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Minutes of the 868th Provincial Council Meeting December 14, 2016, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; and Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Francis Vu Tran was with the council for discussion of Vietnam. Fr. Duy Nguyen was excused.

I. Check-in — Items of note from the brief check-in period:

- Br. John Monek has moved from the Congregational Home to Sacred Heart at SHML. The transition is going well. Healthcare staff are assisting him; his blood sugar levels are being closely monitored and remain stable.
- Two candidates were accepted by the Admissions Board last week; two more are expected to be presented at the next Admissions Weekend. Including Angel Romero, four candidates will be joining the Dehon Formation Community in January, 2017.
- SCJs gathered for Mass on Thanksgiving Day in Fort Thompson, SD. It was a good celebration with parishioners and other pastoral team members. There is an excellent spirit on the pastoral team; all SCJs are in good health and pitching in to help each other in ministry. The new parish secretary in Lower Brule is working out very well.
- The 50th anniversary celebration at Christ the King in Southaven went well. Fr. Thi Nguyen prepared 30 turkeys for the meal that followed Mass. The pastoral team of Fr. T. Nguyen, Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec and Fr. Greg Schill is working very well together.
- Br. Presto was in Rome for the Secretaries Meeting. He noted the need for a job description for the provincial (entity) secretary and the importance of having an entity's secretary and treasurer be present at council meetings with voice.
- Fr. Ed Kilianski and Dn. David Nagel were also in Rome. Fr. Kilianski took part in the Major Superiors meeting and Dn. Nagel was there for meetings with the General Finance Commission. Fr. Kilianski noted that the Major Superiors will return to Rome next November for a colloquium with the General Administration.

II. Administration

A. Minutes — The council voted to approve the minutes of the 867th Provincial Council meeting with minor changes.

B. Formation

1. Program location — Last year the council discussed the possibility of moving the formation program out of Chicago. Several options were discussed, including moving the undergraduate program to northern Mississippi and the theology program to Houston. The council decided to keep the philosophy and theology programs in Chicago for the 2016-17 academic year.

The council continues to look at various options for the philosophy and theology

programs. Would it be beneficial to bring one or both programs to Milwaukee? With a renewed focus on SHSST — ensuring that the seminary truly reflects the Dehonian charism — would it be a good option for the province’s theology students? Sacred Heart has a “bridge” program with Cardinal Stritch; this could be beneficial for some of the older students entering province formation. Milwaukee also has other excellent colleges and universities, including Marquette. If Vietnam sends some of its seminarians to SHSST those from the US Province would have a larger peer group in formation.

However, there are also advantages to being in Chicago.

The council would like to dialogue with members of the formation community — students and formators — about the location of the programs. An initial discussion began last year, but not all members of the community were able to be present. The council would like to hear the concerns — and suggestions — of the formation community before it makes decisions regarding the future location of the programs.

Fr. Kilianski will contact Fr. David Szatkowski, house superior, about meeting with the community on Monday, February 6. The council will have dinner with the community and then meet with them after. All members of the community — candidates, professed students, formators and others in community — will be expected to be at the meeting. The council will return to Milwaukee after for its meetings on February 7-8.

2. Novitiate — The council voted to name the new novitiate the “Sacred Heart Novitiate.”
3. Personnel — The council voted to approve Fr. Andrzej Sudol as assistant novice master as of August 1, 2017. The council also named him as postulancy director effective January 1, 2017.

C. Membership

1. Fr. Gary Lantz — Fr. Lantz has asked to return to South Dakota. Fr. Kilianski will meet with him and let him know that he can be assigned to the community as of January 1, 2017, but that he is welcome to move whenever it is convenient for him. He is to seek residence at the senior apartments in Chamberlain, a facility that allows for transition to higher levels of care if needed.
2. Fr. Heru Ismadi — The former secretary general is to arrive in the US Province in early January to begin ESL, and later, enter graduate studies at Marquette University. He will live in the St. Joseph’s Community at SHML.
3. Fr. Wojciech Adamczyk — Fr. Wojciech has his R-1 visa, and after a visit in Poland, will be assigned to the community at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston, as of January 5, 2017. It was noted that he needs an assignment letter.
4. Green cards — Br. Presto will check on the status of the green cards for Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec and Fr. Vincent Suparman.

D. General Conference — The next general conference for the congregation will be in the Philippines from July 14-28, 2018. The working theme is “Mercy and the Social Teachings of the Church.” Fr. Q. Nguyen has been asked by the general administration to serve on the planning commission. Fr. Kilianski noted that if Fr. Q. Nguyen was not available the general administration asked if Fr. Kurps could serve on the commission.

E. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology Main Chapel — Fr. Kilianski shared with the council a memo that he prepared for Msgr. Ross Shecterle; in it he outlined several of the concerns that have been brought to his attention regarding the main chapel at SHSST. Among his requests of Msgr. Shecterle:

- Clear the altar of candles and crucifix.
- Return the floor candle stands to the floor on either side of the altar (they are historical pieces from the province’s minor seminary).
- Cease using bells at the epiclesis and consecration of the Mass.
- Begin to broaden the styles and instruments of music.

F. JPR Grants

1. Background — Members of the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission wrote a memo to Fr. Kilianski and the Provincial Council seeking clarification on the JPR grant process. At its July 2016 meeting the council asked that grants

only be considered for organizations that have a direct SCJ connection.

The commission noted that it gave the council revised guidelines for the grant process in 2015. The council acknowledged the guidelines but also reflected on the thinking that was behind the decision to hire a JPR director. Instead of giving money to organizations to work on social justice issues, the council (a previous administration) hoped that a JPR coordinator could directly work on concerns particular to the US Province and the people it serves. Money that was earmarked for JPR grants would INSTEAD go toward funding the position of province JPR director.

The grants were to be eliminated when the JPR director was hired. However, the commission asked that some continue. The council was open to grants to organizations that have a direct SCJ connection, such as the program for the homeless begun by Fr. Guy Blair in Green Bay. However, the council does not want the JPR Commission to seek or invite other organizations to apply for grants. This gets away from the original intention of hiring a JPR director.

Councilors spoke about what they envisioned as an appropriate use of JPR funds. Examples included the development of parish educational tools on a social justice issue that is a priority for the province, such as immigration. Another possibility would be an extensive legislative visit to lobby on behalf of concerns that are particular to the areas in which SCJs minister.

2. Decisions — Noting that the organizations that receive JPR funds serve worthy causes, the council does not want to fully eliminate grants without appropriate warning.

The council decided that the budget for grants for 2017-18 will be half of the previous year. The JPR Commission is to determine how the funds are dispersed and to inform all of the JPR grant recipients that the funds will no longer be available after 2017-18.

Fr. Kilianski will write a letter to Mark Peters and the JPR Commission to inform them of this decision and ask that it redirect funds toward task-oriented efforts, such as — but not exclusive to — the examples noted earlier (educational tools, lobbying).

