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## Minutes of the 848th Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., December 16-17, 2014

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, minutes. Dn. David Nagel joined the meeting for discussion of financial concerns and Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, took part by conference call in regards to the Provincial Plan.

I. Faith sharing – The council spent Tuesday morning in prayer and faith sharing.

II. Finance

A. Province Development Office — Dn. Nagel reported that there has been a 2% increase in donations. However, due to dock strikes in Los Angeles the delivery of the Christmas package to benefactors was delayed. If this delay significantly impacts the anticipated income from the package the office may make a claim with its insurance carrier.

Quadrige Art, with which the office contracts, has merged its various units into one organization named “Innovairre.” This has not impacted the development office. In February the office will work with consultants from Innovairre in regards to future planning and begin work on the budget for the next fiscal year.

There are still challenges with the Spanish file; it continues to decline. It was noted that some Spanish speakers do not necessarily read Spanish. Some are more comfortable reading English. Perhaps a bilingual mailing would have better impact?

The development office plans to give \$7 million to the province, similar to the last fiscal year.

B. Province audit — The council received the province audit at its October meeting; it was prepared by Schenck Business Solutions. Expenses were similar to the previous year; there was an increase in income from the \$650,000 generated by rentals at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. Investment income also increased, though Dn. Nagel noted that the markets are volatile.

Medical Fund expenses continue to exceed contributions. Dn. Nagel will address the Medical Fund in more detail after discussion of the audit.

The Support and Maintenance Fund is doing well, and auditors cited no concerns or deficiencies in their letter with the overall audit report.

The council voted to accept the province audit.

C. SCJ Medical Plan — As noted in discussion of the province audit, expenses continue to exceed contributions to the SCJ Medical Fund.

The Province Chapter passed a resolution that the rate of monthly medical contributions deposited into the medical portion of the Support & Maintenance Trust equal at least 90% of the claims paid. This would require individual contributions to be \$1,154

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instead of the \$900 paid now.

Dn. Nagel initially suggested that the individual contributions be increased to \$950 as of January, 2015, and that the rate for budgeting purposes for the next fiscal year be \$1,000.

A councilor suggested that the current rate be left the same until the next fiscal year but that the rate for budgeting purposes be raised to \$1,150 to reflect actual expenses. In communities where this would be cost prohibitive, the province can provide a subsidy.

After discussion the council endorsed this proposal. Dn. Nagel will inform budget preparers that the monthly premium, for budgeting purposes, will be \$1,150.

- D. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel said that the General Finance Commission, of which he is a member, met in November in Neustadt, Germany. Among the items discussed was a request from the Vietnamese District to purchase property to expand the formation house. The district does not plan to build on the property immediately, but would like to secure the land while the parcel is available.

The General Finance Commission agreed that property is needed as the formation program expands in Vietnam. The General Aid Fund will finance the purchase for \$680,000. However, the US and German Provinces have been asked to each contribute a third of the price to help replenish the fund. It is suggested that this be done in two, \$114,000 yearly contributions.

The council decided to budget for the first \$114,000 in the FY15 budget and the second \$114,000 in FY16.

- E. Financial requests — The council briefly discussed how financial requests, especially from the missions, are handled. It was noted that the US Province has made a commitment to significantly fund the Asian missions so this must be its first priority. The province has also assisted the African missions. An amount is budgeted each year for unplanned expenses. The council wants to be mindful of the genuine needs of the mission entities, but also the budget constraints of the US Province. The preference is that all requests for aid go through the General Aid Fund to ensure appropriate review and transparency.
- F. Bishop Wustenberg request — Bishop Michael Wustenberg of the Aliwal Diocese in South Africa requested a donation from the US Province of \$13,700 to purchase a vehicle for use by an SCJ serving in the diocese. The bishop will be invited to make the request for consideration in the FY15 mission budget.
- G. CNN investigation — Dn. Nagel updated the council on a story that CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" did on St. Joseph's Indian School. The program has been investigating organizations funded by donations. Part of the story was about a campaign mailing by the school in which a story of a student was shared in a letter format. Although the letter was based on actual experiences of some of St. Joseph's students, the student writer to whom it was attributed was fictitious.

