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Minutes of the 849th Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., January 27-28, 2015

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, was present for the section in regards to the Provincial Plan.

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

II. Membership

A. Sacred Heart Community at SHML

1. Visitation — Fr. Huffstetter reported on his visitation of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML. He said that overall community members feel well cared for and satisfied though there are some who experience isolation. One of the issues they raised was the desire to address long-term health care needs as a province. This includes a review of assisted living and nursing care — is the current practice best for the membership? While noting that the care given at the Congregational Home is excellent, some asked if it would be more appropriate to utilize a Catholic facility where the Eucharist could be available daily. Or, is it possible to adapt SHML to allow for assisted living and nursing care for SCJs?

Would the SCJ retirement community at SHML benefit from a staff nurse or health care advocate?

Fr. Huffstetter said that he — utilizing a CMSM server list — asked other religious communities to share their long-term health care policies with him. He received six responses that he shared with Br. Presto. It would be good to look at these to see what others are doing.

It was suggested that the superiors of all of the Milwaukee area communities get together to discuss how they can best offer hospitality to others. A few SCJs expressed concerns that the dining hall menu wasn't the best for people with diabetes or on low fat dietary restrictions. Fr. Huffstetter said that this is a concern that can be addressed by the local community on its own.

2. Local administration

- a. Superior — The community discussed the role of the local superior and possibilities for the future. Community members said that the job is not appropriate for a religious who is already retired. It was noted that some religious communities have a lay administrator, which allows the local superior to concentrate on attending to the internal life of the community.

Councilors discussed possibilities. Fr. Brackin will turn 70 in 2016. It was suggested that he be appointed for a new term as local superior that concludes July 1, 2016. This will allow the province to explore some of the possibilities raised in regards to long-term healthcare residency options, operating models for the administration of senior religious communities (such as a

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

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lay administrator with a background in health care and/or management), and to surface names of SCJs who could be prepared to succeed Fr. Brackin as local superior.

Related to this, Fr. Anthony Russo will be asked to get job descriptions of retirement community administrators from the religious communities with which he has been in dialogue.

The council voted to reduce the term of the local superior of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML to March 1, 2015 – July 1, 2016.

The council then voted to approve Fr. Jim Brackin as local superior of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML, running from March 1, 2015 – July 1, 2016.

Br. Presto noted that these two votes will need approval by the General Council.

- b. Treasurer — The council voted to appoint Br. Peter Mankins as local treasurer. His term runs concurrent with that of the local superior.
- c. House council — The council voted to appoint (in order) the following as the Sacred Heart house council: Fr. Anthony Russo, Fr. Michael Burke and Br. Brian Tompkins. Their terms run concurrent with that of the local superior.

3. Updates — Fr. Huffstetter gave a few updates on members of the community. Fr. Tom Cassidy is in India until May;

- B. Sacred Heart Community, Pinellas Park — Fr. Huffstetter reported on his visitation to Pinellas Park in January. There is a general sense of contentment among the members. The membership of the community will change quite a bit this year: Br. Ben Humpfer completes his term as superior, and several new members are joining the community, including Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid, Bishop Joseph Potocnak, Fr. Greg Speck and Fr. Pat Lloyd.
- C. Fr. Joseph Dean — Fr. Huffstetter spoke to Fr. Dean about different models for leadership and responsibility in regards to pastoral commitments. He suggested that Fr. Dean, Fr. Hendrik and Fr. Vincent Suparman meet during the visitation in April to discuss possibilities in regards to pastoral leadership. Fr. Dean was receptive to this.
- D. Fr. Terry Langley — He has enjoyed his parish work in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and his assignment is due for review.
- E. Fr. Wayne Jenkins — Fr. Jenkins is assisting with archival work at the Generalate in Rome until mid-February.
- F. Fr. David Szatkowski — He is said to be doing well in his new pastoral assignment in Mississippi.
- G. Houston community — Fr. Kilianski briefly commented on the Houston community, noting that when Fr. Joseph Vu returns to Chicago a room will again be available for visitors. This will be especially beneficial for Fr. Richard Johnston during his regular visits with the community. Fr. Kilianski also noted that Fr. Mastrobuono is doing well, and continues to be active in ministry with the Hispanic community throughout Houston.
- H. Luis Barrantes — Mr. Barrantes is a new candidate; he joined the Dehon Formation Community in January. Br. Lemke said that he is a good presence and adapting well.

