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Minutes of the 859th Provincial Council Meeting March 16, 2016, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Duy Nguyen, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Msgr. Ross Shecterle, president-rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology was present for an update on the seminary.

- I. Review of the Local Superiors Meeting — The council reviewed their meeting with local superiors on March 15.
 - A. Dialogue — There was good dialogue about the local communities and the challenges that the superiors face in their ministry as community leaders. Some felt that one of the most beneficial reasons for the superiors gathering is peer support, as well as the opportunity to learn about what is going on in each of the communities. It is hoped that the superiors can share some of this information with their local communities.
 - B. Participation — The expectation is that all local superiors are to be present and participate fully in the meeting, including evening fellowship. It was noted that most people have busy calendars but this meeting needs to be a priority for those in leadership. Fr. Kilianski will stress this in his invitation to superiors next year.
- II. Finance
 - A. Province Development Office — Transition work continues in moving from Innovairre to Kory Christianson of St. Joseph's Indian School as the direct mail executive director. The mail schedule and budget for the next year is complete; the office will run a slight deficit budget as it continues the transition process. The holiday mailings went well and all vendor payments are up-to-date.
 - B. Investments — Reflecting a difficult year in the market, investments for last year were down 5%. However, the fourth quarter was positive. There was a volatile start to this year, but the markets are looking more stable now. The Investment Committee met on February 23. There was also a stakeholders meeting along with meetings of the Support and Maintenance Trust and the Employee Pension Trust.
 - C. Province Blue Book — Dn. Nagel invited members of the council to review the Blue Book, which is a compilation of the audits of all the entities in the province. He noted that the financial audit of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake is complete and no irregularities were cited.
 - D. Growth and Charitable Gift Annuity Pools — The procedural audit of the Growth and Charitable Gift Annuity Pools was completed in February by Schenck Business Solutions. No issues of concern were cited. Copies of the report were sent to stakeholders.
 - E. Updates
 1. Budgets — The deadline for province budgets is March 25. The Province Finance Commission will meet April 5-6 to review the budgets.
 2. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel will take part in the General Finance Commission meeting in Rome April 18-23.

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III. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

- A. Preparation — The council had a brief dialogue about SHSST prior to Msgr. Shecterle's visit. Dn. Nagel said that the seminary's budget is up slightly from last year but that it has not requested an increase in its subsidy from the province for several years. Recruiting projections are strong.
- B. Meeting with Msgr. Ross Shecterle — Msgr. Shecterle joined councilors to update them on the activities of the seminary. The president-rector meets with the council each semester.

Msgr. Shecterle noted that it is a busy week at SHSST; the seminary is hosting three bishops and the provincial superior of the Glenmary Home Missioners. This semester the seminary has five new students in the ESL program. Four are fluent in English and are working on grammar; one is a candidate for the Diocese of Madison from Colombia who is just beginning English studies. With this student the Diocese of Madison is beginning its relationship with SHSST; in the fall semester two of the diocese's seminarians are expected to do their academic training at SHSST while living with St. Francis Seminary.

There is some staff turnover in process. Among those leaving: Fr. Robert Cook, OFM Conv., VP of Human Formation, who is being called back for service to his religious community, and Fr. Don Loskot, SDS, VP for Pastoral Formation, who is retiring. Fr. Paul Kelly is resigning as VP of Spiritual Formation as of 2017, though he will continue with spiritual direction. Msgr. Shecterle said that SHSST has had a significant number of strong candidates apply for these and other positions. Interest in SHSST is growing, as well as respect for the institution. The seminary is in the process of fulfilling these vacancies, as well as other positions. Msgr. Shecterle has encouraged sponsoring dioceses and religious orders to consider having one of their priests serve SHSST in formation.

Msgr. Shecterle was asked if the seminary had a scholarship program; periodically the SCJs are asked for financial assistance for a non-SCJ seminarian. He said that SHSST did not. However, there is a small fund administered by Sally Smits from which at-need seminarians can request up to \$250 a semester. This generally is used for day-to-day expenses.

Fr. Kilianski asked Msgr. Shecterle if he and Archbishop ListECKI had spoken yet about the archbishop's plans for him at the end of his first term as SHSST president-rector. Msgr. Shecterle said that he expected that conversation to take place after Easter.

IV. Administration

- A. Art studio/workshop — The studio/workshop on the grounds of St. Francis Residence (Woods Road) is complete. The council emphasized that any member of the US Province is welcome to use the studio. Fr. Byron Haaland will be the contact person for it. Prior to using the studio/workshop, interested SCJs will need to go through a review of the equipment with Fr. Byron (primarily for safety reasons). He will be the one who distributes and keeps track of who has keys to the studio/workshop. The Provincial Offices should have a copy of the key.

It was suggested that the studio/workshop be blessed now that it is completed. Mary Gorski is to take photos of it to share in *Fridge Notes*.

- B. Seminarian scholarship request — Br. Bernard Aberion, an SHSST seminarian from the Society of Our Mother of Peace, is seeking financial assistance. Fr. Paul Kelly asked Fr. Kilianski if it would be possible for the Province Development Office to seek donors to sponsor a seminarian. Dn. Nagel noted that the development office already raises funds specifically for seminary education. The council is not in favor of adding the sponsorship of individual seminarians, especially non-SCJ seminarians, to the development office's task. Perhaps SHSST could investigate the possibility of establishing a scholarship for financially at-need seminarians. As Msgr. Shecterle noted, there is a small fund available to assist needy seminarians but it is limited to \$250 a semester.

Dn. Nagel will contact Fr. Kelly to clarify the development office policies in regards to fund raising for seminarians.

