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## Minutes of the 846th Provincial Council Meeting Conference Call, September 2, 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.

I. Minutes – The council approved the minutes of the 845th meeting.

II. Administration

A. Fr. Huffstetter's letter to the province — At the 845th meeting it was suggested that Fr. Huffstetter send a letter to the province membership regarding several items from the meeting including: the province's response to Questionnaire B in preparation for the General Chapter, and proposed province committees for 1) 2015 province assembly, 2) pastoral plan development, 3) personnel and ministries, 4) senior life, and 5) Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

Fr. Huffstetter sent a draft of the letter to the council prior to the conference call. Councilors offered a few minor suggestions including the need to emphasize that volunteers are being sought for the proposed committees.

B. Statement on migration of children — The Province Chapter asked that a public statement on the migration of children be drafted by provincial administration in the name of the chapter. Mark Peters, province director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, created a draft that has been adjusted several times, primarily through the input of Br. Lemke.

The document is not finalized. The council agreed that it is difficult to work on such a statement in a phone conference.

Councilors should be prepared to discuss and finalize the statement at their October meeting.

C. Policy regarding continuing education requirements for Praesidium — One of the requirements for Praesidium accreditation regards continuing education in appropriate behaviors. Br. Presto drafted a new province policy concerning continuing education that addresses 1) members of the US Province, 2) members of the US Province returning to the United States after extended time outside of the country, and 3) SCJs from other entities staying for an extended period in the United States.

Councilors gave input on the policy, thanked Br. Presto for his work, and voted to approve it.

It was noted that the US Province is not responsible for SCJs who are in the United States independent of the province either for ministry or for personal reasons. For example, if an SCJ of another entity makes arrangements with a bishop for ministry independent of the province, that SCJ is the responsibility of the bishop who has accepted him.

## Minutes of the 847th Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., October 22, 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; Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, for discussions regarding province/pastoral planning; Dn. David Nagel for financial concerns.

### I. Province/Pastoral Planning

- A. Introduction — Fr. Huffstetter welcomed Sr. Bertrand and summarized the council's initial hopes in regards to province/pastoral planning.

The need for a process springs from the desire to implement what was heard at the provincial chapter, much of which is stated in the synthesis statement of discussions about the State of the Province. The challenge: how to prioritize the issues raised at the chapter and move them forward. Representatives from an organization that specializes in strategic planning (Vernal Management Consultants) met with the council in September. After the meeting the Vernal representatives and the council agreed that the proposed methods would not be a good fit for the province.

There is a desire to develop a plan with well-defined steps, timelines and accountability. However, there is also the realization that what works well for an organization, such as a school or business, does not necessarily work well for a religious community. The council seeks Sr. Bertrand's assistance in creating (not necessarily implementing) a process to help the province move forward on issues identified at the chapter.

- B. Vernal Management Consultants — Sr. Bertrand asked councilors to talk about why they felt that Vernal was not a good fit for the province. Councilors noted the corporate style of language used by Vernal, but also a business-centered view of planning that didn't seem congruent with a religious community.

Sr. Bertrand said that religious communities don't often work well with a strategic planning model, but that they do need plans. As she said to delegates at the chapter, religious need to be able to embrace the emerging future. This calls for a flexibility that isn't often a part of strategic planning.

### C. Creating a process

1. Basic elements — Sr. Bertrand said that the State of the Province report was an excellent vehicle for reflection on the province. Now, membership needs to identify what it most wants to address in the next three to four years. It is her opinion that trying to plan beyond that is not practical for religious communities; they need to be attentive to how they can respond to change. Considerations Sr. Bertrand cited:
- What are province priorities in light of the chapter discussions?
  - What is needed from the membership to move forward?
  - How are timelines established?
  - What further information is needed? What voices, beyond the province, need to be heard?
  - Who will be responsible to ensure that the process moves forward? If it is the council, the process needs to be integrated in each of the council's meetings so that it is always before councilors.
  - How specific should the elements of the plan be?
  - The plan must be well organized but also have room for adjustment. The plan must continually be monitored and adjustments made as needed.
  - The membership cannot be mandated to accept the plan but for it to work, there must be a sense of "buy-in."
2. Definition and agreement on process — The process itself needs to be well-defined. Some SCJs want a plan that is very specific with firm timelines and concrete decisions, especially in regard to ministry. Others are open to a more flexible process. For planning to work, and for the majority of the province to buy into the process, there needs to be agreement on what is to be accomplished by the plan. What parts of the planning process will require firm decisions, which parts will have other goals and why?
3. Measurement — There must be a means of measuring goals in the process. Some things might be easily quantifiable but there are other goals, especially in regard to community life, that might not be as easy to measure. However, for the process to have validity (and adjustment if needed) even the most nebulous of goals must have a means of measurement

and evaluation.

4. Endpoint — The province has been involved in planning processes previously. With the exception of the decisions made at the assembly at Adrian, MI, some SCJs have felt that previous planning processes had no defined “endpoint.” What is the purpose of the process; what will the province be working toward?
5. Involvement of membership — Some SCJs want leadership to develop a plan, others want more of a local input on the process. It was noted that the membership identified concerns at the chapter through its discussion of the State of the Province. The planning process being developed now continues the desires of the membership expressed at the chapter.
6. Continuation — It must be emphasized that this planning process is a continuation of previous events and discussions in the province; it builds on what has been done in the past. Prior discussions, decisions and gatherings did not happen in a vacuum and neither does this process. The province continues to move forward.
7. Key elements — Councilors suggested that the process be simple, measurable and not a repeat of questions already addressed by the membership.
8. Fewer topics — It was suggested that several of the eight topics in the synthesis statement could be combined. The council heard from the membership during its discussion of the State of the Province in chapter. Now, the council is consolidating that discussion into key topics and sending them back to the membership to continue the process.

D. Next step — Fr. Huffstetter, Fr. Kurps, Br. Presto and Sr. Bertrand will develop a draft of a process piece, based on the chapter synthesis statement, to be used on the local level. The goal is to have this piece ready to finalize at the January 27-28 council meeting and implement soon after.

## II. Administration

- A. Committees — In his September 2 letter to the province Fr. Huffstetter invited SCJs to take part in one of five committees/working groups that the council plans to establish. The function of some of the committees is dependent upon the planning process. Fr. Huffstetter will contact those who have volunteered for committee work and give them an update on the council’s plans. Noting the importance of hearing the younger voices of the province, Fr. Huffstetter will also encourage — in person or by phone — younger SCJs to be a part of a committee/working group.
- B. Minutes — The council voted to approve the minutes of the 846<sup>th</sup> Province Council meeting with minor changes.
- C. ESL program — Fr. Huffstetter reported that conversations he has had with the ESL committee have been good. Better guidelines are in place regarding scholarships.
- D. Residences at Woods Road and Rawson Ave. — The status of these two communities continues to be unresolved.
- E. Continuing education hours in regards to Praesidium accreditation — Br. Presto shared the names of SCJs who have not completed the required continuing education hours in regards to Praesidium accreditation. It is hoped that these men can complete the process soon so that reaccreditation for the province can be finalized.