III. Vietnam — Fr. Francis Vu Tran, superior of the District of Vietnam, met with the council. He began by expressing his thanks — in the name of the district — for the support of the US Province in the development of the Vietnamese District. Fr. Tran talked of the district's vision for the future, which includes less dependency on the General Curia. Each of the next three years the district hopes to reduce the portion of its budget from the curia by 20%.

- A. Future ministry — Due to several factors, including the number of priests in Saigon / Ho Chi Minh, the district does not expect to receive responsibility for a parish in the city. Ministerial plans for the future will focus on education. There is a great need for English, knowing the language opens up possibilities for the poor. The district would like to open an educational center with an initial focus on ESL. This could be done with minimal start-up costs, renting space instead of buying or building.
- B. Membership breakdown — Vietnam is a young district with most of its members in formation. There are 25 philosophy students, six postulants, two novices and nine theology students in the Philippines. In Vietnam, there are another eight students in philosophy, 13 in pre-philosophy and seven university students. Another 25 Vietnamese are ready to begin pre-philosophy. More space is needed for students. The district has 19 SCJ priests.

Fr. Francis noted that the Vietnamese who are ordained outside of Vietnam are classified as “foreign priests” in Vietnam, meaning that they cannot become pastor of a Vietnamese parish. However, they can still serve in priestly ministry. Fr. Francis would like to expand the international study options for Vietnamese students but he is also mindful that some need to prepare and be ordained for ministry in Vietnam so that they do not have “foreign” status.

- C. Collaboration with the US Province — Fr. Tran suggested several collaborative possibilities. In particular, he would like to send members of the Vietnamese District to the United States for studies and for ministerial opportunities. It is difficult for the district to find enough ministry options for its members, especially in their initial years of priesthood.
 1. Ministry — Fr. Tran suggests sending a member of the district to serve at St. Martin of Tours parish with the Vietnamese community.

In 2018, the district will be seeking ministerial placements for another five SCJs. Perhaps some or all of these men could come to the United States. Fr. Tran suggested that two could go to St. Joseph's Indian School and/or serve on the Lower Brule Pastoral Team.

As Fr. Tran notes below, he would like to send members of the district to SHSST. After they are ordained some could remain in the US Province to serve for either a limited or extended period of time.

2. Formation

- a. Theology — Fr. Tran would like to send several Vietnamese SCJs to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. Initially, he would send one student for the start of the 2017-18 academic year, with more to come in 2018. If a Vietnamese SCJ is in ministry at St. Martin of Tours he could also serve as a formation liaison to the Vietnamese students, living in community with them as their formator.

Vietnamese students who would study at SHSST would also do their final vows, diaconate and priesthood ordinations in the United States. Fr. Tran said that while those ordained in the United States would be considered as “foreign” priests in Vietnam, a degree from a US school would be very beneficial to them in finding ministerial opportunities.

- b. Novitiate — In the future the district would like to send novices to the US Province. Some could remain after novitiate to study and be prepared for possible ministry in the United States. Fr. Tran anticipates that he will have four men ready for novitiate in 2018.

- D. Finances — As Fr. Tran noted earlier, the district would like to work toward self-sufficiency. It needs to build a pension and a healthcare fund. To do this, he asks that if a member of the district works in the US Province that his salary go to the Vietnamese District for three years to help build these funds. Also, the district would need financial assistance to support students who would study at SHSST and/or at the novitiate. His hope is that US Province could provide the assistance.

- E. Immigration status — Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, needs to be consulted regarding the immigration requirements necessary for the various proposals noted.

- F. Huong Tam School — The district has been extensively involved with Huong Tam, a school that educates the children of migrant families, many of whom would have no educational opportunities without the school. The school offers grades 1-5, and currently serves 325 students. It is anticipated that enrollment will soon jump to 500. The Dutch-Flemish Confederation has committed \$30-40,000 toward the operation of the school. Fr. Tran noted that the nine teachers make only about \$200 a month; most have other jobs to help them meet their living expenses.

The owner of the facility used by Huong Tam will not extend the lease past 2018. The district would like to purchase land to build a school. The German Province has promised \$500,000 to buy land for a new building. The US Province Development Office is interested in developing a fund raising campaign to help the school. Fr. Tran was to meet with Sid Liebenson, director of development, about creating such a campaign.

- G. Discussion — In general, the council was favorable — in principle — with the ideas that Fr. Tran presented. They noted, as did Fr. Tran, that there will be cultural differences between the Vietnamese who would come to minister and study in the United States and those who have lived here as immigrants for many years. The two groups have different experiences of Vietnam. This is not a limiting factor, but it is a cultural difference of which to be mindful. Inculturation is crucial for anyone coming to minister in a different country.

Fr. Tran noted that he has shared much of what he presented with Fr. Heiner Wilmer, superior general. Fr. General is in favor of what is proposed. Fr. Tran acknowledged that the general administration would also like the Vietnam District to send SCJs to other areas in the congregation.

- H. Decision — After Fr. Tran left the meeting room the council discussed his proposals. The council is in agreement — in principle — with what Fr. Tran proposed. Fr. Kilianski was to inform Fr. Tran of this. The council emphasized that plans and expectations will need to be clearly defined — in writing — in each step of the process.

IV. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — The response rate for mailings is up 14% and the average gift is up 14.5%. Income per

piece has risen 30%. The consultants from St. Joseph's Indian School have been meeting with the development office staff by Skype. The next in-person visit will be in February.

- B. Budgets — Dn. Nagel shared the budget memo that will be sent to budget preparers on January 4, 2017. The timeline: February 3 is the deadline for informing the Provincial Council of capital projects, March 31 is the due date for budgets to the Province Treasurer's Office, the Province Finance Commission will review the budgets April 4-5, and the Provincial Council will review them during their meeting April 25-26.
- C. Novitiate property — The proposed novitiate property has been inspected; a few minor issues were found that need to be fixed. Mark Wenzel was to meet with an architect at the property the day of the council meeting to discuss various possibilities (in particular, extra bedrooms). A survey of the property was done, some of the property lines need to be clarified.

A number of concerns need to be attended to, including zoning, but if all goes as hoped the province might be able to close on the property at the end of January.

- D. Investment Committee — The committee will meet on March 2. Issues to be discussed include changes in the allocation of equity and the implementation of revised policy statements.
- E. Treasurers meeting — There will be a meeting of the entity treasurers in Rome May 1-5.