The public impact of the investigation seems to be minimal.

Related to this discussion, Fr. Hendrik, a member of the Lower Brule Pastoral Team, said that it would be good to have more interaction between St. Joseph's and pastoral ministries on the reservations. Mike Tyrell, director of St. Joseph's, has responded favorably to this suggestion.

- H. Province Investment Committee — The committee met on December 3. There was just over a 3% return on stocks at the end of the third quarter; however, Dn. Nagel reminded councilors that the markets are currently unstable.
- I. Art studio/workshop — Fr. Haaland was among those who proposed building an art studio/workshop at or near Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. The estimated cost of the original proposal was \$103,000. The Province Finance Commission reviewed the proposal and did not recommend its approval. Mark Wenzel, province director of facilities, was asked to develop a less expensive option. The cost of the revised proposal is estimated at \$75,000. However, it does not include water. Councilors suggested that water access (at least a sink) would be needed and that it would be more practical to include it at the beginning of the project rather than later.

Councilors are generally in favor of the development of art/workshop space. However, more details are needed before most

members of the council feel comfortable approving the project. Fr. Haaland was asked to get a detailed proposal (including water) for the council to review. The council will revisit the project at its December 30 conference call.

### III. Membership

- A. Mississippi community — The council voted to approve Fr. Robert Tucker as local superior of the Mississippi community. The council also voted to approve Fr. Greg Schill as treasurer and first councilor of the community.
- B. Fr. David Szatkowski — The council voted to endorse the proposal that Fr. Szatkowski be presented to Bishop Joseph Kopacz of Jackson as the administrator of Queen of Peace parish in Olive Branch, Miss., as of January 1. The council also voted to endorse the proposal that Fr. Szatkowski be presented to Bishop Kopacz as the pastor of Queen of Peace in Olive Branch and St. Joseph's Church in Holly Springs, Miss., as of July 1. Fr. Leonard Elder, the current pastor, will retire at that time.
- Bishop Joseph Potocnak and Fr. Leonard Elder will continue to live in Holly Springs and be available for help-out ministry, such as weekday masses. Fr. Szatkowski will continue to live in Nesbit with at the St. Michael community.
- C. Chicago community — The council voted to approve Fr. Bob Bossie as the treasurer of the Dehon Formation Community. Frater James Nguyen will have primary responsibility for bookkeeping tasks (he has been doing the community bookkeeping since the beginning of the academic year).
- D. Br. Mike Fette — Fr. Huffstetter recently spoke with Br. Fette by phone (for Br. Fette's birthday) and he seems to be doing well. He was with family over Thanksgiving. Fr. MacDonald is in regular contact with him.
- E. Fr. Leonard Elder — Fr. Elder recently took part in celebrations in the Congolese Province, where he had been a missionary. He will retire on July 1.
- F. Fr. Andrzej Sudol — A member of the Philippine Region, Fr. Sudol has been on sabbatical, living with the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago. He will be joining St. Joseph's Community (fourth floor) at SHML in January. During the next few months he will be doing research in the province archives and the Dehon Study Center.
- G. Br. Ben Humpfer — The congregation received Br. Humpfer's rescript, allowing him to serve his renewed term as local superior of the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, FL. He plans to retire in August and join the Sacred Heart Community at SHML.
- H. Fr. Mark Mastin — Fr. Mastin has begun the process to leave the military. It is anticipated that he will be released from duties in July, 2015.
- I. Fr. Jim Schroeder — Fr. Schroeder is now retired and a member of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML.
- J. Fr. Wayne Jenkins — Fr. Jenkins will be at the Generalate in Rome from mid-January through much of February. He has been asked by the general administration to do research, some of which is connected to the critical biography that has been commissioned on Fr. Leo Dehon.
- K. Br. Duane Lemke — The request allowing for Br. Lemke to be renewed as local superior of the Dehon Formation Community is in process at the Vatican.
- L. Br. Andy Gancarczyk — Br. Gancarczyk is requesting transfer from the Polish to the US Province. He will attend to this while in Poland during his vacation there over Christmas.
- M. Fr. Christianus Hendrik — Fr. Hendrik's immigration/residence status is in process. Kathleen Dahlgren is working on it. When his paperwork is in place Fr. Hendrik will return to Indonesia for a two-to-three month home visit.

