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Minutes of the 851st Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., April 28-29, 2015

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, 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. Fr. Christianus Hendrik, councilor, was excused.

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

II. Membership

A. South Dakota visitation — The community in South Dakota includes SCJs in Lower Brule and Chamberlain. All were present for the visitation except Fr. Christianus Hendrik, who is in Indonesia on a home visit. The SCJs in Lower Brule will reconfigure pastoral ministry assignments in the fall after Frs. Vincent Suparman and Hendrik return from their home visits to Indonesia. This will allow Frs. Hendrik and Vincent to take on more leadership in the pastoral ministry and help Fr. Joseph Dean with administrative duties.

The community at St. Joseph's Indian School seems to be doing well. Fr. Anthony Kluckman wears many hats serving students, staff and donors. Fr. Gary Lantz enjoys the routines of his retirement and Fr. Bernie Rosinski is in the process of writing his MA thesis in scripture.

B. Mississippi visitation — Fr. Huffstetter talked about his visitation with SCJs in Mississippi. He said that Fr. Leonard Elder is looking forward to retirement. Fr. David Szatkowski is doing well in pastoral ministry; he will soon start transitioning into much of the ministry for which Fr. Elder has been responsible. Fr. Greg Schill and Fr. Thi Pham are taking on more ministry in preparation for Fr. Greg Speck's departure; both seem to be enjoying their expanded roles. Br. Clay Diaz has settled into the community.

In his retirement Fr. Tom Lind supports the ministry with prayer.

Fr. Bob Tucker is struggling with pneumonia.

C. Pinellas Park — Br. Ben Humpfer is looking forward to retirement; he will move to Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake in August. Fr. Greg Speck will take his place as local superior. Fr. Tom Burns was hospitalized after collapsing at home. He has pneumonia, but also cancer was found. Fr. Burns is recovering at a rehabilitation center before returning to the SCJ community.

Fr. Paul Grizzelle Reid recently joined the community and Fr. Pat Lloyd will do so in mid-summer (he retires in mid-June).

Fr. Ralph Intranuovo is recovering from glaucoma and cataract treatment.

D. Dehon Formation Community, Chicago — Fr. Mark Mastin will be completing his commitment to the US Army at the end of June. After serving as chaplain on a pilgrimage Fr. Mastin will join the formation community while taking time for renewal before his next assignment.

It is a busy and stressful time in the community with final exams coming up.

- E. Texas — Frs. Richard MacDonald and Tim Gray are going to assist at Our Lady of Guadalupe when Frs. Ed Kilianski and Duy Nguyen are in Rome for the General Chapter.
- F. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake (both communities) — Fr. Mark Fortner was to have heart surgery the morning of the council meeting. Fr. Jim Schroeder had shoulder surgery and will be in a sling for several weeks.

Fr. Huffstetter last visited with the SCJs at the Congregational Home on Holy Saturday. He noted that Fr. Steve Wiese is one of the jubilarians this year (60th).

Fr. Terry Langley's pastoral assignment has been extended by one year. Fr. Francis Vu Tran has returned to the community and is working on his doctoral dissertation. He will go back to Rome in the fall to meet with his advisor.

- G. Sacred Heart Monastery — Fr. Huffstetter has been in dialogue with the community regarding the hosting of international SCJs. There needs to be adequate assistance to meet the needs of international SCJs and to help them to feel at home.

III. Administration

- A. Proposed policy for public statements on social justice — The Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission developed a draft policy for issuing public statements on social justice issues. Councilors reviewed it, as well as a policy that had been in place years earlier (but is no longer a part of the province handbook).

Several concerns were raised. First, it was noted that the provincial superior can delegate authority to an individual or a group. If the provincial superior gives the JPR Commission authority to act, it can do so without an extensive policy. Those who receive authority from the provincial superior act under his discretion. By right of his office, the provincial superior has teaching authority that he can utilize individually, with his council or by delegating it to another entity, such as a commission. This policy, as it is written, mitigates that authority.

Councilors talked about removing portions of the text and refashioning the document as a set of "Guidelines" for making public statements on social justice.

If the JPR Commission feels that there is an issue on which the province should make a public statement the commission should share that with the provincial superior and council. The council and provincial would decide on next steps, such as whether more province input is needed.

Dn. Nagel joined the council for discussion of this topic.

B. Province policies

- 1. Dates of promulgation — At its last meeting the council asked that, when possible, the dates of promulgation be noted in the new three-ring binder of province policies. Br. Presto prepared a sheet that will be included in the binder which states promulgation and revision dates (as known) for the policies. Councilors said that the sheet addresses their concerns.

- 2. Vehicle Purchase Policy — A section regarding motorcycles and similar vehicles was added to the Vehicle Purchase Policy. It reads:

"Motorcycles and similar vehicles: The US Province of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart does not permit members of the province or congregation to own, rent, lease or operate these types of motorized vehicles for purposes of ministry, business or recreation within the USA."