C. Local administrations

1. Sacred Heart Monastery — The council voted to appoint Fr. Ed Zemlik as treasurer of the SHM community. His term begins immediately.
2. Sacred Heart at SHML — The council voted to appoint the following as the administration of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML:

Local superior: Fr. Quang Nguyen
First councilor: Dn. David Nagel

Second councilor: Fr. Jim Schroeder
Treasurer: Br. Ben Humpfer

The new administration's term begins on July 1, 2016.

Dn. Nagel is working with Linda Church, province human resources director, to develop a job description for a home health care/ house manager who could take on many of the day-to-day responsibilities of the community. Hiring a lay person for this role would allow the local superior to focus his efforts more directly on the welfare of the religious community.

- D. St. Francis and Dehon House communities — The canonical status of these communities needs to be clarified. After discussing several options the council suggests that St. Francis (Woods Road) become a filial house of St. Joseph's (4th Floor of SHML) and that Dehon House become a filial house of Sacred Heart at SHML (Floors 1-3). Fr. Kilianski will consult with the communities during his visitation with them next week. The council will vote on house status changes during their next conference call.
- E. Mississippi — The council voted to present to Bishop Joseph Kopacz of Jackson Fr. Thi Pham as moderator of the parish team that serves the parishes of Christ the King, Holy Spirit, St. Gregory the Great and Good Shepherd. His term would begin on July 1. In his letter to the bishop about this Fr. Kilianski will inform the bishop about Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker's upcoming transfer to Chicago.
- F. Dehon Study Center — With Fr. PJ McGuire's death the position of director of the Dehon Study Center for the US Province is vacant. Although Fr. McGuire was well appreciated in the congregation for classes and retreats on the founder, the council believes that the priority of the center at this time is to focus on making more of the founder's writings available to the province (and others) in English. If the center's director is not fluent in French, he could supervise the work of a translator.
- G. Program of the General Administration — The general administration, in its six-year plan, asked all entities "By April 4, 2016, prior to the Spring meetings that the General Council holds, name five actions that your entity can immediately undertake during the course of 2016." Fr. Kilianski asked all local communities in the US Province to reflect on the Six-Year Plan and suggest actions for the province to consider in response to the direction set by the general administration. Local superiors reported on their discussions at their March 15 meeting with the Provincial Council.

Reflecting on that input, the council chose the following actions:

1. Require the study of a second language by all students in formation with an emphasis on languages that can best be used in ministry.
2. Encourage international formation experiences for students of the US Province and welcome SCJs from other entities to have such experiences in the United States. This includes the possibility of taking part in an international novitiate program, such as the one offered for English-speakers in the Philippines.
3. Explore ways in which Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology can further serve the needs of the wider congregation.
4. Continue to have the Province Development Office assist other entities, such as the Philippine Region and Indian District, in enhancing their own development programs.
5. Support and enhance the Dehonian Associates in North America.

The council will confirm these actions at its next conference call, after which Fr. Kilianski will send his response to the general administration.

- H. North American retreat — Fr. John van den Hengel is meeting with Fr. Jim Schroeder and others following the North American councils meeting in May to begin plans for a 2017 North American retreat.
- I. Parish missions — Fr. Q. Nguyen proposes doing parish mission appeals as a way of making more people aware of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. In turn, someone discerning a religious vocation might consider the SCJs. Fr. Q. Nguyen would ask several SCJs to assist him. The council is open to the possibility. Fr. Q. Nguyen will get more information about requirements of doing parish missions and report back to the council in May.

- J. CMSM — Fr. Kilianski will be in Poland for World Youth Day when CMSM holds its annual conference August 2-5. He asked if a councilor would be able to take his place. Fr. Kurps will check his calendar and let Fr. Kilianski know if he is available.
- K. Our Lady of Guadalupe — Fr. D. Nguyen noted the education plans that Archdiocese of Houston has made that will significantly impact OLG school, as well as other Houston inner city schools.

V. Formation

- A. Meeting with Frs. Robert Tucker and David Szatkowski — Following up on the council’s previous discussions about formation Fr. Kilianski spoke to Frs. Tucker and Szatkowski about serving in formation, starting July 1. After reflection, both agreed. They joined the council for a dialogue on province formation and their upcoming roles on the formation team. Fr. Kilianski welcomed and thanked them both for their willingness to serve and for their presence at the meeting.

- 1. First thoughts — Both were asked about their first thoughts when they learned that they were being considered for formation ministry. Fr. Tucker said that initially he was apprehensive. But soon, he felt honored to have been asked. He said that it is an important ministry in the province. His years of pastoral ministry give him a good background in preparing students for their future ministry. He has read the formation ratio and believes that it is something that he can implement.

He and Fr. Szatkowski are quite different, which Fr. Tucker said is a plus; the two will balance each other well as a team, along with Fr. Andrzej Sudol.

Fr. Szatkowski said that he was surprised to be asked. He agrees that he and Fr. Tucker will work well together, they will offer a good balance. Fr. Szatkowski enjoys his ministry in Mississippi but is happy to fulfill the province need in formation. He has read both the province and general ratio and is comfortable in implementing them. He thinks that he can bring a lot to the college formation program and looks forward to helping people in the discernment process.

- 2. Philosophy of Formation — Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker were asked about their philosophies of formation. Fr. Szatkowski stressed the importance of exposing students to SCJ prayer and traditions in the midst of academic preparation for ministry. Formation is a time to show students what SCJ life looks like so that they, and the community, can determine whether it is where God is calling them.

Fr. Tucker sees the role of a formation director as being a guide in a student’s journey to know the Dehonian charism and SCJ religious life. When evaluating a student he will assess the student’s ability to “buy into” the charism as well as his aptitude for community life and spirituality. Would he be suitable for SCJ ministry? Is his general development socially and spiritually appropriate to his age?