For the future, Br. Frank presented three possibilities for continuing education: Praesidium’s Armatus, the Virtus Program (used by many dioceses) and the Jesuit program. Several councilors said that they preferred using the Praesidium program because it is available online and it is geared toward religious, though there was also support for the Virtus program since it is also in use by dioceses. Br. Presto noted that the next accreditation will be for five years and will require that SCJs have five hours of continuing education during that time. The five hours can be done at one time, or spread over the five years.

- F. Evaluation of SHSST rector — Fr. Huffstetter informed the council that an evaluation process is underway for Msgr. Ross Shecterle. The evaluation process is typical for such a position of leadership in an organization. Approximately 18-20 people from SHSST will be asked to fill out a questionnaire. Others who wish to have input have the option of meeting with the evaluator.
- G. Vietnam and the Philippines — Fr. Huffstetter gave the council reports on his visits to Vietnam and the Philippines in September, including upcoming needs. He noted issues such as the need for better communication between SCJs from the U.S. Province and the Vietnamese District when U.S. SCJs visit Vietnam. It is important that anything done in Vietnam,

including by U.S. SCJs of Vietnamese descent, be done in collaboration with the Vietnamese District. Fr. Huffstetter let the Vietnamese administration know that the U.S. Province is open to hosting SCJs from Vietnam and incorporating them into U.S. Province ministries, including pastoral year assignments. It was noted that when hosting an international SCJ from any country that the goals and expectations of the province and the visiting SCJ (as well as his home entity) need to be very clear.

- H. Admissions Board — The council voted to extend the terms by one year of Fr. Bob Bossie and Fr. Patrick Lloyd on the Admissions Board.

There is a need for more trained interviewers. Br. Presto offered several suggestions to address this including a change in policies that would allow board members who are not a part of an Admissions Board weekend to be interviewers. The council was open to this, as well as a suggestion to allow provincial councilors to be interviewers. Br. Presto will make a formal proposal regarding this at the December council meeting. Also, he said that he plans to hold an interviewers training workshop before next summer.

Councilors discussed the possibility of having people from outside of the community serve as interviewers. Other religious communities have done this, often utilizing lay people who have good knowledge of the community's spirituality and culture. The majority of interviewers should be SCJs, but perhaps it would be beneficial to get the perspective of someone who is familiar with the community, but outside of it, when reviewing potential candidates. Then the question would not only be "could I live with this man?" but also "could I work with this person; would he be an effective minister?"

Br. Presto said that he would bring this to the Admissions Board for discussion.

- I. Province Policies — In 1995 Province Policies were assembled in a three-ring binder. The advantage of this was that the book could be easily updated as policies changed. However, the challenge was that often SCJs neglected to update the book when policy updates were sent.

During Fr. MacDonald's term the policies were published in a series of bound booklets; these replaced the three-ring binder.

There have been several changes and additions to province policies; the booklets need to be updated. Br. Presto asked the councilors if they would like to return to the three-ring binders or to have the policies updated and printed in a bound booklet(s). Councilors said that they prefer the binder (in a bright color) but that the policies should also be made available in the Members' section of the province website. This would allow SCJs to reference their own copy of the policy handbook to ensure that they are up-to-date.

Br. Presto said that he would work with Mary Gorski to get the policies on the website.

- J. Youth ministry initiative — Fr. Hendrik updated councilors on the youth ministry initiative that he began. He met with a small group of young SCJs in September, had a conference call with them in October and was to meet again with them on October 24. Fr. Hendrik said that he is impressed with the young men with whom he is working. His hope is to create a team that can work together to put on youth activity days based in SCJ spirituality.

Fr. Hendrik said that the young SCJs need to begin working together on their leadership and organizational skills. Frater Joseph Vu suggested that the group come to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston to hold an activity day for youth preparing for First Communion. Councilors support Fr. Hendrik's efforts and agree that it would be beneficial for the young SCJs to hold youth days as a part of their preparation for youth ministry. However, several issues were cited in regards to the youth day at OLG. The suggested timing of the day is very close to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the parish's busiest time. The age range of the children preparing for First Communion at the parish is wide — how would one program be appropriate for all age levels? There are language concerns — fluency in Spanish is needed. Also, there is the travel expense for those outside of Houston, including hotel arrangements since there is no guest space at the OLG rectory at this time.

Several councilors suggested that a youth activity day instead be planned at St. Martin of Tours. The majority of the young SCJs are in Chicago or Wisconsin, and housing is available in Hales Corners. Once the team's skills are honed locally, they could bring the youth activities to other areas of the province.

- K. Year of Consecrated Life — Pope Francis declared that "The Year of Consecrated Life" will begin on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2014. It will continue until the celebration of the World Day of Consecrated Life, February 2, 2016.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference suggested several ways for religious to celebrate and promote the year including: 1) open houses with religious communities (including tours, presentations, receptions of religious houses and/or ministries) on February 8, 2015; 2) a day of mission and service with religious during the summer of 2015; and 3) a day of prayer with religious on September 13, 2015.

Fr. Huffstetter will write a letter to province membership encouraging them to organize and/or participate in the activities suggested.

- L. Statement on the Migration of Children — The 2014 Provincial Chapter asked that the provincial superior and council issue a scripture-based statement in the name of the Provincial Chapter regarding the migration of children. At the time of the chapter the issue of child migration was at the forefront of national and international news, especially regarding events at the U.S. and Mexican border.

Several drafts of a statement were created soon after the chapter but for a variety of reasons, including the length of time between council meetings and a vagueness regarding the audience for and intent of the statement, the draft was not finalized.

At this time the issue of child migration is still a significant one, but it is no longer at the forefront of the news. What type of impact would a statement have now? How could it best be utilized? It was suggested that a statement would have better impact if it was released in conjunction with an event. Instead of releasing it now, it would be good to finalize the statement (mindful of keeping it brief and impactful) and holding it for release in conjunction with a future immigration-related event. Immigration issues come to the forefront of the news frequently. Most councilors thought that it would not be long before an appropriate opportunity arises.

Br. Lemke worked extensively with Mark Peters (director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation) on drafts of the statement. He agreed to help prepare a statement, or series of statements, for future use.