The council voted to approve the addition of this section to the Vehicle Purchase Policy.

- 3. Policy Binder — The council voted to approve the Policy Binder for promulgation to the membership.
- 4. Background checks — Among the province policies is a large section under the heading "Protecting the People of God." One of these policies concerns screening and background checks that are in response to requirements from the

bishops and for the protection of the province and its assets. Local superiors were informed at their March meeting that during the next three months members of the province would receive documentation that must be completed so the province can do these background checks.

Br. Presto reported that on April 14 the first batch of SCJs were sent this mailing. There has been a steady response. One SCJ raised a concern about the background check. Br. Presto noted that the checks have become standard procedure for priests and religious, as well as many lay people not only in church and school settings, but in a variety of situations. Br. Presto shared the report of his own background check so that councilors could have a sense of what type of information is collected.

The specifics of the information gathered is not shared beyond the provincial secretary's office unless there is a concern of which the provincial superior needs to be informed. The only statement that the provincial secretary makes to an inquiry (such as a diocese if a person is to be given permission for ministry) is that the SCJ successfully completed a background check, including a criminal check and a check of the National Sex Offender Registry.

If an SCJ would like to see the results of his background check the provincial secretary will provide them to him.

- C. Ad hoc committee on SHSST — In response to the 2014 Provincial Chapter discussions the council created an ad hoc committee to surface questions to facilitate a province discussion of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. The questions were not to look at the day-to-day operation of the seminary, but instead, at the bigger issues in regards to the province's role in training seminarians for the priesthood and lay people for service to the Church. What is, or should be, the province's vision for SHSST?

Councilors appreciate the efforts of the ad hoc committee and will thank the committee for its work. Further avenues will continue to be explored to prepare the province for a discussion on its vision for the seminary and the SCJs' role in preparing people (ordained and lay) for Church ministry.

The ad hoc committee as a whole will be invited to the August council meeting to further share their concerns with the council.

- D. Province jubilees — Invitations for the July 6 Province Jubilee Celebration are being prepared. Regarding gifts for the jubilarians, the tradition of an extended trip will still be in place for the 25 and 50-year jubilarians. Those celebrating 60, 40, 30 and 20-year anniversaries will receive a Visa gift card.
- E. Province Planning — Fr. Huffstetter said that he hopes that the province plan can be discussed during the July assembly. There will not be a set plan to present; instead, it will be a moment for the province to talk about how it might move forward on issues that have been proposed in drafts of the province pastoral plan.
- F. Province Assembly — Fr. Francis Vu Tran is working with Mary MacDonald to coordinate prayer and liturgy during the July assembly. Prayer leaders for the days have been contacted. Fr. Charles Brown has been asked to organize presentations concerning the three vows. On the opening day Sr. Marilyn Cowser, OSF, will give a presentation on religious life from a female perspective.

It has been difficult to get outside speakers for presentations on the vows; members of the province will do the presentations. Fr. Bob Bossie will speak on poverty, Fr. Jim Schroeder will speak on celibacy and Fr. Joseph Dean will speak on obedience. Following each presentation will be a panel discussion. Fr. Brown asked if members of the council would be part of the response panels. The councilors suggested that it would be better to hear from others in the province, especially younger members. Responders do not need to do much preparation for their role; basically they listen to the presenter and respond briefly from their own perspective.

David Schimmel, director of Dehonian Associates, will prepare a morning prayer for each day. It is hoped that the assembly sessions can be based in prayer similar to the model used at the last province chapter and at the elections.

Fr. Huffstetter said that time is being left open to allow for any follow-up that may be needed after the General Chapter.

One of the afternoons will have a PowerPoint presentation of images from the province, past and present. It will lead into a discussion in small groups about what people, things and events shaped members of the province.

The North American Immigration Committee will present the booklet that they are preparing with immigration stories. Br. Lemke, a member of that committee, said that the committee is utilizing the ‘See, Love, Serve’ process as a way of addressing immigration. Collecting the stories is the first step in that process (“see”).

A councilor asked who was arranging for rooms and other “housekeeping” concerns. Fr. Huffstetter noted that SCJs were told to make their own room and travel arrangements. SHML is now full; rooms can still be reserved at SHSST through Marlene Zepecki at the reception desk.

- G. Welcoming international SCJs — At their April meeting in Ottawa members of the US and Canada administrations talked about the need for policies in regards to welcoming SCJs from other entities to minister and/or study in North America. The Canadian Region developed a draft of a policy, or contract, in regards to international SCJs. This draft was shared with members of the US council.

The draft specifies expectations for the international SCJ, the host entity, and the entity of origin. There are different issues and concerns regarding whether the SCJ is welcomed as a student or for pastoral ministry.