V. Calendar

- A. Election Assembly date change — The province's original dates for its 2018 Election Assembly conflict with the General Conference. The Election Assembly has been rescheduled to the week of June 18, 2018.
- B. Provincial Council meeting date change — Because of schedule conflicts, the May 16-17 Province Council meeting has been rescheduled to April 25-26. This is the annual budget review meeting.
- C. Next meeting — The council will next meet by conference call to approve the minutes of this meeting on Tuesday, December 20 at 10:00 am Central.
- D. Congregational events — Several events were noted for 2017-2018:
 - International Communications Meeting: Rome, January 3-6, 2017
 - Meeting of Entity Treasurers: Rome, May 1-5, 2017
 - Meeting of the Dehonian Family: Rome, May 12-17, 2017
 - International Theological Conference: Yogyakarta, Indonesia, July 20-25, 2017
 - Meeting of the Novice Masters: Rome, October 23-27, 2017
 - Colloquium of Major Superiors: Rome, November 12-25, 2017
 - Course for Treasurers: Rome, January 1 - May 17, 2018
 - Meeting of Dehonian Bishops: Rome, January 18-23, 2018
 - Meeting of the Scholasticate Rectors: Rome, April 16-20, 2018
 - General Conference: Philippines, July 14-28, 2018
 - Formators Course: Rome, October 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 (ending with a pilgrimage to the Holy Land)

Minutes of the 867th Provincial Council Meeting November 15-16, 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; and Mary Gorski, recording secretary. David Schimmel was present for discussion of Dehonian Associates; Fr. Richard MacDonald was present for discussion of the Senior Life Commission; Fr. Charles Brown was present for discussion of the “Gaudium et Spes Institute;” Dr. Patrick Russell and Dr. John Olesnavage were present for discussion of the SHSST MA program.

I. Extended prayer and check-in — Councilors spent the first morning in prayer and reflection.

II. Administration

A. Dehonian Associates — David Schimmel, director of Dehonian Associates for the province, updated the council on several items.

1. Former SCJs — Mr. Schimmel is collecting names and contact information of former SCJs in hopes of developing a vehicle for spiritual and social fellowship. He invites members of the province to share contact information of former SCJs with him. It was suggested that Mr. Schimmel get in touch with Mike Shuler, a Lenox alumnus, who has an extensive alumni mailing list.
2. Spiritual Path — The Dehonian Associates Committee asked the council to consider having Mr. Schimmel give a presentation on the Spiritual Path at the 2017 Province Assembly; the council endorsed the proposal (the Spiritual Path is a formative guide for lay people to learn about Dehonian spirituality; it is being used for the first time in the US Province in Mississippi). Fr. Kilianski will talk to Fr. Thi Pham, chairperson of the organizing committee for the assembly, to let him know about this.
3. Mission Education — The council endorsed the proposal of the Dehonian Associates Committee that the next Mission Education Conference be held in South Dakota in 2019, most likely in early fall.

B. Dehon Study Center — The council approved having Mr. Schimmel serve as a part-time director of the Dehon Study Center. Fr. John van den Hengel and Fr. Jim Schroeder will continue to work with him as an advisory council.

The original proposal called for Mr. Schimmel to work at the center eight hours a week. Dn. Nagel suggested that he instead spend three hours a week on the center’s work; that would bring him up to 35 hours a week of total work for the province. Full-time province employment begins at 35 hours. The council said that Mr. Schimmel should start with the three-hour guideline but reevaluate as needed.

Mr. Schimmel’s first task will be to review and organize what is in the center, including data on the center’s two computers; Fr. Bill Pitcavage is going to assist him with this. Mr. Schimmel will work with the Leo Dehon Library at SHSST in regards to cataloguing and making the center’s material available online. He will also determine how items can be shared with the Centro Studi Dehoniani in Rome. Mr. Schimmel will contact other English-speaking entities to determine which of Fr. Dehon’s writings should be translated into English; he will hire translation assistance as needed.

Mr. Schimmel will develop a budget in collaboration with Frs. Schroeder and van den Hengel.

It has been suggested that the Dehon Study Center be moved to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; later in the meeting the council was to hear a proposal from Fr. Charles Brown regarding this. Mr. Schimmel agrees with the suggestion but notes that the emphasis at the moment is to better identify the resources in the center.

C. Senior Life Commission

1. Fr. Kilianski’s request — Fr. Richard MacDonald met with the council to discuss the work of the Senior Life Commission. In a letter to the commission co-chairs (Fr. MacDonald and Fr. Jim Schroeder), Fr. Kilianski asked the commission to address two concerns:

First, to address and evaluate the situation of retired SCJs living outside of community and in particular the two retirement communities. Is it better for an SCJ to remain in the area where he has relationships established with doctors rather than moving to an SCJ retirement community in ill health and start over?

Second, is it better for the Provincial to assign an ill member to Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake rather than Pinellas Park even if the retired member prefers the latter?

The commission recommends that senior SCJs living outside of a designated retirement community be closely monitored and evaluated. This would include a monthly visit, even by phone, of the local superior with the senior SCJ. A report on that visit would be forwarded to the provincial superior. It is also recommended that senior SCJs living alone meet with Mary Balistreri, the nurse who assists the SHML community. This could be done during the Province Assembly.

Councilors discussed the transitional concerns of men moving into a retirement community. It is difficult for both the individual and the community when an SCJ in poor health makes such a move. It is better if the individual moves to the retirement community when he is well enough to establish new relationships with medical personnel and also new social relationships. Related, the province needs to be mindful of the implication of assigning a person who has retirement status for medical reasons, not necessarily age. Does the person have special needs that will be challenging for the community to meet?

As to whether SHML is better equipped to attend to SCJs in ill health than Pinellas Park it was noted that SHML has more people, including lay staff, to assist the community. In its current staff configuration the community in Pinellas Park does not have the same availability of people.

The council asked the commission to further discuss these issues so that they can better advise the council. Should there be a mandatory age at which an SCJ must move to a retirement community? Should SCJs living on their own be allowed to remain in place, meaning that some might go into nursing care far from an SCJ community? What type of assistance should be offered at both retirement communities, not just at SHML? Should one situation be different than the other? It is difficult for the Pinellas Park community to assist individuals with significant needs, yet the community has access to modestly priced (and well-regarded) nursing care. Should the price of nursing care placement be a more significant issue than it is now?

Also, how can retirees be better assisted as they transition to a retirement community? Who can walk with them?

2. Pre-retirement workshop — The commission is organizing a pre-retirement workshop that will address issues such as the transition to a retirement community.
 3. Funerals — The commission will draft a proposal for a province policy regarding funerals and burial. It is anticipated that unless other directives (approved by the provincial superior) are in writing, SCJs will be interred in the province mausoleum. The burden should be on individual SCJ to work with the province and his family if other options are to be considered.
 4. Membership — The council endorsed the Senior Life Commission's proposed membership (term end date is listed after each name; all terms end in September): Br. Ray Kozuch (2017), Fr. Pat Lloyd (2017), Fr. Jim Schroeder (2018), Fr. Richard MacDonald (2018), Br. Brian Tompkins (2018), Fr. Vincent Suparman (2019), Fr. Byron Haaland (2019) and Dn. David Nagel (2019).
 5. Next meeting — The commission will next meet on March 21, 2017.
- D. Admissions Policy — National accreditation standards now require religious communities to review the social media presence of those who apply for candidacy.

The council voted to approve an additional section to "Background Checks" in the policy for "Admission to Candidacy." It requires that the vocation director or his delegate (which could be an outside agency) conduct a review of the applicant's accessible social media presence (including Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram). The new policy will take effect on January 1, 2017; it will not affect those coming before the Admissions Board in December. The policy addition is attached as Addendum A.