- M. Province Jubilees — It was suggested that besides silver and golden jubilees of religious life that the province should publicly recognize jubilees of vows starting with 10 year anniversaries and then every 10 years following. The more significant celebration will continue to be with the 25 and 50-year anniversaries but those with jubilees of 10, 20, 30, 40, 60 and 70+ years of vows would also be recognized. The jubilee celebrations would take place during the yearly province gathering.

Fr. Huffstetter will write a letter to the province asking for members' input before the council finalizes its decision on this at its December meeting.

### III. Membership

- A. Houston — The council voted to renew Fr. Edward Kilianski's term as local superior, for Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec as first councilor and for Fr. Duy Nguyen as local treasurer.

Fr. Huffstetter noted that while it is good that there is a full community in Houston it is unfortunate that there is no guest space at the community house. Visitors, including Fr. Huffstetter during the visitation, must stay at a nearby hotel.

- B. Dehon Formation Community, Chicago — The council voted to renew Br. Duane Lemke's term as local superior. It was noted that this will need Vatican approval because Br. Lemke is not a cleric.

The council voted to name all members of the community in final vows as house council.

- C. Fr. Joseph Dean — His term as pastor concludes on December 31, 2014.
- D. Br. Ben Humpfer — The congregation's request for Br. Humpfer to serve as local superior of the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, Fl., is at the Vatican. The Vatican must approve the appointment because Br. Humpfer is not a cleric.
- E. Br. Ray Kozuch — Br. Kozuch has been active with volunteer activities since concluding his term in the vocation office.
- F. Fr. Jack Kurps — Fr. Kurps' term as local superior ends on December 31, 2014. Fr. Huffstetter will do a consultation for leadership in November.
- G. Fr. Jim Brackin — Fr. Brackin's term as local superior runs through February 15, 2015. A consultation will be done to get the local community's input on leadership.

- H. Fr. Nick Brown — Fr. Brown had back surgery recently but seems to be healing well. He is continuing his ministry as a chaplain.
- I. Br. Mike Fette — Fr. Huffstetter visited with Br. Fette in Corpus Christi and said that Br. Fette is doing well. Fr. Richard MacDonald is his contact.
- J. Fr. Byron Haaland — His term as local superior comes to an end in December, 2015.
- K. Fr. Paul Kelly — His assignment on the formation staff of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology concludes in June, 2015.
- L. Fr. Terry Langley — His parish assignment with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee runs through June, 2015.
- M. Frater Joseph Vu — He concludes his internship at Our Lady of Guadalupe in June, 2015, and will return to the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago.
- N. Fr. Greg Speck — Fr. Speck concludes his assignment in Mississippi in January, 2015. Fr. Huffstetter granted his request for a sabbatical, the details of which need to be finalized. In August, 2015, Fr. Speck will go to Pinellas Park, Fl.
- O. Fr. David Szatkowski — Fr. Szatkowski's assignment to the community in Nesbit, Miss., concludes in March, 2015. He is open to a variety of assignments including parish ministry.
- P. Fr. John Czyzynski — Fr. Czyzynski requested permission to go to the Philippines early next year to help with the region's ESL program. He will move to Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake in the summer of 2015.
- Q. Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid — Fr. Reid is to move to the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, Fl., early in 2015.
- R. Fr. Pat Lloyd — He requested permission to retire at the end of June, 2015.
- S. Fr. Jim Schroeder — He is retiring and expected to move to Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake in November, 2014.
- T. Fr. Ed Zemlik — Fr. Zemlik's term with ESL runs through June, 2015.
- U. Fr. Steve Wiese — He fractured his pelvis and is recovering at the Congregational Home.
- V. Fr. Christianus Hendrik — Fr. Hendrik asked the council's input regarding the scheduling of his extended vacation; he is considering doing his home visit to Indonesia during the first three months of 2015.

#### IV. Finance

- A. Audit of Province Development Office — The annual audit is complete and the financial picture for the office is encouraging. Income is up, more so than predicted. This allowed the office to give the province a slightly higher grant than in the past. In recent years the office has had a deficit budget.

The office had a meeting on October 20 with representatives from Brickmill, the organization that was hired to assist with strategic planning of fund raising initiatives. Holiday mailings are in process.

- B. Province Audit — Dn. Nagel discussed the province audit completed by Schenck Business Solutions; it will be reviewed by the council at its December meeting. Expenses for the province were similar to the previous year. He noted that the Province Ministries fund was down by \$600,000 because the council had approved money from it to finance a portion of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. However, now that the development is fully rented the province receives approximately \$500,000 a year in rental income.

Auditors cited no issues of concern.

- C. SCJ Medical Plan — The contract for the SCJ medical plan was renewed on October 1 for another year. There are no changes regarding coverage or membership cards for SCJs. The stop-loss coverage for those under 65 remains the same.

Dn. Nagel informed the council that the SCJ Medical Fund was short \$425,000 during FY13; in the last fiscal year it was \$500,000 short. Monthly contributions from the membership (currently \$900 per month) cover 70% of actual coverage. The 2014 Provincial Chapter passed a resolution to fund the medical plan at 90%. To do this, the monthly contribution will need to be raised to \$1,154.

One of the largest increases in medical expenses is related to dental implants. The SCJ medical plan covers a maximum of \$10,000 per member, per year. SCJs have been asked to voluntarily spread the cost of such procedures over two years.

- D. Remodeling at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — The new dining room equipment at SHSST was installed over the summer and the remodeling of the lobby is just about complete. Painting was also done in the SHSST dining room. Both projects were a part of Phase 1, Stage 1 of the Facility Master Plan for SHSST. The next phase is to include an addition near the dining room and lobby with conference facilities, as well as a new elevator.

The council told Dn. Nagel that it would like to delay implementation of Stage 2 while funding resources are reviewed. A delay will also allow the province to have a discussion about the seminary as recommended by the 2014 chapter.

Related to this discussion, councilors asked about fund raising for SHSST. Is the seminary able to have a capital campaign to help cover costs of the Facility Master Plan? There was a brief discussion of the fund raising history of the seminary. For a period of time SHSST had its own development department but fund raising for the seminary has primarily been the responsibility of the province development office. Other suggested sources of revenue included alumni mailings; most colleges and universities include alumni in their development efforts.

Councilors agreed that all of these issues should be a part of the province's reflection on the seminary as it looks toward the future.

E. Financial updates

1. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel will leave October 31 for the General Finance Commission meeting in Neustadt, Germany.