III. Administration

- A. Election Assembly — Br. Presto informed the council that Fr. John van den Hengel and Sr. Cathy Bertrand both agreed to serve as facilitators of the 2016 Provincial Election Assembly.
- B. Visitation of provincial superior's local community — In recent administrations it has been the practice that the visitation of the provincial superior's local community be done by a provincial councilor. Councilors discussed this, noting that it removes the opportunity for members of the community to speak directly to the provincial as a part of the visitation process. Fr. Huffstetter said that he will get feedback from his local community about this at their next community meeting.

- C. Local Superiors meeting — The local superiors will have their annual meeting March 16-17, beginning with dinner and faith sharing on the evening of March 16. Fr. Huffstetter will soon send a letter to the superiors to remind them of the meeting and invite them to give input on it.

Fr. Huffstetter will organize prayer and faith sharing for the Monday evening session. He will ask one of the superiors who is not on council to celebrate Eucharist with the group on Tuesday. Fr. Haaland will be responsible for Wednesday's Mass with the council.

- D. Provincial Policies Handbook — Br. Presto presented a preliminary version of the updated Province Policies Handbook, which will be distributed as a three-ring binder. It primarily consists of policies already in place, though some are being updated, such as the policy on continuing education and sabbaticals. Items discussed:

1. Policy for Continuing Education and Sabbaticals — Br. Presto presented the proposed policy for Continuing Education and Sabbaticals. Councilors said that overall it was very clear and covered most necessary concerns. It was suggested that the policy note that sabbaticals are not necessarily a right; they are an option. Other concerns: 1) the person requesting the sabbatical must be in dialogue with the provincial superior, but also with the provincial treasurer in developing and maintaining a budget; and 2) for those in advanced academic studies there must be accountability to the province in regards to academic work (sharing grades with the provincial superior or his delegate) and finances.

Br. Presto will adjust the policy to reflect these concerns. Councilors were invited to share minor typographical edits with Br. Presto outside of the council meeting.

2. Financial Guidelines for Departing Members — Councilors asked how financial packages are determined for departing members. The policy states that a review committee of the treasurer and a lay employee of the province makes a recommendation to the provincial superior.
3. Drivers policy — Councilors discussed the possibility of allowing only “hands-free” cell phone use for SCJs when driving.
4. Personal bank accounts — The policy should specifically state that no individual SCJ should have a personal bank account without the permission of the provincial superior. Permission is only considered in special circumstances, such as for an SCJ living outside of community for studies. Dn. Nagel later reported that this is addressed in the current policy.
5. Car purchases and leasing — Councilors asked about policies regarding car purchases. Some SCJs go over the purchase limit of \$19,999. Should the limit be raised? It was noted that cars have become more expensive since the policy was established, but there is a concern that if the limit is raised people may automatically push the purchase price to this higher level. Councilors asked that the policy be very specific in not allowing for the leasing of a vehicle. Later in the meeting, Dn. Nagel reported that he adjusted the policy, specifically stating that leasing is prohibited.
6. Consultation of province — Fr. Huffstetter asked if a broader consultation of the province is needed on the policy handbook before the council votes to endorse it. Councilors determined that this is not necessary because the handbook contains primarily policies that are already approved and in place.

The Province Policy Handbook will come back to the council for review at its March meeting and will be discussed with local superiors at their gathering.

- E. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, changes in main chapel — Concerns have been raised by several SCJs in regards to changes being made to the main chapel at SHSST. In particular, two large statues of Joseph and Mary are to be hung in the chapel and there are plans for hanging a large crucifix over the altar. Should the SCJs be consulted before such changes are made by the seminary? Regardless of the aesthetics of the statues, would they take away from the SCJ spirituality in which the chapel is based, where the baptismal font, the altar (Eucharist) and the Sacred Heart (pierced heart) window are the focal points? The council clearly indicated that such changes should not be made in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

When a new organ was suggested by the seminary, the proposal came for review to the Provincial Council. This is a change of similar magnitude.