- E. Minutes — The council voted to approve the minutes of the 866th meeting of the Provincial Council with a minor change.

- F. North American Dehonian Retreats — The council reviewed the list of names of those who have (and who have not) responded to the invitation to the 2017-18 North American retreats. Although there was a significant response, councilors had hoped that the majority of the province would participate in one of the retreats. Although the retreat is not mandatory, Fr. Kilianski said that there is an expectation that all will participate except for extraordinary reasons or ill health.

Fr. Kilianski will write a letter to each SCJ in the US Province who did not respond, as well as to those who did respond but indicated that they would not participate. He will emphasize his expectation that all SCJs take part in one of the retreats.

- G. SCJ Memorial Days — Fr. Joseph Dean suggested that materials be distributed for memorial days that are optional for the Church but obligatory for SCJs. These include the feasts of Margaret Mary Alocoque, St. Claude la Colombiere and Mary Mediatrix of all Graces. Materials are already distributed for the memorial for Bl. Juan Maria de la Cruz.

The council endorsed Fr. Dean's suggestion. Fr. Kilianski will contact him and ask that he prepare such materials. Mary Gorski can distribute them in anticipation of the feast days.

- H. Formation — Related to its discussion about the novitiate during the finance portion of the meeting (IV, G) councilors talked about the province formation program in general. The council has made a commitment to making Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology more Dehonian (and enhance the SCJ presence at it), which might — in the future — make it a good option for the province's theology students as well as theology students from other entities. Milwaukee also has several good options for undergraduate studies. If the theology program moved to Milwaukee, the college program could as well. Councilors believe that it is beneficial to keep the programs together for student peer support and to minimize the number of formation directors needed. It was noted that Milwaukee has a number of ministry options for students.

Councilors emphasized that such discussions come out of brainstorming; no plans to move the undergraduate or theology programs are being made at this time.

The formation program — at all levels — needs to be a priority for the province. Fr. Kilianski asked that it be on the agenda of every council meeting.

- I. Scholarship request — Fr. Anthony Day Huynh of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (CSC) in Vietnam, made a request to Fr. Kilianski for two members of his community to receive scholarships for MA studies at SHSST. The SCJs have previously given financial assistance to members of his community for ESL and MA studies.

The council reiterated its previous decision to no longer financially sponsor non-SCJ students other than what is given to the general ESL scholarship fund. Fr. Q. Nguyen will write to Fr. Huynh to inform him that the province cannot fulfill his request.

In the future Fr. Kilianski will not bring such requests to the council; he will inform those who make them that such scholarships are not available.

- J. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission — Members of the JPR Commission wrote a response to the council following their meeting with it in September. They noted the issues raised at that meeting, including the need to acknowledge the importance of both direct service and systemic change in the province.

The council said that the commission should continue to focus on issues related to immigration and migration. Related to that, Fr. Kilianski said that Fr. Richard MacDonald agreed to serve as co-chair of the North American Immigration Committee (Fr. Peter McKenna of Canada is the other co-chair); Fr. Tony Russo and Fr. Jan de Jong will also serve.

In a post-election blog post Mark Peters identified Donald Trump as a "sexual predator." A member of the community expressed concern about this, wondering if it is an appropriate tone of communication for the province. Mr. Peters spoke to Kathleen Dahlgren. She suggested that the text be removed. Fr. Kilianski reminded Mr. Peters to be cautious in what he publishes in the name of the province. It was noted that the JPR Commission discussed the need for better communication and collaboration with province leadership; this will help in future communications that represent the province.

- K. SHSM Board of Directors — The council voted to endorse the following nominations to the Sacred Heart Southern Missions Board of Directors: Mike Tyrell (re-elected to a three-year term), Chris Greer (re-elected to a three-year term) and

Sr. Deborah Hughes, SSJ (elected to a three-year term). The officers of the corporation are Sr. Nancy Schreck, OSF (president and co-chair), Dn. David Nagel (vice-president and co-chair) and Fr. Thi Pham (secretary - treasurer).

- L. Council minutes and Cor Unum — Because Dn. Nagel, Fr. Kilianski and Br. Presto were to travel to Rome the next week for various meetings (General Finance Commission, Major Superiors Meeting, and Secretaries Workshop) the minutes from the November 15-16 Provincial Council meeting will not be reviewed and approved until the next meeting on December 14-15. The next *Cor Unum* will be published following the December meeting and include the minutes of both meetings.

It was suggested that the meeting highlights be more extensive than usual since the membership will not see the minutes of the meeting for several weeks. The highlights are sent by email within a day of the meeting.

- M. The Gaudium et Spes Institute — Fr. Charles Brown shared an idea that he is working on which he calls the “Gaudium et Spes Institute.” To be located at SHSST, it would be “a center for Christian social analysis in the spirit of the teachings and founding impulse of Leo John Dehon,” said Fr. Brown. It would work in relationship with the Leo John Dehon Library at SHSST as well as the Priests of the Sacred Heart (the Dehon Study Center as well as other province and congregational entities). The Institute would be a place of study and analysis as well as a vehicle for public outreach with conciliation services for groups and individuals in the Milwaukee area. The council asked Fr. Brown to establish an ad hoc committee of SCJs and SHSST faculty to discuss possibilities and develop a formal proposal regarding the Institute.
- N. SHSST Master of Arts Initiative — Several years ago the Provincial Council was asked by the seminary community to expand the institution’s name from “Sacred Heart School of Theology” to “Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.” The council did so with the stipulation that the MA program at the school be enhanced with a focus on preparing more laity for pastoral positions in the Church. Dr. Patrick Russell, VP of Intellectual Formation, and Dr. John Olesnavage, VP for Pastoral Formation, presented a proposal for an enhanced MA program directed at lay students who generally are not available for daytime classes. It would be a 33-credit program that would employ a hybrid instructional model consisting of classroom and online components. In partnership with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee students could concurrently complete an MA and a pastoral ministry certification. The “cohort” model would be used in which 10-12 students go through the program together as a group for mutual support.

Councilors were supportive of the program as presented, especially the possibility for further online learning that could meet the needs of students who do not have easy access to a theological academic facility.

The program proposal calls for scholarship funding. The province is asked to give \$150,000 in start-up money for the scholarship fund. Councilors suggested that instead the province would give \$75,000 and the other \$75,000 could come from the SHSST endowment fund.

Incorporating the change in the start-up grant as described above, the council voted to approve the MA program with a start date of fall of 2017 if all components are in place (necessary number of students and funding).

Fr. Kilianski will inform the SHSST Board of Directors about the council’s desire to split the \$150,000 start-up grant between the province and the endowment fund.