Members of the US council agree that a policy is needed. The Canadian document is very helpful in helping the US develop its own. Councilors said that it is important not only to help the international SCJ learn about the country in which he will live and minister but to also find ways to help the local host community be receptive to someone from another culture.

This will most likely become more of an issue in the years ahead as the congregation moves toward a more international awareness.

IV. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — Income for the office continues to be ahead of last year. Brickmill (development consultant) was involved in developing the FY16 budget for the office. Emphasis will be on building the donor files.
- B. Budgets — All of the following budgets, with the exception of the JPR budget (which was reworked prior to the council meeting), were recommended for council approval by the Province Finance Commission.
1. Province Development Office — As Dn. Nagel noted earlier, the office’s financial situation is improving and expected to continue to do so into the next fiscal year. The FY16 budget is higher than this year reflecting efforts to rebuild and enhance the donor file. Also, more focus is being placed on internet-based efforts. The gross cost at this time to raise a dollar is \$.48.
 - a. Capital expenses — The council voted to approve the following capital expenses: \$202,100 to replace HVAC systems.
 - b. Budget — The council voted to approve the Province Development Office budget for a total of \$17,074,304 (which includes a \$7,081,000 transfer from the Province Development Office to the province in province support and stipends).
 2. Sacred Heart Southern Missions — An adjustment to the budget was made after the Finance Commission reviewed it. Later in FY16 SHSM will propose a construction project for housing volunteers and holding retreats in Holly Springs. The SHSM board voted to add \$348,162 to the FY16 budget for the “soft costs” of the project, including architecture, interior design, land survey and civil engineering. The overall projected construction cost of the project is \$2.4 million. The SHSM board will review a final plan for the project later in the year. If approved by the SHSM board, the plan will then come before the council.
 - a. Capital expenses — The council voted to approve capital expenses for SHSM that total \$285,600. The largest capital expenses are \$78,000 to connect the SHSM office complex to the Walls water system and \$50,000 to repair one-quarter of the roof at Sacred Heart School in Southaven.
 - b. Budget — The council voted to approve the budget for Sacred Heart Southern Missions for a total of \$24,618,114 (this includes the addition of \$348,162 for soft costs of the volunteer housing project).

3. Sacred Heart Southern Missions Housing Corporation — The SHSM Housing Corporation operates Dehon Village; it has one part-time employee. The SHSM board is considering merging the two corporations. The council voted to approve the SHSM-HC budget for a total of \$460,285.
4. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — The school has raised its tuition slightly as it tries to keep it in line with other seminaries in the country. Although there are various ways of analyzing the province's financial support of SHSST, the budget reflects that 45% of the seminary's revenue comes from the province. It was noted that SCJs working at SHSST receive full salaries now; however, they continue to pay board. Since non-SCJ faculty who reside at the seminary do not pay board it was suggested that the SCJs no longer do so in the future.
 - a. Capital expenses — The council voted to approve capital expenses for SHSST for a total of \$77,588 for technology and a student information system.
 - b. Budget — The council voted to approve the SHSST budget for a total of \$6,176,525.
5. Major Maintenance SHSST — Major maintenance projects for the next fiscal year include pavement repair, garage door replacement, tuck pointing, a redesign of parking and paving at the SHSST entrance, landscaping and a new sign. The redesign of the entrance drive will allow for more parking closer to the front doors. The new sign is to be done in a style that would match the signage at SHML. Dn. Nagel noted that the highway in front of the seminary will be widened within the next few years; the current sign is on property that will be lost due to the new highway configuration.

The council voted to approve the SHSST Major Maintenance budget for a total of \$490,000. This is \$70,000 less than was originally proposed to the Province Finance Commission, which approved the budget with a stipulation that the amount designated for landscaping and signage be reduced. Mark Wenzel reconfigured the landscaping plans to allow for the reduction.

6. St. Joseph's Indian School — St. Joseph's support to the province will increase to \$2,185,454 in FY16. The proposed budget includes a placeholder of \$5 million for a proposed health center. After the Finance Commission reviewed the budget the board of St. Joseph's approved \$250,000 for soft costs related to the construction of the center. When final plans are in place the board will review the project in full. If passed, it will be sent to the council for approval. At \$4.7 million, the project will also need approval of the General Curia.
 - a. Soft costs for proposed health care center — The council voted to approve \$250,00 for soft costs in the development of plans for a health care center. It was noted that \$5 million is in the proposed budget as a placeholder for overall costs of the proposed center.
 - b. Capital expenses — The council voted to approve capital expenditures of \$8,368,858 including computer hardware and software upgrades, equipment replacement, appliance replacement, fleet vehicle replacement, building upgrades and maintenance (including lighting upgrades, Radon abatement, pool and dining hall upgrades, and templier (water heater) replacement).
 - c. Budget — The council voted to approve the St. Joseph's Indian School budget for a total of \$78,259,043.
7. Sacred Heart Center — St. Joseph's Indian School supports the SHC; the \$1,252,626 grant is included in the St. Joseph's budget. St. Joseph's also does the payroll and HR functions for the center. The council voted to approve the budget of the Sacred Heart Center for a total of \$1,796,003.
8. Lower Brule — Support for Lower Brule ministries is covered by St. Joseph's Indian School. A new parish hall is being proposed for Big Bend; such a hall is needed not only for the church but as a community center. The current parish hall is in disrepair. The Crow Creek tribe has offered to do the demolition of the old hall for a reduced rate. It is hoped that the Catholic Extension Society will give funding to the project.
 - a. Parish hall — The council voted to approve construction of a new parish hall in Big Bend for a total of \$250,000.
 - b. Budget — The council voted to approve the Lower Brule ministries budget for a total of \$811,477.