Could the statues be hung somewhere else in the seminary? It was noted that because of their size there are very limited options for their display.

Fr. Huffstetter will speak to Msgr. Ross Shecterle about the statues in particular, and concerns about changes to the chapel in general.

- F. Leadership during General Chapter — The provincial superior and vice provincial will both be in Rome for the General Chapter, as well as Fr. Kurps. Although they can be reached by phone or email, someone needs to be delegated to assume the provincial superior's duties when an in-person presence is needed. Fr. Haaland is next in line on the council and will assume the role.
- G. Immigration letter — 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, the draft was not finalized.

The council decided to delay release of the statement until such a time when migration (immigration) is at the forefront of the news. Councilors noted that immigration will most likely be a significant topic with the new Congress. Should the statement be released in the near future, and if so, how?

Noting that there are many voices trying to be heard in regards to immigration/migration, it was suggested that the community might have a greater impact if it addressed audiences that are already familiar to the community. This would include parishioners, employees and other collaborators in ministry. The letter should be a brief statement on immigration/migration from a Dehonian perspective. This would be distributed when Congress begins discussion of immigration.

This could also be distributed to those who receive the ordo. The letter could ask those who receive the ordo to consider reflecting on the issue of immigration/migration as they reflect on scripture.

Br. Lemke will review the letter that he adapted from Mark Peters' draft. Br. Lemke will discuss possibilities with the immigration committee.

- H. Committees — Following the last council meeting Fr. Huffstetter invited members of the province to volunteer for one of several committees being proposed. Six members did come forward. He is grateful for those who have volunteered, but more are needed in order to organize working groups.

They suggested that more young SCJs be encouraged to serve on a committee. Young SCJs need to be prepared for leadership. A significant part of that is serving on province committees.

All members of the province in active ministry should be expected to serve on a committee. Fr. Huffstetter will focus on this during his upcoming visitations, asking each member to choose a committee to which he can contribute.

- I. Preparation for people in internal ministry — Related to discussion of the Province Plan, Br. Presto shared a list that he compiled of nine internal ministry positions for which people need to be prepared. Not all are of an urgent need, but each will at some point require people who have specialized preparation:
1. Provincial treasurer — Councilors questioned whether in the future a lay person could take on more of the responsibilities of the job. This is the practice in some other SCJ entities.
 2. President/rector of SHSST
 3. Provincial secretary — A lay person could handle some of the responsibilities of the job.
 4. St. Joseph's Indian School — A lay person currently heads the school but it is important to maintain an SCJ presence.
 5. Spiritual director for Province Development Office — It is important that this person have strong people skills. Related to this, councilors discussed the need to create a culture in province institutions that readily communicates SCJ spirituality

and values. It was noted that many women's religious communities have done this well, especially in regards to the health care facilities tied to them.

6. Director of Sacred Heart Southern Missions — A lay person may be considered for this job but there would still need to be an SCJ presence.
7. Novice master and formation team— Preparation needs to begin soon for these positions.
8. Communications director — A lay person is appropriate for this job.

IV. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — Revenue from the holiday mailings was up from prior years and the donor list is growing. Planned Giving has also been doing well. February 23-24 the strategic team will meet to develop the direct mail budget for next year. Dn. Nagel said that *Reign* magazine has been redesigned; this has been well-received.

The office is considering whether it should file an insurance claim for mailings delayed by dock worker strikes in California. St. Joseph's Indian School filed such a claim. Insurance can cover the estimated income lost by the delay of a campaign.

Dn. Nagel was asked if the Province Development Office surveys its donors to determine what they might best respond to and what their concerns are. He said that focus groups in regards to fund raising often are less predictive of behavior than simply seeing what campaigns benefactors respond to, which they don't, and adjusting future campaigns in light of these responses.

Responding to a question about what development office mailings SCJs do and don't receive, it was noted that all three offices need to be in dialogue with the provincial offices to regularly update their SCJ files. In-between printings of the personnel directory, SCJ address updates are available in Fridge Notes and in the online personnel directory found in the members' section of the province website.