2. Audits

- a. St. Joseph's Indian School — A few minor issues were raised during the audit of St. Joseph's Indian School; they are being addressed. The concerns are related to overseas fund raising and the challenges associated with reviewing the bookkeeping of international efforts.
- b. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — No major concerns were found in the SHSST audit.

V. Calendar — The following council meetings have been added to the calendar:

- October 30, 1 p.m. conference call to review minutes of this meeting
- April 28-29 (budgets)
- June 30 (conference call regarding vows)
- August 3-4 (begin at noon on August 3)
- September 15-16
- October 27-28
- December 15-16

## Province Financial Report FY 2014

**DATE:** October 22, 2014  
**TO:** Province SCJs  
**FROM:** Dn. David Nagel, SCJ

**RE:** Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2014

The Provincial Council on October 22, 2014 reviewed the financial audit for the Province. The Statement of Activities is summarized here:

<b>Support, Revenue, &amp; Other Gains:</b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
Total Support & Revenue	\$ <u>11,618,061</u>	\$ <u>10,581,836</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
Total program services	\$9,430,071	\$9,336,501
Administration and general	1,558,955	1,620,995
Total expenditures	\$ <u>10,989,026</u>	\$ <u>10,957,496</u>
Net (Loss) Gain	\$ <u>629,035</u>	\$ <u>-375,660</u>

Expenses for most Province operations were about equal with the previous year. The most significant increase in income was from rentals at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake which were \$650,000 for the year.

Worries over the economy and donors vulnerability to financial difficulties has slowed the annual contributions received by the Province. The Priest of the Sacred Heart Development Office in Hales Corners gave \$7.14 million to the Province for operations and overseas missions. The Sacred Heart Southern Missions and St. Joseph's Indian School have raised their contributions to the Province. Contributions from other sources also increased Province income from investments helped to offset the expenses.

As of June 30, 2014 the Province Ministry Fund was \$ 2.0 million which is down from \$2.6 in Fiscal 2013. The Provincial Council approved the use of the Ministry Fund to finance a portion of the Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake Retirement Project and to cover the deficit for the SCJ Medical Plan..

The POSH Development Office has contracted with a vendor to provide a full range of services for the organization. The goal is to stabilize contributions and reduce operating costs so that the Office can continue to support the Province at the \$7 million level. The first year working with the new arrangement the Office ended in the black with \$348,981 compared to a loss of \$-2.2 million in the previous year. The Development Office continues to make changes that will lead to improved income and substantiality.



**SCJ Medical Fund** expenses exceeded contributions due to increased costs as the Province membership continues to age.

**Medical Fund Activity 2014:**

Starting Balance:	\$ 389,667
Contributions:	\$ <u>1,334,327*</u>
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$ 1,334,327
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$ <u>1,387,843</u>
<b>Gain/ (Loss):</b>	\$ -53,516

\*Contributions from the SCJ membership equaled \$908,800 while the remaining \$425,000 was taken from the other funds and the deficit does not show up in the general audit information (There was a deficit of \$500,000 last fiscal year.).

The present monthly contribution is \$800 per SCJ member but July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year went to \$900. The projection for expenses for the upcoming year of 2015 puts the needed monthly contribution from each SCJ at approximately \$1,243. The SCJ monthly contribution is 70% of what it actually costs the Province for medical coverage. The SCJ Medical Plan has stop-loss insurance of \$60,000 per member so the liability is limited to that amount and expenses over \$60,000 for an individual are reimbursed by the insurance carrier. The Provincial Chapter in July passed a resolution to fund the medical plan individual contribution at 90% of actual claims which would be \$1,154 rather than the current \$900 per month for the present fiscal year.

The **Priests of the Sacred Heart Support & Maintenance Trust** continues to support those members of the Province who are not active in ministry. The Trust provides support to retired SCJs for a total of \$1.6 million per year. The monthly support contribution from SCJs active in ministry is \$200 per person.

The investments for calendar year 2013 returned 22.4%. Quarterly meetings are held with the investment committee and our consultants to review the investment activity. Monthly reports and frequent phone conversations are also used to manage the investments.

These are a few of the financial highlights of the finances for fiscal year 2014. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this information.

## Summary of the Meeting of the Councils of Canada and the United States October 20-21, 2014 · Hales Corners, Wis. (USA)

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter (provincial superior, United States), Fr. Bill Marvee (regional superior, Canada), Fr. Claude Bédard, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, Dn. David Nagel, Fr. Maurice Légaré, Br. Duane Lemke, Br. Frank Presto, Fr. Paul Tennyson, Fr. Richard Woodbury, and Mary Gorski (October 21 for minutes). Fr. Quang Nguyen and Br. Long Nguyen joined the meeting for discussion of vocations. David Schimmel was present for discussion of the Dehonian Associates.

- I. Check-in and faith sharing— Participants met after dinner on October 21 to discuss the following: what is significant in your life and ministry since we met in March; what inspiration did you take away from your chapter experience?
- II. Welcome — In his opening remarks at the Tuesday session Fr. Huffstetter reminded participants that the day’s meeting isn’t a separate moment but a continuation of what has gone before in meetings between the two administrations, as well as wider province and continental gatherings.
- III. Follow-up to North American Continental Conference

### A. Urgent realities

1. Immigration — The U.S. Chapter called for the Provincial Council to make a statement regarding the migration of children. At the time of the chapter the issue of child migration was at the forefront of national and international news, especially regarding events at the U.S. and Mexican border. The U.S. council is discussing how such a statement can be utilized to have the most impact.

The Canadian Region continues to be active in concerns related to immigration, in particular through Fr. Peter McKenna’s work at Becoming Neighbors, but also through its ministry at parishes with significant immigrant populations in Toronto, and its international outreach to immigrants in general, and international SCJs in particular, in Ottawa and Montréal.

2. Youth —Fr. Hendrik has begun a youth initiative with some of the younger members of the U.S. Province. Reflecting on experience he gained working with youth in his native Indonesia, Fr. Hendrik met with a small group of young SCJs in September, had a conference call with them in October, and was to meet again with them on October 24. Fr. Hendrik said that he is impressed with the young men with whom he is working. His hope is to create a team that can put on youth activity days based in SCJ spirituality.

David Schimmel, director of Dehonian Associates for the U.S. Province, will give a presentation to the group on October 24 in regards to age-appropriate materials on Fr. Dehon and SCJ spirituality. It is important, said Fr. Hendrik, to create a language for conveying such concepts to the young. Young people, said Fr. Hendrik, resonate with Fr. Dehon’s statement: “For him I live and for him I die.”

The core of SCJ spirituality for youth, said Fr. Hendrik, centers on the ideas of love, readiness and sacrifice.