9. Houston community — The budget is for seven SCJs; Frater Joseph Vu returns to the Dehon Formation Community in fall. The council voted to approve the Houston community budget for a total of \$281,255.
10. Fr. Richard MacDonald — The council voted to approve Fr. MacDonald's budget for \$35,525.
11. Sacred Heart Monastery — The budget includes four SCJs in residence. The council voted to approve the SHM budget for a total of \$293,250.
12. St. Francis Residence — The budget is for four SCJs and includes building and grounds repair and maintenance expenses of \$32,000. The council voted to approve the St. Francis budget for a total of \$208,666.
13. St. Joseph's at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake (4th Floor) — The budget is for 11 SCJs; including Fr. Francis Vu Tran who is also on an educational budget. Br. Ray Kozuch will begin receiving retirement benefits in July. The council voted to approve the St. Joseph's budget for a total of \$514,197.
14. Dehon House — The budget is for two SCJs. The council voted to approve the Dehon House budget for a total of \$106,775.
15. South Dakota SCJ Community — The community includes six SCJs split between Lower Brule and Chamberlain. The council voted to approve the SD SCJ Community budget for a total of \$105,488.
16. St. Michael Community House, Nesbit — This includes eight SCJs in Nesbit and Holly Springs. Bishop Joseph Potocnak moved to Pinellas Park and Fr. Greg Speck is to relocate there this summer. The council voted to approve the St. Michael Community budget for a total of \$424,675.
17. Sacred Heart at SHML — This budget is for 29 SCJs, including six living at the Congregational Home. There has been informal discussion about adding staff to allow for enhanced residential care — is money budgeted for this possibility? Dn. Nagel said that since nothing formal has been proposed no money has been budgeted for it. It was noted that 30% of the province membership belongs to this community.

The council voted to approve the Sacred Heart at SHML budget for a total of \$1,541,800.

18. Sacred Heart Community, Pinellas Park — This community will have several new members in the next fiscal year including Fr. Greg Speck and Fr. Pat Lloyd. Money needs to be budgeted for each of them to have a car.

The council voted to approve the Sacred Heart Community budget for a total of \$461,810.

19. Dehon Formation Community — The budget includes 14 people; tuition is the largest expense. The council suggested that lines 4370, 4440, and 4445 be combined into one item labeled "province subsidy." The grant would then include room and board as well as tuition expenses. It was noted that students do not pay tuition; the province covers this.

The community is exploring the possibility of renting out its vacant apartments. Five to six apartments could be made available and it is possible to close off these apartments from the community section of the complex.

The council voted to approve the Dehon Formation Community budget for a total of \$804,610.

20. Formation — All formation expenses for the province formation director are included in the Dehon Formation Community budget.
21. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — The Finance Commission did not recommend approval of the JPR budget. The budget as presented did not follow the guidelines of the budget memo that encouraged budget preparers to maintain or reduce costs if possible. Dn. Nagel shared the Finance Commissions concerns with JPR director Mark Peters. Mr. Peters reduced the budget to a level closer to last year.

Councilors discussed the grants proposed by the JPR Commission. It was the understanding of the council that the director's position would be financed primarily through the reduction of province JPR grants. Instead of giving grants to other organizations involved in social justice it was thought that the province could make a more direct impact on social

justice concerns by hiring a person full-time for such efforts.

If JPR grants are to be given, councilors emphasized that recipient organizations must have a strong SCJ connection. A grant is proposed for The Metropolitan Organization in Houston but neither the SCJs nor Our Lady of Guadalupe is involved with TMO at this time. Are there SCJs involved in SET Ministries or the Benedict Center? Councilors were not questioning the ministries of these organizations but noted that priorities need to be determined. The only grants that the council said should not be cut are those to SCJ schools: St. Martin of Tours in Franklin and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston.