### IV. Administration

- A. Province policies
1. Admissions Board — The council voted to change the Admissions Board policy to allow for a member of the Provincial Council to serve on the board. Also, a member of the Admissions Board may now serve as an interviewer if he is not on the board to which a potential candidate is presented. The provincial superior may not serve as a board

member or as an interviewer.

2. Health Care Policy — Br. Presto shared with the council a province health care policy that was adopted in December, 1990. It has not been reviewed since then and much of it is outdated. The council voted to rescind the Province Health Care Policy adopted in December, 1990. In doing so, the council noted that some aspects of the policy are beneficial and may be appropriate to incorporate in an updated Province Policy Handbook. Br. Presto is in the process of updating the handbook. When it is complete the council will consider what might be missing from the policies.
3. Other policies — Br. Presto shared the list of items that he currently has for the Policy Handbook. They include: vocations and admissions, appropriate behaviors (Protecting the People of God), province documentation and retention, SCJ drivers' policy, whistleblower policy, financial guidelines for departing members, province fundraising policy, vehicle purchasing, and retirement guidelines.

Councilors suggested that a policy regarding sabbaticals and/or continuing education should be included.

Br. Presto asked if the Praesidium Accreditation Standards should be included. Councilors suggested that they be referred to in appropriate policies but not included in the province document.

Councilors were invited to contact Br. Presto after the meeting with other policy suggestions. He anticipates having the revised handbook (to be assembled for a three-ring binder) ready for review at the January, 2015, Provincial Council meeting.

- B. General Chapter — Br. Presto shared the statistical/descriptive report of the US Province that he prepared for the General Chapter. All entities were asked to assemble such a report. Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Jan de Jong are assembling the synthesis report of the province in response to the questions asked by the General Chapter Preparatory Committee. They will send their response to the Generalate by December 19.
- C. Praesidium Accreditation — On December 9 Fr. Huffstetter was informed by Praesidium that the US Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart successfully completed the Praesidium Accreditation Process and thus is considered a fully accredited province.

Fr. Huffstetter and the council extended its gratitude to Br. Presto for the work he did to make the accreditation possible. It was a very time-intensive task.

- D. Congolese Province — Fr. Huffstetter spoke about his visit to the Congolese Province during Tuesday morning's faith sharing. He referred councilors to the paper prepared by Fr. Charles Brown that gives a good picture of both the country and the province. Fr. Huffstetter also summarized some of his comments in writing for the council.

It was noted that the US Province would like to be as generous as possible to the Congolese Province, but that as with all mission requests, they should go through the General Aid Fund.

- E. October meeting date — The council revised its October 2015 meeting date. It will now be October 20-21.
- F. Dehonian Associates — At the North American councils meeting in October, David Schimmel, US Province director of Dehonian Associates, presented a lay formation program on the Dehonian charism. Based on the "Spiritual Path," a formative piece discussed at the May Dehonian Family meeting in Rome, Mr. Schimmel created a ten-session program. He suggested that it be implemented in one or more areas of the US and Canada and that he would serve as a resource for it.

Fr. Kurps expressed interest in starting the program in Mississippi. The council agreed that the program proposed by Mr. Schimmel be implemented in Mississippi. If there are other areas of the province that are open to hosting the program, Mr. Schimmel should be encouraged to develop it further. Fr. Kurps will be in contact with Mr. Schimmel about starting the program in Mississippi. Br. Presto will write a letter to Mr. Schimmel expressing the council's formal endorsement of the program he proposed at the North American councils meeting.

- G. Jubilees — The council voted to recognize the anniversaries of profession of those celebrating 10, 20, 30, 40, 60 and 70 years of vows in addition to the traditional anniversaries of 25, 50 and 75. Those celebrating 25th and 50<sup>th</sup> jubilees will be the main focus of the province celebration, but those of 10-year increments will also be recognized. The province jubilee

celebration is to take place during the yearly province gathering (for example, assemblies and chapters).

Br. Presto said that he would send the list of jubilarians for 2015 to councilors by following week.