- 3. Student responsibility and accountability — A trend in formation has been to put the onus of the formation experience on the shoulders of the student. The council would like to have students more accountable to the formators who set direction for the program and community. Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker were asked how they would implement this. Both emphasized the need to model in their own lives what they expect of the students, including regular attendance at community prayer and meals. Frequent one-on-one meetings with the students are important opportunities for dialogue and for challenge as needed. Fr. Tucker said that it helps him to know that he has the backing of the provincial superior and council. Students are not just accountable to the formation directors but to the council and province. Fr. Szatkowski cited the importance of balancing academics with the obligations of belonging to a religious community. Time management must be learned in formation so that students can later manage their obligations to ministry and community properly when they are in full-time ministry.
- 4. Reflecting on their own formation experiences — Both Frs. Tucker and Szatkowski were asked to reflect on their own formation experiences. What did they find beneficial? What was challenging?

Fr. Szatkowski cited intercommunity experiences, especially during novitiate, as beneficial. It was an opportunity for peer support but also an opportunity to view situations from different perspectives. A challenge for him was adapting to new formation staff and the difficult issues that can sometimes lead to a formator’s departure. It is important to keep in mind the stress that such change can have on the student community.

Fr. Tucker said that for him a challenge was knowing that some students were favored by a formator over others. He

said that it is important for a formator to know that he is not there to be a friend of the student but to help him grow spiritually and emotionally as he discerns his vocation with the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

5. Self knowledge – Councilors, Fr. Tucker and Fr. Szatkowski talked about personal gifts and challenges. Fr. Tucker and Fr. Szatkowski each said at the beginning of the meeting that they are very different people. Councilors agreed. However, the differences can be very helpful to the formation team, especially as they are balanced with each other in collaboration with Fr. Sudol.
 6. Archdiocese of Chicago — As do all dioceses, the Archdiocese of Chicago has its own protocols of which Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker need to be mindful. Both said that they have no problem complying with the documentation that is requested of priests in the archdiocese.
 7. Continuing education — Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker are both very open to taking continuing education courses that will be helpful to formation. The courses at Catholic Theological Union were noted as well as workshops with the National Religious Vocation Conference.
 8. Social awareness — Out of compassion, the formation community has at times welcomed homeless people to sleep on the inside stairs of the house, or set up cardboard shelters near the door. The council appreciates the care and concern that the community has for those less fortunate and would like social awareness to continue to be a part of the formative experience. However, councilors ask that assistance to the disenfranchised be done in another manner.
 9. Finances — The vow of poverty is a part of SCJ religious life. The council asks that the formation team place an emphasis on mindful spending and accountability within the community.
 10. Continuing dialogue — Formation is a vital concern of the province. Because of this, the council would like to maintain a regular dialogue with the formation team. Fr. Kilianski, and perhaps several members of the council, plan to visit with the formation community at the start of the new academic year to welcome the students and formally introduce the new members of the formation team. It will be a time to discuss expectations and hopes from the Provincial Council, and dialogue with the formation community.
 11. Come and See — Fr. Q. Nguyen informed Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker that a Come and See Weekend would be held at the formation house the weekend after Easter. He invited them to visit Dehon House at that time to get a sense of the Come and See experience. Both will look at their calendars but with the short notice it may be difficult for them to make arrangements to be away from parish ministry on the weekend.
 12. Admissions Board — Since he is joining the formation team, Fr. Tucker will need to resign from the Admissions Board. He and Fr. Szatkowski can still serve as interviewers.
 13. Conclusion — Fr. Kilianski reiterated his thanks to Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker for their willingness to serve in formation. He encouraged them to get information about classes at Catholic Theological Union in regards to formation preparation as soon as possible. They were encouraged to also look at the NRVC workshops. He noted that there will be no novitiate this year but most likely there will be one in 2017.
- B. Council dialogue — Following their meeting with Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker the council briefly reviewed their visit with them and talked in general about the formation community. Councilors confirmed their support of Fr. Kilianski's appointment of Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker to the formation team. They will begin their three-year term on July 1, 2016.

At their May meeting the council will name the local superior and first councilor for Dehon House.

An email will go to the province membership following this council meeting with highlights from it. Among the items noted will be the appointment of Frs. Szatkowski and Tucker to the formation team.

- VI. Next meeting — The council will meet by conference call on Tuesday, March 29, at 1 pm to review these minutes. At that time they will also finalize their response to the general administration's Six Year Plan, and vote on the canonical status of St. Francis Residence and Dehon House.

Summary of the Local Superiors Meeting with the Provincial Council March 15, 2016, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Duy Nguyen (superior of Texas), Fr. Christianus Hendrik (superior of South Dakota), Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Fr. Greg Speck (superior of the Sacred Heart Community, Pinellas Park), Fr. Jim Walters (superior of Sacred Heart Monastery), Br. Duane Lemke (superior of the Dehon Formation Community), Fr. Robert Tucker (superior of Mississippi), and Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh (superior of St. Joseph's Community).

Also present for reports on their offices and/or committees: Fr. Wayne Jenkins (Archives), Mark Peters (Justice, Peace and Reconciliation), David Schimmel (Dehonian Associates and Mary Gorski (Communications, and recording secretary for the meeting).

I. Local community updates

- A. Dehon Formation Community, Chicago — Br. Lemke said that this is largest community that has been in the house in several years: 16 SCJs and students. There are four in temporary vows, four candidates, Fr. Bob Bossie (retired), three members of the formation team, Fr. Mark Mastin on sabbatical, and Fr. Joseph Mukuna (Congo) and Fr. Jean Baptiste Nsimi Bekoa (Cameroon) doing graduate studies. Br. Lemke said that having new candidates in the community has been energizing.

Since the beginning of the year the community has put a greater emphasis on doing social activities as a group. It can be challenging to get together on a regular basis with the schedules of a student community but shared time is important.