The council suggested that the overall JPR budget be approved for a total of \$216,454.50. This is less than what is proposed in the revised budget but 3% more than the current fiscal year. The JPR director, in collaboration with the JPR Commission, can determine how the budget is revised; the council suggested reducing the grants (with the exception of the schools).

The council voted to approve the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation budget for total of \$216,454.50.

Br. Presto will draft a letter for the council to send to the JPR Commission asking it to create guidelines for making JPR grants.

22. Vocation Department — The position of office manager has been eliminated, which reduced the budget. The Finance Commission suggested that in the future there be more information about the Vocation Office's plans for the year. It was noted that this is Fr. Quang Nguyen's first year presenting a budget for the office.

The council voted to approve the Province Vocation Office budget for a total of \$262,560

23. World Youth Day — Br. Andy Gancarczyk is organizing efforts to bring young people from the US Province (with connections to SCJ ministries) to the 2016 World Youth Day. It is anticipated that participants will do fund raising to offset expenses.

The council voted to approve budgeting \$50,000 for expenses related to World Youth Day 2016.

24. Communications — The budget is similar to last year; it includes the replacement of a computer. The council voted to approve the Communications budget for a total of \$154,212.

25. Archives — The council voted to approve the Province Archives budget for a total of \$26,600.

26. Dehon Study Center — The center is located at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. The budget is the same as last year. The council voted to approve the Dehon Study Center budget for a total of \$14,850.

27. Senior Life Director — There is not a director of senior life at this time and so there is no budget.

28. Dehonian Associates — Although the next Mission Education gathering isn't scheduled until October, 2016 (FY17 budget), \$22,100 is included in the FY16 budget for expenses related to planning for the October conference. It was noted that expenses for Schools in Collaboration are in the Dehonian Associates budget.

The council voted to approve the Dehonian Associates budget for a total of \$136,979.

29. English as a Second Language — Fr. Ed Zemlik directs the residential portion of this program. The budget includes both SCJ and non-SCJ students; no additional degree candidates will be considered for the program until after the current degree students complete their studies. No additional sponsorship of non-SCJ degree candidates is being planned for at this time.

The council voted to approve the ESL budget for a total of \$460,800 (this is an updated figure from the original budget presented to the Finance Commission).

30. Foreign Missions — There will be two international students studying in the US Province during FY16. The budget is slightly less than previous years, though includes a \$50,000 contingency for unforeseen mission needs.

The council voted to approve the Foreign Missions budget for a total of \$1,933,660.

It was noted that if the province's contribution to the ESL program was included in the Foreign Missions budget the total would be \$2.3 million.

31. San Antonio — This budget is for two SCJs and is similar to last year. The council voted to approve the San Antonio budget for a total of \$92,575.
32. Fr. Francis Vu Tran — Fr. Tran is writing his doctoral thesis. The council voted to approve Fr. Francis Vu Tran's budget for a total of \$57,100.
33. Fr. Guy Blair — The council voted to approve Fr. Blair's budget for a total of \$43,400.
34. Fr. Vien Nguyen — Fr. Nguyen is continuing his studies in Berkley, Calif. The council voted to approve his budget for a total of \$65,080.
35. Province budget — The province budget shows a slight surplus for FY16. Councilors asked if money had been budgeted for next year's election assembly. Dn. Nagel said no, but that province gatherings generally cost about \$20,000.

The council voted to approve the budget for the US Province for a total of \$11,093,389.

- C. Thank you — The council thanked Dn. Nagel, his staff (John Kuxhause and Kevin Stanke) as well as the Finance Commission for its work in preparing budgets for council review, as well as their continued assistance to local treasurers and others who do bookkeeping in the province.
- D. Native Hope — St. Joseph's Indian School proposes the development of "Native Hope." It is a social media-based program designed to create a community of supporters and friends focused on the efforts of St. Joseph's Indian School and the people whom it serves. Although there is a fund raising component, the program is about engaging donors in the cultures and issues of St. Joseph's and its related ministries.

The council voted to approve the incorporation of Native Hope and voted to approve the inclusion of Native Hope in the Catholic Directory.

V. Calendar

- A. Formation — The council is scheduled for a conference call on June 30 at 10 a.m. to discuss formation concerns (in particular, advancement in formation). Br. Presto asked that all documentation for the call be sent to his office by June 15.
- B. Corrections to the minutes — Councilors were asked to get their corrections of these minutes to Mary Gorski by May 8. There will be no conference call to review the minutes.
- C. August council meeting — Because Fr. Huffstetter needs to leave on Wednesday, August 5, for the annual CMSM conference the August council meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Monday, August 3. There will be no faith sharing in the morning to allow those in parish ministry to have more time to travel to Milwaukee on Monday.