- B. St. Joseph's Indian School — Dn. Nagel and Kathleen Dahlgren (province attorney) met with Mike Tyrell, Kory Christianson and Donna Dean from St. Joseph's in regards to a CNN story about fund raising at the school. Among the topics of discussion were communication guidelines with media.
- C. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel will attend the General Finance Commission meeting March 9-11 in Rome in preparation for the General Chapter. As a member of the commission he will also attend the General Chapter during its first week
- D. Budget process — Dn. Nagel informed the council that budget preparers received a memo with timelines for budget preparation.
- E. Audits — Schenck Business Solutions is doing a procedural audit of the investments, the Charitable Gift Annuity and Growth Pools.
- F. Workshop/art studio — Fr. Haaland presented the plans for a proposed workshop/art studio. Previously it was proposed that the studio be located near Dehon House. However, proximity to wetlands made this an unworkable choice. Instead, it is proposed that the studio be built on the Woods Road property (St. Francis Residence). The current garage, which is in deteriorating condition and only used for the storage of maintenance equipment, would be removed. The studio would go up in its place.

The proposed structure, developed by Mark Wenzel, utilizes a prefabricated plan for a garage. It would be modified for the needs of the studio.

A question was raised about the on-going expenses of the studio after it is built. How would these be budgeted? It was suggested that a separate budget for the studio be developed.

The council voted to approve construction of an art studio/workshop on the grounds of the Woods Road property for \$103,700. Mark Wenzel will oversee the construction process, including permit approvals.

When the studio is completed procedures for its use will need to be developed.

- V. Province Plan — Sr. Cathy Bertrand joined the council for discussion and work on the Province Plan. It will be reviewed at the local superiors' meeting in March.
- VI. Calendar items
- A. Provincial's calendar — Fr. Huffstetter shared his schedule for the next few months. It includes: Visitation with the Chicago community February 21-25, visitation in Texas February 28 – March 7, CMSM meeting and visit to Fr. Bryan Benoit in the St. Louis area March 21-25.
- B. Minutes — These minutes will be reviewed by email. Changes should be to Mary Gorski by February 9.

Notes from Justice Peace & Reconciliation Commission Meeting December 12, 2014

Present: Fr. Bob Bossie, Fr. Byron Haaland Fr. Wayne Jenkins, Fr. Johnny Klingler, Mark Peters

Excused: Br. Clay Diaz, Fr. Greg Schill, Fr. John Czyzynski,

1. At 9:45 AM, we gathered at the Provincialate Office for prayer and member updates. Mark announced that Fr. Chuck Wonch has asked to take an indefinite leave of absence from the Commission because of his health. We also welcomed Fr. Byron, who was able to attend this, his first meeting.
2. At 10:00, we met the Development Director of the Dominican Center, and were joined later by Sr. Patricia Rogers, the Director. Run by the Sinsinawa Dominicans, the agency works in the poorest zip code in Milwaukee, which has been called a “bellwether” of poverty – the first to show the impact of economic decline and the last to recover from it. The DC’s primary work is two-fold: conducting GED classes, which the demand has grown quite a bit for in the last year or so, and re-habbing houses, which depends on how much government funds they can leverage. Beyond that, they are working to organize and develop leadership within the neighborhood. Commission members were impressed with the efforts of this shoe-string organization, which only has two full-time staff. They are truly dealing with some of the poorest people in Milwaukee, who have huge stresses in their lives and often very little hope.
3. At 11:00, we met with representatives of SET Ministry, which is forging an innovative approach to poverty which recognizes that poverty and the family dysfunction which often accompanies it can cause crippling trauma to children, which is often unresolved into adulthood, thereby affecting the next generation. They don’t ask their clients “what is your problem?” but rather “what happened to you?” Beyond identifying the traumas affecting a person’s ability to take care of themselves and others, they work to identify the gifts that every individual has and develop those gifts. We heard stories from a man and a woman who said that SET had changed their lives (SET stands for Service, Empowerment, and Transformation). Again, the group was very impressed, especially with the ways SET is using the findings of brain science to inform its work.
4. After lunch, the commission drove to Milwaukee’s North Side to see the new facility being used by the Benedict Center for Criminal Justice for its Sisters Program. This is a collaborative project with Milwaukee Police District 3 and the Medical College of Wisconsin. We heard from women who have been working to clean up drug habits and get out of a life of prostitution, and were told how the BC has partially succeeded in changing the policies of the MPD in regard to how it handles prostitutes. The new location is in a neighborhood with one of the city’s highest prostitution rates. The BC has also worked to get local businesses on their side, who see the positive impact the Sisters Program can have. The Benedict Center is working on an issue that no one else is addressing and focusing primarily on the terrible situation of women in the criminal justice system.
5. We then looked at written information provided by other groups who’ve applied for funding and heard Mark’s reports on his visits to those located in Houston. We considered each in light of our funding criteria, namely:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. The requesting organization’s impact on justice, peace and reconciliation priorities as established by Province leadership.
 - d. The requesting organization’s potential for systemic change in the area of justice, peace and reconciliation.
 - e. The requesting organization’s need, i.e. how much impact our grant would make.