First Friday presentations this semester are each based on the Year of Mercy theme and each member of the community has a binder with a variety of readings related to the Year of Mercy.

Fr. Bossie continues to assist with his two brothers but has been mindful of his own health needs. Fr. Andrzej Sudol has been helpful to the formation team while taking classes at Catholic Theological Union; he previously did formation ministry in India and the Philippines. Frs. Mukuna and Nsimi Bekoa have also been a very welcome presence in the community.

Several of the students have expressed interest in having an international experience during their formation, most likely during their ministerial year.

- B. St. Joseph's Community (fourth floor) — Fr. Dinh said that there are seven members in the community representing ten ministries. With so many schedules it is difficult to bring everyone together at the same time.

Fr. Byron Haaland is recovering well following his cardiac issues last year. Fr. Yvon Sheehy continues to address several health concerns. Fr. Francis Vu Tran has transferred to the Vietnam District and will move there this summer.

Fr. Dinh noted that Fr. Vien Nguyen, who is studying in California, is attached to the community. Also, Liem Nguyen, a candidate in formation, is living with the community while studying ESL at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

The community recently approved its budget.

- C. Mississippi — Fr. Tucker reported that the Mississippi community is doing well and that there is a better sense of community following Fr. Kilianski's visitation. The community met soon after the visitation to discuss Fr. Kilianski's challenge to state what it would do to enhance community life. The challenge resulted in a frank but positive discussion among members.

Fr. Tucker works with Frs. Thi Pham and Greg Schill on a pastoral team that ministers to four parishes. Team members work well together. Fr. David Szatkowski has responsibility for two other parishes; however, all four are in regular communication about their ministry and collaborate as possible.

Fr. Tom Lind has been struggling with health concerns.

Fr. Tucker noted that often members of the community can be found in the kitchen, having informal conversations. It has been a good gathering space for sharing. Fr. Pham has been a great help in the kitchen, working with the community cook to

plan healthy, tasty meals.

- D. Sacred Heart Community, Pinellas Park — Fr. Speck has been with the community for seven months, first as administrator, and for the past two months, as local superior. The community has seen quite a bit of change during the past year — new members, as well as the recent death of Fr. Ray Vega. There are currently 10 SCJs in the community.

Members of the community work very well together; several committees have been established to meet community needs. One of the committees is looking how the community can best care for members when they are seriously ill or need more significant assistance.

Br. Gabriel Kersting is now in a residence that can better care for him; he suffers from dementia. His spirits are good, but he often does not know where he is, which was a significant concern when he was living with the community. Members of the community visit him regularly and often bring him for visits to the house.

Recent tests show that Fr. Tom Burns is cancer-free.

The community is very faithful to prayer and patient with each other when they encounter challenges. They are also very active, often going to the theater and traveling to see family and friends.

Renovations are being done, converting some bedrooms into suites and updating the guest rooms. Food service is now contracted with Sodexo, the same service that is used by SHSST and SHML.

- E. South Dakota — Fr. Hendrik noted that there are six SCJs in three houses in South Dakota, including Fr. Gary Lantz, who is retired and living on his own. Although he lives outside of community, Fr. Hendrik said that Fr. Lantz reads all of the province communications and has a good awareness of what is going on with the province, the local SCJ community and the general community in and around Chamberlain.

The South Dakota community has regular monthly meetings.

Fr. Bernard Rosinski has been busy with his studies and Fr. Anthony Kluckman has his duties as chaplain of St. Joseph's Indian School. Fr. Joseph Dean has been struggling with health concerns.

Fr. Vincent Suparman and Fr. Hendrik are a part of the pastoral team that serves six parishes. Each parish has a secretary and treasurer to deal with day-to-day concerns.

- F. Sacred Heart Community at SHML — At 28 members, Fr. Brackin noted that Sacred Heart at SHML is the largest community in the province. Most of the members are retired; some, such as Dn. Nagel and Fr. Q. Nguyen, are in active ministry. Those in active ministry must be willing to “buy into” the rhythm of the community; they cannot simply be residents.

Six members live at the Congregational Home but are visited almost daily and brought to the community to visit as they are able. Often those who move to the Congregational Home see an improvement in their health. They have a strong presence in the facility, as do the SCJs who regularly visit them.

Many members of the community would like to look at ways of helping fellow SCJs stay in place longer. They are willing to assist their confreres; however, at a certain point some members of the community have needs that are beyond the abilities of their community. This can be challenging.

Each September the community meets to discuss how it will live together during the following year. Most of the members appreciate a rhythm of community living that includes shared prayer and meals.

They all have varied interests. Those who are recently retired are often very busy, while others are beginning to slow down. Members of the community are very caring about each other. Staff, both Sodexo employees and those of the community, are very good.

The community often hosts visiting SCJs and has significant interaction with the lay residents, celebrating Mass with the lay community and taking part in a variety of activities with the residents.

- G. Texas — Fr. D. Nguyen noted that there are 10 SCJs in the Texas community; four are in San Antonio, one is in the Rio Grande Valley (Fr. Richard MacDonald), three are at Our Lady of Guadalupe (plus Fr. Peter Mastrobuono, who is with the community while he is addressing health concerns), and one is living independently in Houston (Fr. Frank Wittouck). Fr. Wittouck often serves as a liaison between the various members.

With the exception of Fr. Mastrobuono, members of the community are in good health. Frs. Zbigniew Morawiec and D. Nguyen have been assisting Fr. Mastrobuono, taking him to medical appointments.

- H. Concluding remarks — Fr. Kilianski thanked the superiors not only for their reports but for the ministry that they do for their communities and the province. Having been a local superior himself, Fr. Kilianski noted that it is not an easy job. He cited particular efforts, such as the updating the Pinellas Park facility (round tables in the dining room have helped to foster better conversations at meals). Also, several of the superiors are attending to confreres with significant health concerns.