Summary of the Meeting of the Councils of Canada and the United States April 14, 2015 • Ottawa, Canada

PRESENT: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter (provincial superior, United States), Fr. Bill Marvee (regional superior, Canada), Fr. Claude Bédard, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Maurice Légaré, Fr. Paul Tennyson, Fr. Richard Woodbury, and Mary Gorski (minutes).

I. Prayer— Fr. Tennyson read the prayer for the General Chapter.

II. Sharing and Updates — Participants updated each other on various issues and events that had taken place since the last North American meeting.

A. Congo — Fr. Bédard and Fr. Huffstetter talked about their experience in Congo for the 100th anniversary celebration in November, 2014. Both spoke of the excellent hospitality of the SCJ community there and the wonderful celebrations. For Fr. Bédard, it was a return to the country in which he ministered for 15 years; he had not been back in 31 years. He was grateful to revisit many of the people and places that had been a part of his life, though expressed frustration with the continued challenges he encountered with the structures of the country (government and other entities).

This was Fr. Huffstetter's first time in the Congo. He was inspired by the work of the community in the country, especially in light of the many challenges they face. Fr. Huffstetter said that some of the realities of the congregation were brought home to him in the visit, noting that there are many vocations and ministerial needs in a place like Congo, but a lack of financial resources.

B. Resurrection parish — Fr. Tennyson noted that Fr. Jose Richard from the Indian District arrived in December. He is ministering at the parish part-time and will soon begin studies at St. Paul University. He has been a good presence in the parish and the community.

C. Fr. Jan de Jong — Fr. Haaland and Fr. Charles Brown represented the US Province at Fr. Jan de Jong's 50th anniversary celebration in Holland.

D. Fr. Joseph George Coppens — Fr. Marvee noted that the eldest SCJ in North America died this year: Fr. Francis George Coppens. He had been very engaged with the community, even in his final days serving as treasurer in Toronto.

E. Pointe-au-Chêne — Fr. Woodbury talked about some of the challenges the SCJs' school in Pointe-au-Chêne, Quebec, is experiencing. The style of the new director has not been well-received at the school and student enrollment is down. The lessening enrollment may mean that two teachers will have to be let go.

III. General Chapter

A. Instrumentum Laboris — Chapter delegates received the Instrumentum Laboris a day prior to the North American councils meeting. Although they were not able to review the document prior to their meeting, councilors talked about the text briefly. In the introductory letter to the Instrumentum Laboris, members of the Chapter Preparatory Commission said that they were sending the document to the delegates to allow for review in communities prior to the chapter.

Members of the North American councils said that there wasn't sufficient time between now and the chapter to allow for a discussion process on the document at the local level. It was decided that the Instrumentum Laboris would be sent to SCJs in the US and Canada with an invitation to give feedback on it to the delegates of their entity. Mary Gorski was to send the document to SCJs in the US Province, Fr. Légaré to those in Canada.

1. Role of administration — One of the topics identified for discussion at the chapter by the Preparatory Commission was that of administration: would the congregation benefit from greater centralization, including a role beyond sector animation for members of the General Council?

The North American councilors noted that this would be a significant change for the congregation. Some questioned whether it would be more beneficial for the congregation to focus on strengthening the individual entities rather than creating a greater "super structure." The general administration is to be at the service of the entities.

How would a more centralized governance affect things like personnel and financial resources? A member of the Canadian council expressed concern about the efficiency of distributing funds for the missions through the general treasurer's office. He has experienced significant delays in getting funds from the region to a mission entity when going through the general treasurer. His preference is for entities to deal directly with each other, not only for efficiency, but also to help in creating bonds between the entities. However, it was noted that one of the objectives of having funds go in and out of a central location (general treasurer's office) is transparency. Using a centralized model gives a good picture of where the needs of the entire congregation are, as well as its resources and how they are utilized.

If a new administrative model is to be discussed, this must be done prior to the chapter elections even if it means delaying the elections. The administrative model chosen will impact the decision regarding who should serve as superior general and on the general council.

2. Expansionism — The councilors briefly talked about expansion of the congregation in recent years. Among the new efforts: Angola, Chad, Vietnam and other areas of Asia. What is the vision for such expansion? How does it affect the congregation as a whole? Do present needs go unmet when a new presence is established? The congregation already has many personnel needs; is it realistic to open itself to more?

B. The next general administration — Councilors briefly discussed possible candidates for the next general administration. It is hoped that there is an openness to candidates from all geographic areas and that delegates are truly available to hearing the voices of their confreres. No one should arrive at the chapter with his mind set, or with assumptions regarding who will be elected. The process needs to be respected.

Regarding a representative from North America on the next general council it was agreed that it is best to be open to a variety of possibilities. Names of possible candidates can be discussed, but the chapter has its own dynamic. What is most important is that whomever represents North America must have a sense of its cultures. Also, the entities need to be open to losing a key member to general administration if that is the will of the chapter.