III. Membership

- A. Fr. Guy Blair — Fr. Blair is in San Antonio doing several ministries, including being a chaplain at the VA Center and at a religious sisters’ community, as well as with the hearing impaired.
- B. Fr. Francois Tsonga — The Cameroon Provincial Council agreed to make Fr. Tsonga available to the US Province as of June, 2017, when his current assignment as a chaplain in the Rio Grande Valley concludes. His availability is initially for a three-year term.

IV. Finance

- A. Province Audit — Schenck Business solutions conducted the audit for FY16. No irregularities or issues of concern were cited. The council voted to approve the audit as presented.
- B. Computer upgrades — The Provincialate has a new computer consultant who is upgrading both hardware and software. He is dealing with “TechSoup,” an organization that works with non-profits to provide computer hardware and software at dis-

counted prices.

- C. Province Development Office – The Direct Mail Team from St. Joseph’s Indian School was with the Development Office October 3-4; they meet on-site quarterly. The transition is going well; a number of new packages are being tested. Net revenue looked good through September. There was enough cash on-hand to cover postage for the Christmas mailings but not enough to fully cover product costs as budgeted. In response, St. Joseph’s Indian School was asked to contribute extra money in November and December toward province operating expenses.
- D. Financial Report for FY 2016 — Expenses for most province operations were about equal with the previous year. The most significant increase in income was from rentals at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake that were \$750,000 for the year.

Worries over the economy and donors vulnerability to financial difficulties have slowed the annual contributions received by the province. The Province Development Office gave \$5.5 million to the province for operations and overseas missions. St. Joseph’s Indian School has raised its contribution level by an addition \$1.5 million to the province. Contributions from other sources also increased, province income from investments helped to offset expenses.

The full report is attached to the minutes as Addendum B.

- E. SCJ Medical Plan — The expected monthly cost per member for the medical plan is to be \$1,395. The council voted to raise the monthly premium for SCJs to \$1,255 as of July 1, 2017. This is higher than the original amount set by the council (\$1,180) due to the higher final cost of the contract. Dn. Nagel noted that Medicare cover is up 19%.
- F. Province Ministries Fund — The council voted to approve a proposal from Dn. Nagel to establish a Province Ministry Fund (trust). The pool will be made up of unrestricted funds from apostolates, religious communities and other province entities. The money will be invested to generate income that can be distributed as grants or as loans to support province apostolates. Investments will be managed by the Province Treasurer’s Office and a board of trustees will administer the trust. Dn. Nagel spoke with the general treasurer and the directors of major province apostolates regarding the fund; those with whom he spoke were in favor of it.

Dn. Nagel will work with Kathleen Dahlgren to establish the trust and have it included in the Catholic Directory.

- G. Novitiate property — At their September meeting the council authorized Dn. Nagel and Fr. Kilianski to explore the possibility of purchasing a property for use as the novitiate. Dn. Nagel and Fr. Byron Haaland (novice master) have reviewed several properties. They propose the purchase of a property in Raymond, WI, which Fr. Kilianski has reviewed. This is a different property than what was originally considered in September. The asking price for the current property is \$895,000. The province made two offers that were rejected. The sellers asked for a third offer; the province offered \$879,000. This was accepted; the province had until the end of the day (November 16) to respond.

Noting that several stipulations need to be met (including re-zoning by Racine County) the council voted to approve the purchase. In doing so, it took into consideration several factors:

- There is the possibility of four novices in the next novitiate class
- Much of the province is favor of moving the novitiate out of Chicago.
- None of the current properties in the Milwaukee are suitable for the novitiate (Dehon House and the Woods Road property are not large enough and currently have SCJs in residence).
- The council is seeking an SCJ to serve as associate novice master; a building needs to be large enough to house the novitiate team as well as the novices.

Councilors are aware of the concerns many in the province have regarding the purchase of a new property, most notably the expense. The Finance Commission discussed the purchase during a conference call on October 19. The commission did not endorse the purchase.

Fr. Kilianski emphasized that investment in the novitiate is investment in the future of the province. He will continue to speak about this during his visitations in the months ahead.

The council is exploring several options for funding the purchase, including the sale of the building that currently houses the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago. An older building, it is expensive to maintain. Property in Hyde Park has become more desirable due to the anticipated construction of President Obama's presidential library in Jackson Park. Also, the University of Chicago is expanding in the area. This may be a good time to look at selling the formation house property.

The council voted to have Dn. Nagel pursue sale of the building that houses the Dehon Formation Community.

- V. Next meeting — The council will next meet on December 14; the Christmas party with staff will be in the evening. The meeting will be shortened from two days to one; there will be no extended prayer/reflection time. Instead, the council will begin with Mass at 8:30 and start the meeting at 9:15.

Addendum A

Vocations and Admissions C: Admission to Candidacy

8. *Review of Social Media Presence*¹

- a. The applicant will be informed that a review of his publically accessible social media presence will be conducted prior to his presentation to the Admission weekend.
- b. The Vocation Director, or his delegate, will conduct the review of the applicant's publically accessible social media presence. At a minimum the applicant's postings on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram will be reviewed. A Google search of the applicant will be conducted.
- c. If items of concern are generated, these will be referred to the Province's attorney for comment and opinion before the reviews are sent to the Admission Board.
- d. The results of the search will become a component of the applicant's package which is presented to the Preliminary Board and the Board of Admissions.
- e. A record that this search was conducted will be maintained. This record needs to note the following details:
 - i. Who conducted the search;
 - ii. When was the search conducted;
 - iii. What sites were accessed; and,
 - iv. When were the results presented to the Admission Board.
- f. This record will become part of the Province's documentation that demonstrates compliance with the current standards contained in The Instruments of Hope and Healing. (Compliance documentation is maintained normally by the Provincial Secretary.)

¹ Revisions adopted during the 867th Meeting of the Provincial Council, November 2016. Implementation will commence on 1 January 2016

Summary of the Meeting of the Councils of Canada and the United States

October 11, 2016 • Toronto, Ontario

PRESENT: Fr. Edward Kilianski (provincial superior, United States), Fr. John van den Hengel (regional superior, Canada), Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Quang Nguyen, Br. Frank Presto, Fr. Paul Tennyson, Fr. Aegidius Warsito, Fr. Richard Woodbury, and Mary Gorski (minutes). Fr. Peter McKenna and Connie Sorio (of KAIROS) were present for a discussion on the needs and concerns of migrant workers.