II. “Mercy in the Footsteps of God,” the Six Year Plan of the general administration

- A. Introduction — At the end of its Six Year Plan, released early this year, the general administration asked entity superiors “By April 4, 2016, prior to the Spring meetings that the General Council holds, name five actions that your entity can immediately undertake during the course of 2016.”

Previously, Fr. Kilianski asked local superiors to discuss the plan with their communities and suggest actions for the province to undertake.

- B. Local reports — Each superior reported on local community discussions and shared the actions the community suggested in response to the general administration’s request.

1. Mississippi

- a. Host SCJs (students and those in final vows) from other entities in areas where there are apostolates, such as Mississippi, South Dakota and Wisconsin.
- b. Members of the Canadian Region could share their experience of reaching out to refugees, immigrants and migrants.
- c. Work on promoting vocations in our parishes; how can local communities develop a greater sense of welcoming in regards to vocational development?
- d. Host a week of ongoing formation on Dehonian topics.
- e. Emphasize the importance of the planned 2017 retreat for SCJs in North America.
- f. Send SCJ students to other entities for international exposure to the congregation.

2. Texas

- a. Acknowledge what the province is already doing, such as the ESL program and Fr. PJ McGuire’s work through the Dehon Study Center; affirm the work of SCJs who have and continue to serve outside of the province, such as Fr. Tom Cassidy in India, and the many SCJs who have assisted with ESL in the Philippines.
- b. Host a summer immersion experience for SCJ students of other entities.
- c. Emphasize the need for students of the US Province to learn at least one language other than English.

3. Chicago

- a. Emphasize youth ministry in current apostolates but also develop something new. Br. Lemke noted that the students who suggested this were challenged to be specific and follow-up on their suggestion.
- b. Include international experiences as a part of formation. Two students would like to do their ministerial year abroad.

- c. When the English translation of the General Formation Ratio is disseminated incorporate it into the provincial ratio, handbook and other formation policies. Adapting the province ratio to the general ratio is a way to broaden the formation program to that of the worldwide congregation.
4. Sacred Heart Community at SHML
- a. Continue to promote international experiences in the formation program.
 - b. Promote the international character of the congregation in the province as a whole (in communities and in SCJ ministries).
 - c. Share the work of the Dehon Study Center.
 - d. Promote proficiency in a second language.
 - e. Ensure that students are prepared to live and work in the digital reality of today.
5. South Dakota
- a. Be welcoming to guests, especially international visitors. Assist SCJs who will be staying for an extended period of time (either for ministry or education) to learn about and adjust to a new culture.
 - b. Invite David Schimmel to talk about the Dehonian charism to the SCJ Community.
 - c. Promote vocations and youth ministry in a collaborative way. One suggestion is that Mary Gorski and David Schimmel work with the people who administer Facebook for St. Joseph's Indian School to post items about the congregation, charism and vocations.
6. St. Joseph's (SHML 4th Floor)
- a. The community endorsed much of what is already going on such as the work of the North American Immigration Committee, the planned 2016 US Province assembly (with the theme of "Mercy"), and the planned 2017 North American retreat.
 - b. Encourage international experiences for those in formation.
 - c. Require all in formation to learn a second language with an emphasis on a language and terminology that would be applicable to ministry in the US Province.
 - d. Enhance the use of technology for communications.
7. Sacred Heart Monastery
- a. Formation programs should identify and prepare individuals for specific ministries in the US Province. Students should be made well aware of province priorities for ministry early in the formation process and discern with formation and spiritual directors a ministry option.
 - b. Members of the province who seek advanced degrees should be in conversation with province administration to determine how the degree will benefit the province and congregation. It should be understood that upon completion of the degree the SCJ will serve for a number of years in a "priority apostolate" of the province.
 - c. Maximize the potential of present ministries rather than create new ones. The ESL program could be of greater service to the congregation if it were better promoted. The province membership should accept greater ownership of the program. There should be an openness to hosting SCJ ESL students in province communities. Senior SCJs could serve as tutors to those studying ESL.
 - d. Continue to offer the services of the US Province development offices to other entities in the congregation as has

been done in the Philippines and India. Continue to promote the efforts of SCJs from the US Province who have served in other entities.

- e. Engage lay associate programs in service to the global vision of the congregation. The Mission Education conferences and SCJ Schools in Collaboration have paved the way for greater dialogue on the role of lay people in the mission of the congregation.

8. Pinellas Park — No discussion.

C. General discussion of local superiors and council (paraphrased comments).

1. Some of these ideas can be undertaken immediately (or are already in process); with time for discussion and reflection other possibilities will surface.
2. It is important in reporting back to the general administration that the province note the many things that are already taking place, such as plans for the province assembly, the North American retreat, the openness to international experiences in formation, and the need for a second language.
3. Discussion of the Six Year Plan received a variety of reactions. Some superiors noted that their communities discussed the plan simply because they were required to; however, there was good dialogue in all of the communities.
4. There is a feeling, by some, that what happens in Rome doesn't have a direct impact in the local area. It is helpful for local communities to know what is going on in the wider congregation and for the congregation to know what is going on in local entities. However, it is also important to note that most local communities are already addressing many of the issues cited in the Six Year Plan.
5. The plan calls for greater study of the Islamic faith; several educational events have taken place at SHSST in regards to this already and a class on Islamic traditions is tentatively planned for next semester.
6. Some local communities felt a lack of ownership to the Six Year Plan. However, review of it sparked good discussions on the local level.
7. It is important that the congregation know of the generosity of the US Province, not just in finances, but in personnel and the preparation of others for international ministry.
8. Some of the concerns cited in the Six Year Plan are not necessarily significant concerns of the US Province, such as the issue of just wages for workers. The US Province, in general, is just in its compensation of workers and actively seeks to find ways to help others find employment.
9. The requirement of a second language is essential. In the US Province learning Spanish needs to be a priority.
10. The plan is an ambitious one, trying to address the concerns of the entire congregation. The general administration is commended for its work.