IV. Immigration Committee — The Sub-Committee on Immigration (composed of SCJs from Canada and the US) is in the process of doing follow-up to one of the topics raised at the 2013 North American Continental Conference (immigration). The committee met for the first time in person in February, and just before Holy Week, sent a prayer service and reflective exercise regarding immigration. It included an invitation to SCJs in the US and Canada to share their personal immigration stories.

Councilors appreciate the efforts of the committee but noted that it was unfortunate that the exercise they prepared went out just before Easter. Because it is such a busy time, especially for those in parish ministry, there was not a strong response to the committee's mailing. The committee is to meet again in April. It is hoped that it can look at further ways to address immigration issues.

V. Lay Dehonian initiative — At the last meeting of the North American councils David Schimmel, US Province director of Dehonian Associates, presented a proposal for initiating a lay associates program in North America utilizing an adapted version of the "Spiritual Path." Fr. Richard MacDonald in the Diocese of Brownsville recently held introductory meetings to identify interest in it. A similar effort will soon begin in Mississippi. The Canadians were asked if they were interested in the program.

Most likely the best place to begin a Dehonian Associates program in Canada is in Toronto. The community has a vibrant parish there. The Canadian council is going to discuss the matter further and perhaps talk to Fr. Will Rapozo about it. He is the pastor of St. Thomas More in Toronto.

In Montréal there are communities of religious sisters who have had strong lay associate programs. Perhaps there would be interest in a lay Dehonian program there.

Key to such an initiative is a good organizer with a dynamic personality. This does not necessarily have to be an SCJ, but without a strong personality leading it, a lay associate program will most likely not gain traction.

David Schimmel can serve as a resource. SCJs are encouraged to share the work that he produces, such as the weekly "Dehonian Spirituality" newsletter. Anyone is welcome to receive the e-blast. To add a person to the mailing list, the name and email address of the person should be sent to: scjcommunications@gmail.com

Fr. Huffstetter noted the many possibilities for outreach online to those who are interested in the Dehonian charism. This might be something to pursue in the future.

The councilors spoke about the extensive lay Dehonian efforts found in other countries, such as Brazil. Also, lay Dehonians have been in attendance at several congregation events, including portions of previous general chapters.

VI. World Youth Day 2016 — Br. Andy Gancarczyk of the US Province is organizing efforts for sending young adults to the next World Youth Day. It will be in Poland, Br. Gancarczyk's home province. SCJ youth from around the world will gather for group activities in conjunction with WYD. Fr. Tennyson will speak to Fr. Rapozo in Toronto about organizing a group for the Canadian Region. Fr. Will is involved in youth ministry at St. Thomas More in Toronto.

VII. SCJ Renewal/Retreat — As a result of discussions at the 2014 US Provincial Chapter, the province is looking at developing an SCJ retreat/renewal program, beginning in 2016. Fr. Haaland will spearhead the project.

It was suggested that this be a North American effort. Organizers would then include representatives from the US and Canada. Instead of a single continental gathering, it is envisioned that there would be several retreats in different locations allowing flexibility for participation. SCJs would not necessarily have to take part in the retreat held closest to them. A person from Texas could go to a retreat in Canada if the one closest to him did not fit his schedule, or simply to have the opportunity to encounter another part of the congregation.

Regarding themes, it was noted that the focus of the next Holy Year is to be on "mercy." This is also the theme of the upcoming General Chapter. Perhaps "mercy" could be the focus of the continental retreats.

Fr. Haaland will contact Fr. John van den Hengel about working with him in organizing the retreats.

It was noted that the use of French will need to be factored into planning if the retreats are to be done as a continent and not just as individual entities.

The councilors briefly discussed current retreat practices in their entities. The Canadian Region has held days of recollection in conjunction with their annual August assembly. Fr. Haaland organized one of these experiences.

Regardless if it is for a retreat experience or for a meeting, councilors agreed that there is great value in simply getting together as a community.

VIII. Common projects — There has been a push on the general level for entities to work together as continents, sharing resources and working on joint projects. The councilors noted that some collaborative efforts have been taking place in North America though there is no specific collaborative project.

At previous North American council meetings participants have talked about collaboration in regards to vocations, as well as their online presence. However, no formal collaborative efforts have developed beyond the sharing of continent-wide news (prayer notices, feature stories, administrative information) that already takes place via email and on the US and Canadian websites and Facebook page. A member of the Canadian council found the exchange of information via email and Fridge Notes to be a helpful way to keep in touch with one another. This type of communication should be enhanced.

The Canadian Region has discussed hiring a web professional to assist with its online presence. One of the challenges is finding someone who is fully bilingual in French and English.

There has been discussion both in North America and on the general level about an SCJ presence in Mexico. Two Indian SCJs are studying Spanish in South America; they would be available for such a project if it comes to fruition. Because Mexico is a part of North America it is important that SCJs in the US and Canada look at how they can have a presence in a Mexican initiative regardless if they have personnel directly involved.

