordained in 1957.

FR. FREDERIK DOMINICUS MARIA MASS, a member of the Dutch – Flemish Confederation, died December 11. He was born in 1928, professed in 1952 and ordained in 1957.

HONORARY SCJ FR. JOSEPH GOLE, died December 8. He 97 and was ordained on July 4, 1943.

FR. IRMUNDO RAFAEL STEIN, a member of the South Brazilian Province, died November 27. He was born in 1949, professed in 1973 and ordained in 1978.

FR. PAUL MORTIERR, a member of the Franco-European Province, died November 16. He was born in 1926, professed in 1944 and ordained in 1951.

FR. ANTÔNIO JOSÉ THAMAZIA, a member of the South Brazilian Province, died November 6. He was born in 1930, professed in 1954 and ordained in 1959.