D. Conclusion — Fr. Kilianski thanked the superiors for their reports and for leading the discussions in the local communities.

III. Department and committee reports

A. Finance — Dn. Nagel updated superiors on several financial concerns.

1. Province Development Office — During the past two years the office has focused on growing and stabilizing the mailing files. The development operation is showing signs of improvement but last year was still challenging, in part due to the volatile investment market. St. Joseph's Indian School was asked to assist the province with day-to-day operation expenses. Prospects for the current fiscal year at the Province Development Office are good.

Among the commitments for which the Development Office raises funds are the formation programs of several of the Asian entities (especially India), the support of African confreres studying in the United States (including ESL) and

\$250,000 to the General Aid Fund.

2. Generalate — Dn. Nagel will meet the new general treasurer, Fr. Luca Zottoli, at the General Finance Commission meeting April 18-23 in Rome. The general treasurer is considering holding the next commission meeting in the United States the week after the US Province Assembly. If he does so, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter will host him on visits in the province.
3. Excess funds — Superiors were reminded that excess community funds should be turned into the province.
4. Check writing policy — Dn. Nagel reviewed the Province Check Writing Policy. He reminded superiors that individual SCJs should not have personal checking accounts. If the superiors know of an individual with his own account it should be reported to the provincial superior. Personal accounts are only allowed for unique circumstances and only with the permission of the provincial superior. A second SCJ must always be listed as a signer on the account. Accurate record keeping is important for all accounts, including the submission of receipts, invoices and other appropriate documentation. No checks may be written to “cash.”

Regarding house accounts, only the local treasurer and local superior should be authorized check signers.

5. Mass stipends — Dn. Nagel reviewed the Mass Stipend Policy. He noted that the local treasurer must maintain a Mass intention book noting new requests, who persolved an intention and the transfer of a stipend gift to the general fund when a Mass is persolved. Individual priests may accept Mass intentions but the income goes to community. A financial report on the Mass stipends must be sent to the Provincial Treasurer’s Office at the end of the year.

Regarding stipends from the Provincialate, Province Development Office or other entity, the community cannot accept more than one year of Mass stipends at a time. Excess of a year are to be sent to the Provincial Treasurer’s Office. Masses that are not persolved by the US Province are sent to the Generalate or the missions.

6. Vehicle purchases — Dn. Nagel reviewed the vehicle purchase guidelines. The normal price limit for a vehicle purchase continues to be \$20,000. The Provincial Treasurer’s Office can assist communities in getting program or slightly used cars, as well as end-of-model-year new cars that are within this price range. All vehicles must be titled to the Priests of the Sacred Heart. It is suggested that the titles be kept with the Provincial Treasurer’s Office, or in a central location locally. Copies of purchase invoices must be sent to the Provincial Treasurer’s Office so that the vehicle can be enrolled in the province insurance plan.

Members of the province do not need to take additional coverage when renting a car; the province insurance plan covers rentals by SCJs in the US and its territories.

A question was asked about car maintenance — do members of the province have to go through Enterprise for this? Dn. Nagel said that they do not, but that many SCJs find it helpful to do so. He noted that if a recommended maintenance concern is not covered by Enterprise that an SCJ always has the option of putting it on his credit card and having his community cover the cost.

7. Driver Safety Policies and Procedures — Dn. Nagel reviewed the Driver Safety Policies and Procedures. Among items of note: all SCJs who drive must send a copy of their current driver’s license to the Province Treasurer’s Office; drivers under 70 are encouraged to attend a driver refresher course every five years, those over 70 every three years; drivers over 75 will have a yearly driving test administered by the province insurer; drivers with an at-fault accident must have a driving evaluation; and drivers with a serious medical condition must have physician approval for driving.
8. Last Will and Testament — A template for a Last Will and Testament was shared with superiors; Dn. Nagel reminded them that all SCJs should complete such a document, especially those with patrimony.
9. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Dn. Nagel said that rentals at SHML are going well; it is 99% full with generally about a dozen people on a waiting list. Residents seem happy with the facility and it provides approximately \$500-600,000 a year to the province in rental income.

- B. Province Assembly — Fr. John Czyzynski, chairperson of the planning committee for the 2016 Province Assembly, briefly updated the superiors and council on plans for the gathering. Other members of the committee include Fr. Vincent

Suparman, Fr. Quang Nguyen and Fr. Greg Schill. Fr. Czyzynski said that each local community has been asked to prepare a prayer service and they are to send the outline for that service to him by April 14. That will allow the musicians time to review the music and sent it on to Mary Gorski for layout. The Mississippi community will incorporate a commemoration of the deceased in the liturgy they are preparing.

Among the presentations at the assembly: Fr. Stephen Huffstetter will talk about the Six Year Plan of the general administration, Fr. John van den Hengel will talk about Mercy and Fr. Dehon in light of the Year of Mercy, Kathleen Dahlgren will speak about Power of Attorney documentation, Mary Gorski will do a brief presentation on what is available to SCJs online and how to access it, Fr. Byron Haaland will speak on Mercy as it relates to the vows; Dr. Grant Silva will do a social analysis on immigration, and Fr. Paul Kelly will talk about Mercy in our personal lives.

Initial plans called for having Kathleen Dahlgren and Mary Gorski do their presentations on Wednesday prior to a group photo. It was suggested that these presentations take place later in the assembly to continue the flow around the theme of Mercy. Fr. Czyzynski said that he would take this suggestion back to the planning committee.