- H. Local superiors meeting — The next local superiors meeting will begin with dinner and possibly sharing on the evening of March 16. The group will meet for a full day on March 17 (March 18 is the Provincial Council meeting).

Fr. Huffstetter is going to send a letter to local superiors inviting them to suggest topics for the agenda. The Provincial Plan will be one of the agenda items.

- I. Summer assembly — Fr. Huffstetter shared a possible outline for the July 6-10, 2015 assembly. The theme would be the Year of Consecrated Life; each day would focus on one of the three vows. It was suggested that the order be poverty first, followed by celibacy and obedience.

A keynote on the Rule of Life might be good. Vocation stories could be spread throughout the week.

Fr. Huffstetter will begin to put a planning committee together for the summer assembly. Councilors were asked to let him know if they had suggestions for people to serve on the committee.

- J. Election Assembly — The next election assembly will be June 6-10, 2016. Br. Presto shared the timeline of tasks that need to be done in preparation for the assembly. One of the tasks is to identify possible moderators, one SCJ and one non-SCJ.

Br. Presto said that he plans to have a draft of the bylaws for the 2016 election assembly available for council review in October, 2015.

- V. Provincial Plan — Sr. Bertrand joined the council by conference call. She introduced a draft of a Provincial Plan, based in part on the provincial chapter delegates' reflections on the State of the Province. The plan consists of a list of "focus areas," under which are goals with action steps, a listing of person(s) of responsibility, and a timeline. Names that appear in the document are simply suggested possibilities; no one listed has been contacted regarding areas of responsibility.

Councilors appreciated the introductory statements to each focus area. Sr. Bertrand said that they came out of either Fr. Huffstetter's report or the synthesis statement from discussion of it.

It was noted that a lot of follow-up will be needed prior to the release of the document. People need to be contacted and put in place in regards to implementing the goals. Sr. Bertrand said that once the council has approved the plan it needs to go through it and finalize timelines and persons of responsibility.

Sr. Bertrand reminded councilors that they need to be realistic in what such a plan is and can be. There is a desire to move the province to a new place, but that desire needs to be tempered with the reality of what can be done and what people are willing to do. Also, the council needs to be mindful in its discussions of what in the plan should be considered committee work and what tasks are the council's responsibility.

- VI. Conference call — The council will next meet by conference call on Tuesday, December 30 at 1 pm. Among the items to discuss: approval of the minutes of this meeting, the proposal from Fr. Haaland for construction of a studio/workshop, and the revised Provincial Plan distributed before the end of the meeting (Is any input needed on the plan before discussion of it with Sr. Bertrand in January? it is hoped that the plan can be approved at the January meeting.).

## CALENDAR

### 2015

January 27-28:	Provincial Council
March 16-17:	Local Superiors Meeting
March 18:	Provincial Council
April 13-14:	North American Councils meeting, Ottawa
April 28-29:	Provincial Council Meeting
May 15 - June 7:	General Chapter, Rome
June 30:	Provincial Council Meeting, conference call (advancement in formation)
July 6-10:	Province Assembly
August 3-4:	Provincial Council Meeting
September 15-16:	Provincial Council Meeting
October 20-21:	Provincial Council Meeting ( <i>revised date as of Dec. 2014 council meeting</i> )
December 15-16:	Provincial Council Meeting

## UPDATES

**Fr. Leonard Tadzysak** is now in room 1181 of the Congregational Home

### **Fr. Jim Schroeder**

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### **Fr. Johannes Yuliwan Maslim**

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### **Fr. Antonius Purwono**

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**Fr. Yulius Sunardi** has returned to Indonesia after several years of study in the US Province. We hope to share his new address soon.

## NECROLOGY

+**Br. Edward Francis Murphy**, a member of the British-Irish Province, died on Nov. 7. He was born in 1923 and professed in 1967.

+**Fr. Józef Karpierz**, a member of the Polish Province, died Dec. 4. He was born in 1933, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1957.

+**Fr. Wilhelm Franz Freytag**, a member the Austrian-Croatian District, died Dec. 9. He was born in 1939, professed in 1963 and ordained in 1968.