IX. International community — Both entities in North America are becoming increasingly international. Most of the new members of the Canadian Region are SCJs welcomed from other countries. The US Province includes SCJs from Poland, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Colombia and Canada. Both entities host a number of international students.

Internationality is a blessing, and has been vital to continuing the SCJ presence in several areas. However, both entities are also looking at how they can meet some of the challenges of living as an international community. The Canadian Region has a draft of a policy, or contract, in regards to international SCJs. In particular, it specifies expectations for the international SCJ, the host

entity, and the entity of origin. There are different issues and concerns regarding whether the SCJ is welcomed as a student or for pastoral ministry.

The Canadian council hopes to finalize this draft soon. It will share the draft, and later, the finalized version, with the US council (Fr. Légaré was to send the draft to members of the US council soon after the meeting). The US council will review the document in hopes of adopting a policy in the US Province.

It was suggested that international SCJs who have been in ministry in the host entity for over a year join that entity.

Fr. Huffstetter said that the USCCB offers a workshop on hosting international priests. He plans to attend the workshop in Chicago later this year. This workshop will most likely focus on dioceses that are welcoming international priests for pastoral ministry. A workshop specially designed for religious who are welcoming fellow members to ministry and community from other cultures would be helpful.

- X. Next meeting — The Canadian administration will change in November. The councils decided to wait until that new administration is named before scheduling their next meeting. If there is a need to meet before then there can be a conference call. If an in-person meeting is desired, Fr. Huffstetter noted that the US Provincial Council meets October 20-21 in Hales Corners; a joint meeting could be scheduled before or after this.

To all of the Major Superiors of the Congregation

Rome, May 5, 2015

Translations of the works of Fr. Dehon online

Dear Father Superior,

As a part of the Dehondocs International Project, the Centro Studi Dehoniani (Dehon Study Center) is pleased to offer several online translations of the works of Fr. Dehon. This is available under the umbrella of dehondocs at the homepage of www.dehondocs.it/international.

The last general chapter (2009) urged the CSD to “coordinate the translation of the major works of Fr. Dehon.” In this spirit, a collaboration began a year ago between the Centro Studi Dehoniani, the Data Service Center in Bologna, Fr. Fernando Fonseca, Fr. Marcello Matté and Fr. Jozef Golonka (general archivist).

Gradually we will publish existing translations of the works of Fr Dehon on www.dehondocs.it/international in Italian, English, Portuguese, Spanish and Polish. Translations are processed at different times by many authors; note that the editorial standards of the dehondocs project have not been applied to many of the translations.

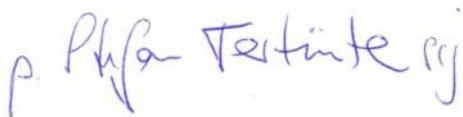
The texts are available online through a slideshow, in order to avoid long download times. If you prefer, you can also download the documents as PDFs.

Other translations will be added as they are available. We count on the enthusiasm of the confreres to develop new translations and to edit existing translations into formats more in conformity with the standards of dehondocs. Those who are interested in assisting with this, or who may have suggestions, are encouraged to contact the CSD at info.csd@dehon.it

The online publication of the texts of the founder in different languages will be another step toward bringing the life, actions and thoughts of Fr. Dehon to people today so they may more deeply know such a person of inspiration.

In this spirit please share this news with your confreres.

Fraternal greetings,



Fr. Stefan Tertünte SCJ
Director, Centro Studi Dehoniani

CALENDAR

2015

May 17 - June 7:	General Chapter, Rome
June 30:	Provincial Council Meeting, conference call (advancement in formation)
July 6-10:	Province Assembly
July 6:	Province Jubilees
August 3-4:	Provincial Council Meeting
September 15-16:	Provincial Council Meeting
October 20-21:	Provincial Council Meeting
December 15-16:	Provincial Council Meeting

NECROLOGY

+Fr. Gaston Pirotte, a member of the Franco-European Province, died April 4. He was born in 1928, professed in 1948, and ordained in 1957.

+Fr. Jan Theodoor Ruttens, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died April 9. He was born in 1926, professed in 1947 and ordained in 1954.

+Fr. Donizeti Queiroz, a member of the South Brazilian Province, died April 11. He was born in 1955, professed in 1982, and ordained in 1988.

+Fr. Mathieu Nelissen, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died April 12. He was born in 1931, professed in 1952 and ordained in 1958.

+Fr. Willem Zoons, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died April 18. He was born in 1927, professed in 1947 and ordained in 1954.

+Fr. Ivo Nicolau Scheid, a member of the Brazil – São Paulo Province, died April 13. He was born in 1926, professed in 1949 and ordained in 1953.

UPDATES

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