In Toronto Frs. Will Rapozo and Aegi Warsito are focusing on youth ministry with three large youth groups at the SCJ parishes there. Frs. Rapozo and Warsito are beginning to introduce the SCJ charism to young people in these groups as a result of the NACC.

- B. NACC Follow-up Committee — In September the Follow-up Committee to the NACC had its first in-person meeting; it was held at the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago. The committee includes Fr. Kurps, Br. Lemke, Fr. Greg Murray, Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo, Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas, Fr. Tony Russo and Fr. Greg Schill. Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, facilitated the meeting. She was also the facilitator at the NACC.

Participants in the North American councils meeting echoed what had been said at the NACC follow-up meeting in Chicago: when considering collaborative projects for North America it is important that the U.S. Province and Canadian Region are equal partners. Collaboration means more than simply adding a member of one entity to a project already in place in another entity.

The follow-up committee established two sub-committees, one for youth (headed up by Fr. Rapozo) and one on immigration (led by Br. Lemke). The follow-up committee surfaced names for the committees but first suggested that an open invitation

be made to SCJs in the U.S. and Canada to volunteer for them. It is hoped that by the NACC Follow-up Committee's December 4 conference call that both subcommittees will have met by phone or in person. Their task is to each come up with one concrete Dehonian-based response to their committee's focus (immigration or youth) that be implemented (or begun to be implemented) by the end of 2015.

The councils confirmed that the NACC Follow-up Committee and its subcommittees have the authority to implement follow-up strategies unless such strategies call for the establishment of a new ministry. Proposals regarding new ministries would need to be reviewed by the councils of both entities and perhaps the membership at large.

North American councilors asked that the minutes from the Chicago meeting be sent to all SCJs in North America.

- IV. Joint assembly — It had been suggested at the NACC, and later endorsed at the March 3 joint North American Councils meeting, that the Canadian Region and U.S. Province hold a joint assembly. At the March meeting, the councils tentatively set the assembly date for the summer of 2015.

Since then, the U.S. Province set its assembly dates for July 6-10, 2015. The Canadian Region generally has its assembly in August. It was suggested that the joint assembly be held in 2016; however, that is the year of the U.S. Province election assembly.

The location of a joint assembly was also discussed. Although the U.S. Province has meeting and housing facilities in Hales Corners, there should be openness to other possibilities, especially in Canada.

V. Collaborative possibilities

- A. Investments — A member of the Canadian Region suggested that the two entities consider divesting from fossil fuels as a statement in regards to some of the issues related to their production and use. Councilors discussed the alternative investment strategies that each entity utilizes. Divestiture from any one area needs to be reviewed as a part of a larger investment picture. Also, by having a stake in a company with which one has concerns a person/organization has the option of speaking up at shareholder meetings, making concrete proposals that can lead to change.

There are many areas in which the entities could have impact through investments, such as health care and human rights.

Education and action is important, but it is also important not to do “knee jerk” reactions that might not have the same impact as actions that are a part of a long-range plan.

- B. Vocations — Fr. Quang Nguyen, vocation director for the U.S. Province, and Br. Long Nguyen, associate director, joined the councils to discuss vocation efforts in the U.S.

The U.S. office received nine positive responses from their outreach to Neumann Centers; this will allow the vocation office to visit their campuses to make student contacts. The office is also considering doing mission appeals as a way of having a wider contact with young Catholics (Fr. Quang Nguyen was reminded to make appropriate contacts in diocesan offices when making such appeals). The focus is on trying to make the SCJs well-known. The office tries to have an SCJ presence at as many youth and young adult gatherings as possible such as Marian Days in Las Vegas. Give-aways, such as bracelets with the vocation office contact information, are made available at such events. Other items with SCJ symbols, such as crosses and tee shirts are also important.

Representatives from both the U.S. and Canada could attend such events; the SCJs who go to them do not have to be men dedicated to full-time vocation ministry.

It was noted that Fr. Joe Dean used to do week-long parish missions. A councilor asked if this might be a good possibility for the vocation office, or something on which the office could piggyback?

Members of the Canadian council talked of their vocation efforts. Last year, the region ended its poster campaign due to a poor response rate. Outreach through the internet seems more worthwhile. Could the Canadian Region and U.S. Province collaborate on its internet presence?

Canadian councilors spoke of the challenge of freeing up a member of the region for vocation ministry. The people who seem most gifted for such work are also needed in other areas.

The two administrations also talked about the age of possible candidates. For Canada, the upper end of the range for acceptance is 45. However, it was noted that if the region did have a candidate who was a young adult there wasn't a formation program in place to assist him. It was suggested that if the Canadian Region had a younger candidate that he be sent to the formation program in Chicago where he would have more peer interaction. Dehon House in Chicago is thought to be a good learning environment about the community because it is both intergenerational and international. The Finnish Region inquired about the possibility of sending a candidate to study in Chicago.

It was noted that while international candidates could be welcomed for formation experiences in both countries, the acceptance of international candidates as members of one's own region can be challenging. Generally when the U.S. vocation office receives an inquiry from another country that person is referred to SCJs in the home country (if there is a presence) or the local diocese.

Discussions of vocations closed with the reminder that one of the best vocation tools is the example of living a healthy religious life..

- C. World Youth Day 2016 — It was suggested that the two entities work together on sending a Dehonian youth group to World Youth Day in Poland. The North Americans should try to coordinate their efforts with youth groups from other SCJ entities going to WYD. Br. Andrzej Gancarczyk and Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec would be good resources in preparation for WYD in Poland. Also, an SCJ vocation booth should be set up at WYD. This was done by SCJs when WYD was in Toronto.

- VI. General Chapter — The administrations spoke briefly about the 2015 General Chapter and agreed that the chapter would be the focus of their spring 2015 meeting. Delegates for the chapter from both entities should be at that meeting.

Should they suggest a person from North America to be considered for General Council? It was noted that doing so doesn't necessarily mean that the person chosen by North America is the person who will be discerned by the chapter delegates for the General Council. This has happened previously. Is it presumptuous to assume that someone from North America should be on the General Council? Having a North American on the council has been very beneficial, but perhaps other voices need to be heard. The next superior general may seek certain qualities to assist him in leadership. What is key is that the general administration has a good understanding of the North American context. This understanding could be possible through the presence of a North American SCJ on the General Council, but perhaps by some other means. There could be an SCJ of another country who has a good understanding of the North American context, or perhaps a consultative relationship could be established with a North American outside of the council.

Councilors reiterated the need for both entities and the congregation as a whole, to be fully open to the discernment process of the General Chapter. It can be difficult to lose a talented SCJ from one's entity to general administration, but in unexpected ways it can also be beneficial. And, it is vital to look at the congregation's needs as a whole.