We agreed that several of the organizations meet these criteria exceedingly well, namely SET, The Benedict Center, The Dominican Center, Casa Juan Diego in Houston (a Catholic Worker house that serves thousands of immigrants, most undocumented, and may be the only place in the US serving the chronically ill and disabled among

that population, all without government or tax dollars), and the 8th Day Center in Chicago (doing social analysis of national issues, justice education and advocacy as well as engaging in prophetic witness at the School of the Americas and elsewhere). We agreed to give each of these groups \$10,000.

Common Ground of Greater Milwaukee received \$5000 for their work in community organizing for economic justice and their efforts to engage St. Martin of Tours, our parish in Franklin, as did Magnificat Houses in Houston, which serves the homeless. Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston received \$2500 for their immigration work, as did St. John's Homeless Shelter in Green Bay.

Two new groups received \$1000 each: Port Ministries and Br. David Darst Center in Chicago, which were recommended by Frater Joseph Vu. Other SCJ candidates have worked with these groups in the past, and we would like to visit them and consider them for further funding next year.

The commission encouraged Mark to write more about these organizations on the new website so the Province can better see how they reflect our mission priorities and a Dehonian approach.

6. Mark reported on his activities: launching the new JPR website, helping Common Ground organize at St. Martin of Tours, assisting with the Social Justice Retreat at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology this coming January, and working with the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility to file shareholder resolutions with companies paying low wages. Members of the group asked Mark to provide the Commission a list of companies we are invested in, which he will take up with Deacon Dave Nagel. Fr. Byron offered to take Mark up to Green Bay to visit St. John's Shelter and learn more about its past SCJ connection through Fr. Guy Blair.
7. There was brief discussion of the relative merits and usefulness of News and Views, the monthly newsletter Mark has been publishing. Is it as necessary now that the website exists?
8. Finally, we discussed the current national turmoil around race and police shootings, agreeing that we have many Catholics in the pews of our SCJ-led parishes who need formation on the realities of racism and its impact on people of color, especially African-Americans. What could we do to promote a dialogue among white and black parishioners and/or black residents who live in their community? A few resources are on the JPR website and Mark will continue looking for others.
9. Our next meeting will be on Friday, March 20 from 9:30 to Noon.

CALENDAR

2015

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
December 15-16:	Provincial Council Meeting

UPDATES

Fr. Jose Richard

Resurrection Parish
1949 Saunderson Dr.
Ottawa, ON K1G 2C9
CANADA
Phone: 613 7333 4661
Email: joserichard5@yahoo.co.uk

Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid

Bishop Joseph Potocnak
Sacred Heart Community
6701 82nd Ave. N.
Pinellas Park, FL 33781-1103

NECROLOGY

+**Br. Eronides Medeiros de Farias**, a member of the Brazil-Recife Province, died on February 6. He was born in 1965 and professed in 2003.

+**Br. Joseph Mongevin**, a member of the Franco-European Province, died Jan. 6. He was born in 1925 and professed in 1944.