- C. Communications — Mary Gorski gave a brief overview of the province website, demonstrating how to access various areas and functions from the site, including the Members' section, online North American calendar, blogs, photo albums, feature stories, weekly news, and items from the Dehonian Associates Office under Dehonian Spirituality. She noted that the Province Vocation Office has taken over the vocation section of the site; Br. Long Nguyen is to be its administrator. Also, the "We Remember" necrology book will be put on the province website later this year, along with a PDF download of the biographies.

As Fr. Czyzynski noted, Mary Gorski plans to give a brief presentation at the Province Assembly about what is available to SCJs on the internet. She asked the superiors and council if they have suggestions for topics she should cover in the presentation. She also asked them to be mindful about sharing news and photos from their communities and ministries. For Facebook, even a single photo with a brief description can be very helpful. These can be photos from a weekend Mass, an event at an SCJ school, a celebration in the local community, an example of community outreach, or simply a moment of fraternity in the local community.

Regarding print publications, she said that the *SCJ News* has become more of a news aggregate, compiling highlights of features and news items from and about the Priests of the Sacred Heart that first appear on the internet. It's a way of getting this information to people who may not regularly go online.

- D. Archives — Fr. Wayne Jenkins, province archivist, talked about some of his work during the past year, including extended service in Rome where he did research at the Vatican archives for the Generalate. Fr. Jenkins noted that several students had assisted him during the past year, including Frater Justin Krenke, who spent the summer organizing the Cameroon Artifacts Collection, making it accessible online through the Leo Dehon Library at SHSST. Fr. Jenkins spoke about the Ste. Marie Foundation and the items that the Province Archives loaned to it for a special exhibition, as well as the professional organizations that he belongs to as archivist.

Fr. Jenkins also shared documentation on how items are catalogued in the archives.

A question was asked about what to do with an SCJ's personal effects after he has died. Fr. Jenkins said that a protocol is in place. He was asked to give that protocol to Br. Presto for the council to review at its next meeting. After review, it will be placed in the *Cor Unum*.

- E. Vocations — Fr. Q. Nguyen noted that the office works with fewer names than in previous years, but that those who are in communication with the office are primarily interested in learning about the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Previously, the office served as a clearinghouse for those seeking vocations in general.

Fr. Q. Nguyen is trying to get more access to university students by attending vocation fairs and working with Newman Centers.

Office personnel has changed. Jacquelyn Nasby completed her master's studies and left at the end of 2015; Dragona Dragoljevic is now the part-time administrative assistant. Br. L. Nguyen is with the Dehon Formation Community; however, he is still assisting the office with some things, such as the website. Fr. Chuck Wonch and Br. Ben Humpfer will be assisting the office part-time. Also, Fr. Q. Nguyen has asked students from the Dehon Formation Community to help with vocation

events; they have been very helpful.

Two applicants are expected for May, and one is expected for July.

Fr. Q. Nguyen spoke about parish outreach. He said that Frater Joseph Vu did a presentation at St. Martin of Tours. This was appreciated but it was noted that presenters should make sure that they bring materials to share, such as handouts about the SCJs.

- F. Formation — Br. Lemke said that there are 16 people living in the Dehon Formation Community; all are SCJs or candidates. The formation program is guided by three authorities: the General Ratio, the Provincial Ratio and the Handbook. The Provincial Ratio and Handbook will be updated in the near future following the release of the English version of the recently revised General Ratio.

Br. Lemke noted the stages of formation and the pillars of formation. The fundamental aim of the community is to create a religious home. Vital to this are daily meals together and weekly meetings. Community discussions have covered topics such as poverty, immigration and communications from the provincial superior and general council. The community gathers daily for prayer.

Ministerial formation has focused on reaching out to those on the margins of society. Requirements for ministry during the summer have increased; at least one month of the summer break is to be in ministry.

- G. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — Mark Peters gave an update on the JPR office. He noted that the JPR Commission meets at least four times a year to set JPR priorities, hear reports from the director, oversee the budget and make grant decisions, and advise the director on goals and objectives. It reviewed and updated a policy on public stances on grant funding criteria that was approved by the Provincial Council last December. The commission needs new members; it is hoped that some younger SCJs can join it.

The JPR director maintains a JPR website, sends out a monthly e-newsletter and alerts the membership to JPR actions and concerns as needed. Mark Peters worked with SHSST to plan social justice retreats and was a speaker at the seminary's Soup and Substance program. He is working with the North American Immigration Committee; on March 30 the committee is sponsoring a panel discussion on migration and immigration at the Provincial Conference Center.

Mark Peters noted several of the organizations at which he represents the SCJs including SET Ministries and the Dominican Center, as well as national events such as the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC. Members of the JPR Commission also represent the province at various JPR-related functions. Mark Peters has been involved with shareholder activism for the province.

The JPR director concluded his presentation by asking SCJs to give him feedback so that he and the JPR Commission can have a better sense of how to focus their work. He also noted that the mandate of the North American Immigration Committee is coming to an end; he hopes that the committee receives a renewal or extension of that mandate to continue its work.

Mark Peters is the first non-SCJ to hold the position of province JPR director; Fr. Kilianski thanked him for his work, adding that it isn't an easy job.

- H. Dehonian Associates — David Schimmel, province director of Dehonian Associates, spoke about the work of his office during the past year. He has developed a ten-session program for those interested in being a Dehonian Associate. This is based on the Spiritual Path developed at the general level. The Spiritual Path is a four-year program. Items not included in the initial ten-session program can be a part of continuing education experiences for those who become Dehonian Associates. The initial program is to be implemented in Mississippi after Easter. David Schimmel said that Fr. Richard MacDonald began a program in the Rio Grande Valley for lay people to learn more about the Dehonian charism and SCJ spirituality. He has had about 100 people (50 each in two locations) attend the sessions he organized.