- VII. Dehonian Associates — David Schimmel, director of Dehonian Associates for the U.S. Province, met with the administrations with updates and a proposal.

- A. Dehonian Family Meeting — The congregation held an international meeting of representatives of the "Dehonian Family" at the Generalate in Rome from May 15-20. Mr. Schimmel and Fr. Kurps attended. Participants at the meeting explored ways in which they might invite more people to enter into the spiritual heritage of Fr. Dehon. They established an organizing committee that consists of two Lay Dehonians, one consecrated woman, one SCJ religious and a representative from the General Council. The committee has a three-year term to further develop and implement the "Spiritual Path of Lay Dehonians," encourage communication (via the internet and other means), prepare for the establishment of a coordinating committee, and create further possibilities for growth in living the Dehonian charism as diverse members of a Dehonian Family.
- B. Formation program for Lay Dehonians — One of the main tasks of the Rome meeting was a review of the "Spiritual Path for Lay Dehonians." Developed at the general level, it is a four-year curriculum of ten monthly meetings designed to educate people on the Dehonian charism. The first year of the curriculum was available for review at the Rome conference. It can be downloaded as a PDF from the general website.

Mr. Schimmel and Fr. Kurps reviewed the program and discussed how it might be adapted to a North American context. Local adaptations of the Spiritual Path were encouraged by those who presented it in Rome.

Adapting it to an adult learning style, Mr. Schimmel created a ten-session program based on the first year of the Spiritual

Path. He and Fr. Kurps thought that ten sessions would be sufficient preparation before one made a formal commitment as a Dehonian Associate (the term the U.S. Province uses for “Lay Dehonians”). Content in the following three years of the Spiritual Path could be used in ongoing formation.

Mr. Schimmel presented the proposed formation program. He said that it was a program designed not only for Catholics, but for any Christian interested in the Dehonian charism.

In developing the formation program, Mr. Schimmel utilized resources developed by Fr. Jim Steffes for use by the SCJ Family Associates. Mr. Schimmel suggests that a Dehonian Associates Rule of Life be created (based primarily on the Family Associates Rule of Life done by Fr. Steffes), as well as a Dehonian Associates Prayer Book. Much of the content of the prayer book would be adapted from *This Day of God*, the prayer book published by the U.S. Province. Added to it would be a Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a prayer for the sick, a prayer for the deceased, a prayer of commitment, as well as others.

Mr. Schimmel suggests that the SCJ cross currently in use also be used as a sign of the Dehonian Associate commitment.

- C. Proposal — Mr. Schimmel proposed that the councils consider establishing the Dehonian Associate program that he described and that a pilot program begin within the next year in both Canada and the United States. He said that he would be available for assistance to both entities in setting up the programs.

Although he is the director of Dehonian Associates for the U.S. Province — not all of North America — Mr. Schimmel said that he proposes the program for use in Canada as well as the U.S. on the recommendation of Fr. John van den Hengel (General Council). Fr. van den Hengel thought that whatever Mr. Schimmel might develop could be utilized and/or adapted for Canada.

- D. Discussion — Councilors discussed the proposal. One of the concerns cited was language. In some areas, such as Texas and Mississippi, Spanish versions of the program would be helpful (as well as someone fluent in Spanish to lead the program). In Quebec, French would be needed.

Mr. Schimmel said that a lay leader could direct the sessions, which might address some of the language concerns. Written materials could be translated in a variety of languages. Also, material can be adapted by him for use in each local area.

Councilors asked about the length of the commitment; is it something that is renewed? Open-ended? Mr. Schimmel said that the hope is that the group that did its formation together would continue to meet for on-going formation and fellowship.

Another question concerned acceptance of candidates for the Dehonian Associate process. Would there be an acceptance program? If so, who would review candidates and how would it be done? Would (or should) SCJs be a part of such a process? Would it be problematic if a parish pastor was a part of the approval process for a member of his parish?

What kind of affiliation would Dehonian Associates feel that they have with the professed SCJs?

How would expenses be covered? On the local level? By the Dehonian Associates office? Mr. Schimmel said that initial expenses would be covered by his office but that local areas would be asked to offer space and time for the meetings. Participants could donate things such as snacks and other minor items.

How many people would be needed for a program to be viable? Mr. Schimmel suggested 10-12. The initial group could be a resource to future groups while taking part in continuing formation.

Mr. Schimmel noted Lay Dehonian programs in other countries that have autonomous identities; some send people to work in SCJ missions. Occasionally people have contacted the mission director of the U.S. Province about possibilities as lay volunteers in SCJ missions. Is this something that Canada and the United States want to work toward? Initially, councilors said no.

- E. Conclusions — Fr. Huffstetter suggested that if the program begin in the U.S. Province that it start at the beginning of the next school year (August or September 2015). Fr. Marvee said that the Canadian council will review what Mr. Schimmel presented.

VIII. Educare Conference — Fr. Kilianski briefly reviewed the SCJs’ International Education Conference which he took part in last

July in Valencia, Spain. He attended the conference along with representatives of each of the U.S. Province's schools (the representative from Canada was ill and unable to attend). Representing schools from primary to university levels from around the world, participants focused on how they can network together to create more opportunities for education — on all levels — based in the Dehonian charism.

A primary means of accomplishing this is to be a Dehonian education network. It will have three objectives: to help educators and those they serve get to know one another, to enhance formation in the Dehonian identity at all levels, and to share resources. A five-person organizing committee, including a mix of professed and lay people along with a representative from the General Council, was named to take the first steps in getting the network off the ground. That group had its first meeting in October.

Fr. Kilianski said that the Valencia conference was a very dynamic gathering with a good mix of SCJs and lay participants.

- IX. Local Community Dehonian Pastoral Plans — Fr. Huffstetter said that during the Canadian Chapter there was discussion of creating a Dehonian Pastoral Plan in each local community. He asked the Canadian SCJs to talk about that process.

In Toronto, such a plan is focused on the commitment to the intentional international community. All ministry is based out of this focus. Although the Toronto community lives in two houses, it has a strong commitment to gather together once each week.

In Montréal the plan is evolving but much of it focuses on supporting the senior members of the community while now exploring new possibilities for ministry with the influx of younger. However, this new ministry might also focus on care for the sick and aged.

In Ottawa, there are a diverse number of ministries and residences. Discussion of a Dehonian Pastoral Plan is in its initial stages.

Councilors from both entities agreed that it is important that each community have some type of Dehonian identity, something that creates a commonality among widely varied communities.