- I. Prayer— Mass was with parishioners at St. Thomas More parish (concelebrated by Fr. van den Hengel, Fr. Woodbury and Fr. Giovanni Pontes); Fr Woodbury led a brief prayer at the start of the meeting.
- II. Sharing and Updates — Participants updated each other on various items, including:
 - A. Changes at Dehon House in Ottawa (Daly) — Fr. Tennyson noted some of the changes that are taking place at the community house in Ottawa. Fr. Greg Murray recently moved in and Fr. Tennyson, local superior of Ottawa, plans to be in the house within the next few weeks. The community is updating much of the house (painting, repairs, removal of unused items, purchase of new furniture where needed) and creating new routines to reflect a new community.
 - B. Séminaire du Sacré-Coeur — During the past year the SCJs’ school in Pointe-au-Chêne, Quebec, faced challenges with its director and board. Much of that has been addressed; new people have been put in positions of leadership. Fr. Woodbury said that there is a better spirit in the school than there had been.
 - C. Toronto community — Fr. Warsito, local superior of Toronto, noted several events, including the recent Hispanic dinner at St. Thomas More parish (the parish has dinners that feature various ethnic groups represented at the church), the visit of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Our Lady of the Rosary parish (OLR has a significant Portuguese community), the upcoming visit (November 21) of David Schimmel (US Province director of Dehonian Associates) to discuss the establishment of a Dehonian Associates group in Toronto, and a Dehonian-based day of recollection for youth in Toronto drawing from St. Thomas More, Our Lady of the Rosary, UKI (Indonesian Catholic community) and Becoming Neighbors (migrant outreach organization) that will take place December 10.
 - D. Mission Education, Mississippi community and SHSM — Fr. Kurps spoke about Mission Education, which took place the previous week in Mississippi. The theme was “Mercy in Mission.” This was the second time that Sacred Heart Southern Missions hosted the event (it did so previously 10 years earlier). Fr. Kurps shared the video that opened the conference; it featured a message from Fr. Heiner Wilmer, superior general. The event included an interview with “Fr. Dehon” (portrayed by David Schimmel), a presentation by Fr. Quang Nguyen on the economy, a first-hand experience of poverty in the Delta, local and historical music from the African American community, and several panel discussions that shared information and insights on various SHSM programs and ministries.

SHSM is planning a pilgrimage to Israel next year; benefactors and SHSM parishioners will be invited.

The Mississippi SCJ community has undergone significant changes in the past year: Fr. David Szatkowski and Fr. Bob Tucker moved to the formation program and Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec joined the Nesbit community and local pastoral team. Fr. Thi Pham was named local superior and pastoral team moderator.
 - E. South Dakota — Fr. Hendrik noted that he will have been in South Dakota for seven years as of January. He said that he has learned that one needs to be patient when making change. Fr. Hendrik has tried to offer more opportunities for Dehonian traditions and spirituality in the parishes, including Adoration. The pastoral team serves parishes in two dioceses on two sides of the Missouri River. Fr. Hendrik is pastor to one side and Fr. Vincent Suparman is pastor to the other. Fr. Joseph Dean helps in both areas, as do SCJs from St. Joseph’s Indian School. There is a good spirit in the SCJ community; members gather regularly.
 - F. Vocations — One candidate has been accepted for the US Province since the last NORAM meeting and two men are in the process of preparing for admissions.
 - G. Sacred Heart at SHML — Fr. Q. Nguyen is local superior of Sacred Heart at SHML (floors 1-3). He noted the increasing challenges that aging members face and the community’s response in meeting their needs. Br. John Monek, who has been in

residence at the Congregational Home, is going to Sacred Heart at SHML for a two-week trial to see he can live there, with assistance, full time. The community is seeking ways to help members live in community longer.

- H. Requirements of bishops — Br. Presto noted the increased challenges that he faces as provincial secretary in meeting the changing requirements of bishops in regards to granting faculties.

He also said that he will be one of the presenters at the secretaries workshop in Rome later this year.

- I. Fr. Kilianski — This is a busy time of travel for Fr. Kilianski. He was recently in Chicago for the installation of Fr. David Szatkowski as local superior, in Mississippi for Mission Education, and in South Dakota for board meetings. After the NORAM meeting he will be in San Antonio for CMSM meetings, on a pilgrimage to Ireland with province donors, back in Mississippi for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Christ the King parish, and then in Rome for the Major Superiors meeting. In December he will give a retreat to the Sacred Heart community in Pinellas Park; he was to have given the retreat during Lent but cancelled following the death of Fr. Ray Vega.

Fr. Kilianski said that one of the highlights of his summer was taking part in the Canadian Regional Assembly; it was good to get to know members of the community better.

- J. Fr. John van den Hengel — Fr. van den Hengel noted several items from the region. New local superiors — SCJs who have never served in the role — are in all three communities. The SCJs are now ministering to a three-parish pastoral unit in Montréal that includes one of the oldest churches in the city. The community hopes to be fully entrusted with the parish cluster by the beginning of 2017. As Fr. Woodbury noted, there have been significant challenges at the school in Pointe-au-Chêne. Due to discord, enrollment has been down which has resulted in a budget shortfall. The region is considering installing a pastoral agent in the school. It is hoped that Séminaire du Sacré-Coeur can remain in the framework of Sacred Heart Schools in Collaboration.

Fr. van den Hengel echoed much of what Fr. Tennyson said earlier about the Ottawa community; the group meets weekly and has made a strong effort to create a renewed community together. The SCJs have left Resurrection of Our Lord parish; Fr. Greg Murray is now associate pastor at Good Shepherd parish and working part time in vocations for the region. Fr. Tennyson is chaplain at Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre in Ottawa.

The region has been working on a ten-year plan. As with Fr. Kilianski, Fr. van den Hengel will be at the Major Superiors meeting in Rome. He will also travel to Mississippi in November to speak at parishes about the Year of Mercy.

- III. Minutes from the May 2, 2016 NORAM meeting — The councils took a few minutes to review the minutes of their last meeting. Items discussed following the review:

- A. Maison Dehon — Fr. Gustave Lulendo and Br. Dieudonne Tchouteau did a significant cleaning of the building that once housed Maison Dehon. There are now good meeting spaces, as well as comfortable guest accommodations.
- B. US visitations — Fr. Kilianski talked about the template used for the visitations in the US Province. Each visitation begins with a community gathering and prayer. Following the individual meetings the community gathers together again and Fr. Kilianski shares some of what he has heard and observed during the visit. In the follow-up letter to the superior Fr. Kilianski asks what steps the community will take to address the theme of the visitation (last year the theme was community life; this year it will be the vow of poverty). Fr. Kilianski has heard positive feedback on the visitation style.
- C. Refugees — All three communities in the Canadian Region have made a commitment to either directly or in collaboration with a parish sponsor a refugee family. The SCJ community in Ottawa is working with parishioners from Resurrection of Our Lord parish and the Sunday worship group at Dehon House to sponsor a family from Syria. The first member of the family arrived a month ago and stayed with the SCJs until an apartment could be found. The rest of the family was to arrive on October 24.

The Montréal community will work with the parishes to sponsor a family and the Toronto community is in the initial process of sponsorship.

Fr. van den Hengel noted that refugees sponsored by church groups receive more significant accompaniment than those who are simply sponsored by the government. Volunteers from the church groups meet the refugee(s) at the airport, set them up

in an apartment, help them navigate the various offices and forms, and in general, assist them in learning about and feeling welcome in their new home.

Financial guidelines are given for sponsorship; the Ottawa community has financial responsibility for the refugee family for one year. This includes lodging and living expenses that generally run between \$30,000 - \$35,000. Fr. van den Hengel said that accompaniment is a much more challenging investment than the money. Working with the refugees has brought the community in Ottawa closer together. He suggested that such sponsorship would be a wonderful way for parishes (in both the US and Canada) to open the minds of others and bring people together.