A document describing what a Dehonian Associate is and how a person becomes one has been approved by the Dehonian Family Committee. It will go before the Provincial Council for review later this year.

David Schimmel has worked with Schools in Collaboration; he will give a presentation during the 2016 Summer Institute at

St. Joseph's Indian School. He has also created a Dehon Curriculum and a Feast Day Prayer Resource Series for SCJ schools.

The Dehonian Associates Office produces several items in collaboration with the Communications Offices, such as the weekly *Dehonian Spirituality* e-newsletter, seasonal e-mailings for Lent and June, bulletin inserts in Spanish and English and other items for special moments in the Church and congregation. Most recently, the office published "The Way of the Cross with Fr. Leo John Dehon.

The Dehonian Family Committee overseas the Mission Education Conferences; the next one will take place in Mississippi, October 10-11.

David Schimmel will give a presentation on images of the Sacred Heart during the annual feast day celebration sponsored by the Province Development Office

Internationally, David Schimmel is in communication with Grace Escobia of the Philippines who serves on the International Dehonian Family Committee. He anticipates taking part in the May, 2017 International Dehonian Family gathering.

David Schimmel welcomes feedback on the work of the office. Several SCJs said that they appreciated the brief one-minute meditations sent during Lent. Although the longer *Dehonian Spirituality* mailings are appreciated, the brief reflections fit into a busy schedule more easily. Mr. Schimmel said that he would share this with the Dehonian Family Committee, though noted that he envisions the longer *Dehonian Spirituality* pieces as being good resources for future continuing education or formation.

- I. Senior Life — Fr. Kilianski noted that the Senior Life Committee will have its first meeting on March 29. In preparation for that it has sent SCJ seniors in the US Province a survey about senior concerns. Fr. Jim Schroeder and Fr. Richard MacDonald are co-chairs of the committee; Fr. Vincent Suparman, Fr. Byron Haaland, Br. Ray Kozuch, Fr. Pat Lloyd, Br. Brian Tompkins and Dn. David Nagel also serve on the committee.

- IV. Promotion of renewal and wellness — Fr. Kilianski asked the superiors and councilors to briefly dialogue on promotion of renewal and wellness in the province; it is a topic that is often cited at assemblies and other province gatherings. He noted that in regards to renewal a retreat is being planned for SCJs of the US Province and Canada for 2017.

It was suggested that leadership — locally and on the province level — need to model wellness. Also, more needs to be done to help SCJs be proactive about their health and to challenge and support fellow SCJs to do the same. Often members of the province are hesitant to share or to ask confreres about their health. There is often a sense that such issues are private. This doesn't mean that each detail of a person's health situation needs to be shared, but there does need to be some accountability to those with whom a person lives in community.

The councilors and superiors also discussed the issue of SCJs, who for health reasons, may no longer be able to live in a particular community house. How does this discussion take place? Although a local community can raise concerns about a person's ability to remain in the community, it isn't necessarily that community's decision as to whether the person needs to move to a retirement community or other setting. It's important to remember that many people are not able to realistically evaluate their own situation, and even friends can be unrealistic in assessing another's abilities. This is an issue that the council needs to address.

- V. Evaluation and future meetings — Several of the local superiors said that the meeting was very helpful. They appreciated having the time to update each other on their communities but also to share some of the challenges they face. It was a good time for peer support among SCJs who face similar concerns in their ministry of leadership.

Next year's meeting will most likely take place in March. Fr. Kilianski will ask for suggestions for topics when he sends his letter announcing the dates. The superiors are welcome to share topic suggestions any time during the year.

Concluding the meeting, Fr. Kilianski again thanked the superiors for their time, and especially, for their ministry of leadership.

CALENDAR

2016

April 15-20:	Provincial Visitation of South Dakota Community
May 1-2:	Meeting of North American administrations (Hales Corners)
May 3-4:	Provincial Council Meeting
June 6:	Province Jubilee Celebration
June 6-10:	US Province Assembly
June 28:	Provincial Council conference call, 11 a.m. (central)
July 12-13	Provincial Council Meeting
September 13-14:	Provincial Council Meeting
October 9-11:	Mission Education, Mississippi
November 15-16:	Provincial Council Meeting
December 14-15:	Provincial Council Meeting

UPDATES

- **Fr. Greg Murray's** email address: gmurrayscj551@gmail.com
- **Richard Scheiber** has accepted delivery of his rescript for dispensation of vows and orders.

NECROLOGY

+**Cornelis B.M. Wijffjes**, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died on March 16. He was born in 1932, professed in 1954 and ordained in 1961.

+**Fr. Gerhardus H. Kolmschot**, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died March 15. He was born in 1937, professed in 1960 and ordained in 1967.

+**Bishop Andreas Henrisoesanto** died in Jakarta, Indonesia, on March 10. He was 80 years old. Many SCJs in the United States knew the bishop as a classmate in Rome. Bishop Henrisoesanto professed first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 1956, was ordained to the priesthood in 1961 and consecrated bishop in 1975. He was named bishop of the Diocese of Tanjung Karang in 1979.

+**Fr. Expedito Barbos Macedo**, a member of the Brazil – Recife Province, died on March 7. He was born in 1926, professed in 1943 and ordained in 1951.

+**Fr. Ray Vega**, a member of the US Province, died March 6. He was born in 1924, professed in 1957 and ordained in 1973.

+**Fr. Paul J McGuire**, a member of the US Province, died February 22. He was born in 1942, professed in 1960 and ordained in 1968.

+**Fr. Hubertus Hanssen**, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died February 20. He was born in 1920, professed in 1944 and ordained in 1950.