- X. Next meeting — The North American administrations will next meet in Ottawa April 13-14, beginning with an evening meal on Monday

## Notes from the Justice Peace & Reconciliation Commission Meeting October 14, 2014

Present: Fr. Bob Bossie, Fr. Wayne Jenkins, Mark Peters, Fr. Johnny Klingler, Fr. John Czyzynski

Excused: Fr. Greg Schill, Br. Clay Diaz, Fr. Chuck Wonch, Fr. Byron Haaland

At 10 AM, we gathered at 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice to hear a presentation from staff and have a dialogue about our relationship. 8<sup>th</sup> Day was founded in 1974 and the Priests of the Sacred Heart became sponsoring members in 1977. We have been paying dues and until last year had sponsored a staff position there which was filled initially by Brian McCullough and then for many years by Bob Bossie. The Center has scaled back from a high of 18 staff to 12 today, and engages in most issues through partnerships with other organizations. The staff also operate collaboratively and non-hierarchically; there is no "director." Most staff salaries are contributed from member communities, but the Center funds a few positions, focusing on office coordination, development and communications. 30 religious congregations are affiliates.

Their mission is to "act as a critical alternative voice to oppressive systems and work to change those systems," and the tools they employ are social analysis, education, advocacy and direct action. They attempt to read the "signs of the times," as Pope Paul VI urged, to determine their primary focuses. In the 70s, it was world hunger and nuclear weapons and energy; in the 80s it shifted to homelessness, "trickle-down" economics and US intervention in Central America; in the 90s it was globalization, Palestine and Iraq; and the post-9/11 war on terror was their biggest issue in the 00s. Currently their emphases are on immigration reform and the Middle East. The entire staff is now studying the book "Theologies of Liberation in Palestine-Israel." Peacemaking, nonviolence and human rights have been perennial concerns.

On the immigration issue, they are working with the New Sanctuary Movement, not only to educate and advocate on the issue, but to provide post-detention accompaniment of undocumented immigrants in the Chicago area. The group has found 2 houses for temporary shelter and is developing a relationship with ICE (Immigrations Customs Enforcement) to change the way it deals with the undocumented. They are also working with the Campaign to Preserve the Great Lakes (with 20% of the world's potable water, how it is stewarded and distributed is a huge justice issue) and the Illinois Coalitions against torture and the death penalty. They are responding to the race relations issue by partnering with a local group working with the poor in an empowering, non-paternalistic way. Direct actions have included their annual Good Friday walk, participation in SOA Watch, and a Liturgy for Unaccompanied Minors. One staffer is preparing to go with a Christian Peacemaker Team to Palestine.

The Commission members present were impressed by the many issues the Center is working on and the interrelationships they've discovered between them. But we also asked about their positions on LGBT rights and women's ordination, which have been a source of concern to many in the province. They explained that the Center does not have a formal position on these issues. Rather, on these issues, and others like them where some Catholics have chosen to dissent from official Church teaching, the Center has only advocated that individual conscience should be respected and dialogue maintained.

We also talked about the impact of 8<sup>th</sup> Day's 9-11 statement, which many felt blamed the attacks on the US. They pointed out that the statement deplored the violent loss of life, expressed sadness for the victims and their loved ones, and called the US to respond with reconciliation rather than revenge, dialogue rather than inflammatory rhetoric, nonviolent alternatives to war, and respect for peoples rather than stereotypes – nothing out of line with Church teaching or what Pope John Paul was saying at the time. The problem seemed to be with the sentence that claimed that "US economic and military policies have resulted in untold poverty and deaths globally, which causes many to view the US as a perpetrator of violence." Some may have felt that this was an attempt to place 100% of the blame for this act of terrorism on the US, and none on the beliefs or actions of the perpetrators, but clearly the statement doesn't say that. It merely asks us to "examine the impact of US policies" rather than "proclaiming innocence." All agreed that part of the problem was the timing at a time when emotions were so raw, but it should be noted that those calling for violence and revenge did not wait to speak until emotions were less high.

We asked how they are preparing for a future of fewer religious, a digitized society, and the challenges of engaging younger generations. A young person has been hired to give them more presence on social media, and they have a

Young Adult Council which uses non-traditional methods like art, “pub nights,” etc. to connect with young people. Their board, which meets twice a year (and which Mark attends), has been trying to think strategically about other ways to meet these challenges.

One thing they have decided to let “lie fallow” for now are their Urban Plunges, in which our own seminarians have participated in the past. They are still willing to do them, but only when they have a sufficient number of participants. We wondered if the Formation House in Chicago would want to invite 8<sup>th</sup> Day to do something like this with their men, and/or to have center staff lead a class or workshop on social analysis. Mark will find out if there is any interest at SHSST.

One SCJ had asked what 8<sup>th</sup> Day had accomplished with the past funding they’d received from us. They acknowledged that “victories” in social justice work can be few and far between, especially given our current context. But they have worked side by side with the poor and powerless, studied social problems and their causes, and worked in coalitions with others to address those problems, often speaking in a prophetic way that met with much resistance – much like Fr. Dehon. They also noted that some of the groups they work with have looked to them to facilitate many efforts because some of these groups are distrustful of one another, while 8<sup>th</sup> Day is seen as a group that has credibility with all and can help all of them work on those concerns they have in common. That relational and reconciling approach is also reminiscent of Fr. Dehon, who tried to bring together owners and workers. The commission members agreed that the Church still has great need of prophetic voices, and that 8<sup>th</sup> Day offers such a voice in a way that none of our other funded groups do.

Finally, we asked about their financial condition. They have passed audits and use a conservative approach to budgeting, and always manage to keep their expenses lower than budgeted, but maintaining revenues has been a challenge as for almost all nonprofits these days, and their current budget has a small deficit, which they have savings to cover. They also have an annual fundraiser, and are trying other creative ways to bring in some revenue. But they acknowledged that the Priests of the Sacred Heart had been their single largest contributor, so the loss of Bob Bossie on staff and the lessening or loss of our dues would have an impact. Sr. Kathleen added that the greater loss to them, however, would be the loss of a relationship with us. Sr. Mary Kay said that occasional differences of opinion between the province and the center could be “golden,” and hoped we could maintain a dialogue that might challenge both of us while working together in the many areas we are in complete alignment.

After lunch, the commission continued its meeting in a room provided by 8<sup>th</sup> Day. Mark shared a prayer for peace, which happened to be the reparation prayer of the day from “This Day of God.” Each of us shared other prayer intentions and gave a quick update on our activities since our meeting in July.