IV. Further issues — The councils spoke about some of the significant issues with which they are currently occupied:

- A. Procure in Montréal — Nicole Béland, a lay person who has worked with the procure for many years, was appointed to succeed Fr. Claude Bédard as director. This is the first time that a lay person has served as director. Fr. Bédard will continue to assist with writing.
- B. Ten Year Plan — Fr. Tennyson spoke about the Canadian Region's work on developing a ten-year plan. He noted that the General Council asked for a six-year plan but that regional leadership felt that it needed to look further ahead as it prepares for its future.

In preparation for the Regional Assembly the three communities (Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal) responded to a questionnaire that asked each to review its present composition and ministries. Where would the community be in ten years? In view of that future, what projects does it hope to maintain at all costs? Would the present community in its make-up still be viable? What in the communities will need strengthening; what needs to be re-visioned, what provisions would need to be made regarding the members, the house, finances, care and support? Each of the communities presented its vision at the Assembly.

Areas of focus noted: refugees and migrants, vocation ministry, the Indonesian community in Toronto, regional leadership, welcoming students of other entities, retaining viable Dehonian communities, remaining relevant, integration of new (often international) members, sharing Dehonian spirituality with others and promoting the Dehonian Family.

Community life was one of the most significant priorities identified by the region at the Assembly. Each of the three communities is seeking ways to enhance community life. Fr. Tennyson gave the example of his own community in Ottawa. The SCJs there now meet each Wednesday. They began by sharing their personal histories, getting to know each other better. The community is starting to look at its future — will it be able to maintain the house on Daly? As with families, will the community need to look at downsizing at some point? What needs to be done to keep the community viable? Working together, enhancing both the physical environment of the community and the interactions of its members has made a significant difference in just a few months.

In preparing for its future the region has named younger people to roles in leadership. All three communities have new local superiors. For the first time, an international member of the region is on the regional council.

The bilingual reality of the region continues to be addressed. Having a regional superior who is able to communicate in both French and English is a priority.

The ten-year plan is still being developed but Fr. Tennyson said that the exercise has been invaluable for the region. There are not firm bullet points to the plan but instead a greater sense of direction for the region. Fr. van den Hengel said that there is more of a sense of purpose in the region.

- C. Financial tasks in the Canadian Region — The regional treasurer, Fr. Maurice Légaré, has health concerns that have prevented him from keeping up with some of the region's financial concerns. The region will soon seek assistance from a lay person with financial background.
- D. US Province response to General Plan — Fr. Kilianski noted that Fr. Kurps led the council through a reflective process in September to help it formulate a response to the General Plan. Councilors looked at what the province is currently doing and what it hoped to do in the future. The response was based on the three priorities of the General Plan: 1) Marks of Mercy in Formation, 2) Marks of Mercy with the Poor, and 3) Marks of Mercy in Evangelization.

In preparing its response the Provincial Council reflected on the local communities' input to the General Council's first task from the General Plan: "By April 4, 2016, before the General Council begins its meetings for the spring session, list the five

actions that can be immediately started in your entity in this year.”

- E. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Kilianski noted that SHSST’s president-rector’s contract is not being renewed; a new candidate is being sought for the next academic year. Part of the reason for the non-renewal is the desire of the US council to strengthen the Dehonian charism in the seminary; a diocesan priest was hired as president-rector five years ago when the province was unable to find a suitable SCJ candidate for the job. Fr. Kilianski has been in contact with other entities in the congregation, as well as the general administration, to see if an SCJ from outside the US Province might be available. Several names have surfaced.

It is hoped that SHSST can become a more valuable resource to the entire congregation. Seminarians from other entities could study at SHSST; the ESL program could also be enhanced.

Fr. Kilianski will bring brochures about SHSST and the president-rector’s position to the Major Superiors meeting in Rome.

The council would also like to strengthen the Sacred Heart Monastery community as a way of enhancing the SCJ presence at SHSST.

- F. Novitiate — Fr. Kilianski said that Fr. Byron Haaland has been appointed as the novice master for the US Province; the council is seeking someone to assist him. The location of the next novitiate has not been determined; several properties between Milwaukee and Chicago are being investigated. It is hoped that the novitiate can be separate from already established SCJ communities but close enough for interaction and inter-community novitiate programs. The US Province may have up to four novices next year.

V. North American Theological Commission

- A. Establishment of commission — Each continent has established a theological commission. Members of these commissions will take part in the July, 2017, theological seminar to be held in Indonesia. “Charism and Devotions — creating an inculturated Dehonian identity” is the theme of the seminar.

The NORAM councils agreed to establish a North American Theological Commission. Its members: Fr. Charles Brown, Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec, Fr. Gustave Lulendo and Fr. John van den Hengel (chairperson). Fr. van den Hengel will inform the General Theological Commission about the establishment of the North American commission.

- B. Questionnaire — The General Theological Commission created a questionnaire to help it prepare for the 2017 seminar. One of the first tasks of the North American Theological Commission is to formulate a response to the questionnaire, seeking the input of all SCJs and candidates in North America. The councilors reviewed the questionnaire and suggested that it be revised to be more reflective of a North American mindset. The objective of the seminar is to better understand how Fr. Dehon lived his faith and how he approached the mystery of God in devotional patterns. How do SCJs define “devotions” today? How are they expressed? Are devotions limited to the traditional expressions such as the “40 hours” or the “Sorrowful Mother Novena” or are devotions expressed in a wider spiritual dimension, a “devotion to people” through social outreach.

Should the questionnaire define what is meant by “devotion” or should it invite SCJs to define what it means to them?

Fr. Hendrik noted the cultural differences in how devotions are expressed in his home country of Indonesia compared to the United States. It is important to look at devotions in a multicultural context, especially when an SCJ may be from one entity but serve in another (as is the case for Fr. Hendrik).

The congregation began with a European-based culture. How will faith-expression change within the congregational as it becomes more greatly influenced by confreres in Asia, Africa and South America?

Fr. van den Hengel and Fr. Kurps will adapt the text of the General Theological Commission’s questionnaire for a North American audience. Mary Gorski will create a SurveyMonkey questionnaire, as well as a PDF, and send it to SCJs in the US and Canada by October 24. The deadline for response will be within two weeks. A reminder will be sent a week prior to the deadline and a reminder will be placed in *Fridge Notes*. The short timeline is important so that input can be reviewed prior to the General Theological Commission meeting in December. Fr. van den Hengel will be present at that meeting.

- VI. Dehon Study Center — Fr. van den Hengel, Fr. Jim Schroeder and David Schimmel did an initial review of the center’s materi-

als in September. Mr. Schimmel has agreed to serve as part-time director with an advisory board that will include Frs. van den Hengel and Schroeder as well as Fr. Charles Brown and perhaps a younger SCJ.