Before we turned to our funding criteria, we discussed the feeling among some SCJs that we should not be funding outside groups at all. It’s been suggested that “funneling” money to such groups is a betrayal of our donors’ intent that their donations go to direct SCJ ministry. We felt this is a valid concern deserving serious consideration and response. We know that donor intent is often a point of debate, and that organizations like ours generally operate under the assumption that all the works and needs of the organization are a just use of general donations. Were we to adhere to the principle of donor intent in the absolute strictest sense, there might be many uses of donations that could be questioned. But we also believe that there is a more important, positive argument to be made for our support of these groups, namely, that promoting social justice (understood as more than charity or direct service) is a part of the SCJ and US Province mission, and in those places where we are present but not equipped to do such work, we may choose to fund others who can do it more effectively or efficiently. In South Dakota and Mississippi, we have large institutions which receive a great deal of financial resources to carry out their mission to the poor and powerless, but in Wisconsin, Illinois and Texas we do not. We asked ourselves whether we would be willing to shift these funds (\$150,000/year in the past, \$75,000 this year because of the addition of the JPR Director position) to SCJ communities in these states who wish to establish a social justice-focused ministry, and we agreed we would. But in lieu of that, we want to recommend to the Provincial Council that we continue this tradition.

Moving to criteria, we agreed to amend the criteria for prioritizing funded groups as follows:

How well the organization’s priorities and approaches match the Dehonian charism and its emphasis on “going to the people,” economic justice, promotion of Catholic social teaching principles, and dialogue and reconciliation.

The history of the relationship between the SCJ community and the requesting organization, as well as the history of individual SCJs’ direct involvement with the requesting organization. Connections to SCJ-run parishes are also an important factor.



The requesting organization's impact on justice, peace and reconciliation priorities as established by Province leadership.

The requesting organization's potential for systemic change in the area of justice, peace and reconciliation.

The requesting organization's need, i.e. how much impact our grant would make.

The difference between these and the old criteria is that previously, the primary and overriding criteria was the direct involvement and personal recommendation of individual SCJs. With declining numbers making that involvement less possible, we want to focus more on how the goals of the organization reflect our provincial priorities, the effectiveness of the organization, and how well its approaches conform to Dehonian values. SCJ involvement is still a big plus for a group, but it is no longer the primary expectation, although the Director would be expected to stay connected with these groups to the extent possible.

We also agreed to drop the guidelines that grants are renewable to a maximum of 3 years, and that after a 3<sup>rd</sup> year, an organization could be designated a "more permanent" part of the JPR budget. In reality, most of our groups have been funded much more than 3 years, but we wanted to leave this dimension as flexible as possible.

We then moved to evaluation of some of the groups who requested funding this fiscal year. Mark reported on his involvement with SET Ministry, Common Ground and the Benedict Center for Criminal Justice. All meet the criteria strongly, and Common Ground has been re-activated at St. Martin of Tours in Franklin. He has not been able to be as connected to the Dominican Center, which appears to be doing very good work in one of the poorest inner-city Milwaukee neighborhoods, but doesn't currently have much connection to us. The members present wanted to keep all these groups under consideration for now, but will not discuss amounts of funding until we have more information on the groups in Texas, which Mark is visiting later in October.

Finally, we discussed 8<sup>th</sup> Day and whether to continue a relationship and/or financial support. The unanimous feeling was that 8<sup>th</sup> Day is an important alternative Catholic voice whose social justice priorities overlap significantly with our top priorities of immigration reform, economic justice and youth. They have a strong history of relationship with us, not only through Bob Bossie's involvement, but through interaction with our seminarians over the years (and they are willing to work more closely with our formation program if the program directors request it). Also, it seems to us that the perception that the Center dissents from Church teaching is inaccurate. However, given that the organization has always operated from a predominantly feminine perspective, we also felt that we need to hear and can benefit from their perspective and concerns. We therefore strongly recommend to the Provincial Council that this relationship be continued and financial sponsorship be maintained.

Mark gave an update of his activities the past 3 months, including the development of a JPR website and joining the Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota Coalition for Responsible Investing (WIM/CRI, affiliated with the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility). He will attend his first meeting later in October. Fr. Steve Huffstetter and Dn. Dave Nagel met with Mark and the head of WIM/CRI, Fr. Mike Crosby, OFM Cap (based at St. Ben's in Milwaukee). They agreed that WIM/CRI's approach of trying to exercise shareholder influence was worthwhile, and that the issues the ICCR is working on are aligned with our values.

During Commission members input time, it was suggested that we continue the practice of visiting either a funded group or a local SCJ community each time we have a quarterly meeting, even if that might mean a two-day meeting. We'd like to meet in December in Mississippi, so Mark will talk with the community there about a good time to do so and to have a dialogue with Fr. Jack and the pastoral team members about the work of the Commission and how we might be a resource to them. It was also suggested we continue to alert members of the Province to the fact that JPR funds are available for social justice related workshops or other learning experiences, and to contact Mark if interested in getting JPR funding assistance. Finally, they directed Mark to find out whether the JPR Commission might be given some time to present to the community at the 2015 Assembly.

## CALENDAR

### 2014

December 16-17: Provincial Council

### 2015

January 27-28: Provincial Council

March 16-17: Local Superiors Meeting

March 18: Provincial Council

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 27-28: Provincial Council Meeting

December 15-16: Provincial Council Meeting

## UPDATES

**Fr. Peter Mastrobuono's** new email address:  
fatherpetermastrobuono@gmail.com

**Fr. Engelbert Fotsing** (Montréal community):  
efotsing2003@yahoo.fr

**Br. Zebaze Kifack Vermont Bengourion** (Montréal community):  
vermontscj@yahoo.fr

## NECROLOGY

+**Fr. Gerard Majella Adam Witkamp**, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died October 29. He was born in 1929, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1956. Fr. Gerard was a member of the French-Canadian community from 1957-1978. He taught at the Séminaire du Sacré-Coeur and served as a provincial councilor.

+**Fr. Antonio González Gómez**, a member of the Venezuelan Region, died October 27. He was born in 1934, professed in 1956 and ordained in 1972.

+**Fr. Johannes Wouter Carolus Maria Wiggerman**, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died September 22. He was born in 1936, professed in 1957 and ordained in 1964.

+**Fr. Honório Armando Link**, a member of the Brazil – São Paulo Province, died on September 11. He was born in 1923, professed in 1944 and ordained in 1949.

+**Fr. Theo Sanders**, a member of the Dutch – Flemish Confederation, died September 6. He was born in 1939, professed in 1962 and ordained in 1969.

+**Br. Willy Kapinga Kawala**, a member of the Congolese Province, died September 5. He was born in 1964 and professed in 1994.

+**Fr. Adolfo Perego**, a member of the North Italian Province, died August 26. He was born in 1917, professed in 1936 and ordained in 1943.