The US council reviewed and approved a proposal for the center that was developed by Mr. Schimmel; the proposal is in the September 2016 *Cor Unum* of the US Province. Fr. van den Hengel said that the objective of the center needs to be further defined. Can it be linked to the Centro Studi Dehoniani in Rome?

Fr. Brown is drawing up a proposal regarding a move of the center from Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake to the Leo Dehon Library at SHSST. One of the reasons for this is to bring a greater Dehonian presence to the library and the seminary.

VII. NORAM Executive Committee — To ensure that ideas surfaced during the twice-yearly NORAM gatherings don't sit dormant in the minutes of those meetings, the councils of each entity voted (separately) to establish an executive committee that includes the two superiors and vice-superiors of each entity. This group will be in communication throughout the year to follow-up on topics surfaced at the meetings.

VIII. Dehonian Family — The councils talked about the wider concept of the Dehonian Family and how the newly developing Dehonian Associates groups fit into that. A group has begun meeting in Mississippi using a version of the Spiritual Path adapted by David Schimmel for North America. As noted earlier, Mr. Schimmel will be meeting with SCJs in Toronto to discuss implementation of the program there.

In defining what is meant by the "Dehonian Family," most agreed that it is the umbrella under which sit all who follow the Dehonian charism, including SCJs, lay groups and religious communities inspired by Fr. Dehon.

Fr. Kurps spoke about his experience of the Dehonian Associates group in Mississippi. There had been extensive discussion as to whether it was appropriate to open the group to non-Catholics. With Eucharist being such an important part of the Dehonian charism could a non-Catholic really embrace it? Fr. Kurps' experience of having non-Catholics in the group has been very positive; he said that he heard people of other faiths speak of the concept of the Lord's Supper as a lived experience of Jesus that is in tune with the Dehonian charism.

Fr. Kurps added that the program works best with groups no larger than a dozen people. The concept of what it means to be a Lay Dehonian is still being refined. The original plan at the general level called for a four-year program before a person could be invited to become a Lay Dehonian. This seems too lengthy in a North American context. The current program used in the US Province calls for one year of meetings. Materials found in the next three years of the Spiritual Path could be used as topics for further discussion and formation.

A meeting of the Dehonian Family is to take place in Rome in 2017. The councils need to determine who will attend; they agreed that David Schimmel should be there. It would also be good to have someone from the Mississippi group and perhaps from the parish in Toronto if a Dehonian Associates program begins there. Should an SCJ go or could David Schimmel serve as the SCJ representative from North America?

IX. Immigration and migration

A. Migrant workers — Connie Sorio of KAIROS gave a presentation on the issues of migrant workers. KAIROS is an ecumenical social justice organization of 11 churches and religious organizations. Fr. Peter McKenna, who works with Becoming Neighbors (an immigrant and refugee support organization based in Toronto), facilitated the presentation.

Following a brief prayer, Ms. Sorio shared her own immigration story. She came to Canada from the Philippines in 1989 after experiencing human rights abuses. During her presentation she emphasized that most of the world's migrants leave their homes not by choice. Conflict and natural disasters are key reasons for displacement. Those who leave for economic reasons often do so because there are few options in their homeland to support their families. Because of this, migrant workers are often taken advantage of, often coming to a new country without any of the rights of that country's citizens. Their well-being is tied almost totally to their employer. Government policies can exacerbate the situation.

Ms. Sorio emphasized that people of faith must intercede, not just in regards to policy, but in the daily lives of the migrant workers. One place to start is in the local community, building relationships between migrant workers and the communities in which they serve. It is important to make migrants visible, to help others see them as individuals, not just as an anonymous group.

She concluded her presentation by inviting SCJs to donate money to KAIROS to help further its efforts in addressing the concerns of migrant workers.

- B. North American Immigration Committee — The NORAM Immigration Committee developed as a response to the 2013 North American Conference. Among the group's work was a book titled *The North American Dehonian Story of Immigration* that included the personal immigration stories of SCJs, as well as others. The committee also facilitated discussions in local communities about immigration.

Established as an ad hoc committee, its mandate came to an end. The councils, at their October 2016 meeting, committed themselves to reestablishing the committee to continue to help SCJs in North America maintain their focus on immigration and migration. Membership of the committee will include members of the initial group (Fr. Peter McKenna, Fr. Tony Russo and Fr. Richard MacDonald) as well as new voices. Fr. van den Hengel suggested that Karen Mahoney of Resurrection of Our Lord parish in Ottawa be a part of the committee; she has been instrumental in facilitating the sponsorship of refugee families by the parish and now, by the SCJ community in Ottawa. Fr. Jan de Jong has volunteered to be on the committee, and Mark Peters, JPR director of the US Province, could also serve. Fr. Louis Marie Butari of Montréal was also suggested for the committee.

Fr. McKenna asked that a member of one of the North American councils serve as a liaison to the committee to maintain communication. Instead of having a councilor sit on the committee the councils decided that a representative from the committee could visit with the administrations during their combined meetings. In-between, a committee representative could also meet with the individual councils.

Fr. Richard MacDonald and Fr. Peter McKenna were named co-chairs of the North American Immigration Committee. Fr. Kilianski will contact Fr. MacDonald and Fr. van den Hengel will contact Fr. McKenna. The co-chairs will be asked to reorganize the committee and suggest that they plan for a meeting in the near future. The co-chairs, or a representative from the committee, should plan to meet with the councils at their next combined meeting (spring, 2017).

Previously it was suggested that the immigration committee develop a workshop on immigration issues. Instead of a separate workshop the committee will be asked to develop something to include in both the US and Canadian Assemblies in 2017.

X. Youth ministry and vocations

- A. Toronto — Fr. Warsito shared a report on youth ministry in Toronto. The Thomas More Youth Group is for people aged 14-25; there is also "Unidos Por Cristo," an Hispanic youth group for people aged 16-21. A third group, Young Adults for Christ, is for people aged 19-39; it works in partnership with Faith Connections to connect young adults throughout Toronto. A small Neo-Catechumenal youth group for people age 15-25 meets at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Toronto. At the SCJs' Our Lady of the Rosary parish there is no formal youth group but approximately 20 young people are active in parish ministries; Fr. Warsito said that with proper leadership a youth group could be formed at OLR.

The SCJs also minister to Indonesian youth through UKI. Fr. Warsito said that there is potential to develop four groups which are divided by age, location and preferred language. Currently, most activities through UKI revolve around Bible study.

The goal is to develop a Dehonian ministry that welcomes youth from all of the groups noted. The diocese has offered money to fund a youth ministry position but an appropriate candidate has not been found to fill it. Students from the US Province formation program have assisted with youth retreats at St. Thomas More and will continue to do so in the future.

- B. Vocations — The councils stated that there should be collaborative efforts in vocations. Fr. Greg Murray has been appointed as part-time vocation director for the Canadian Region; Fr. Yuliwan Maslim is the vocation contact for Toronto and Br. Dieudonne Tchouteau is the contact person in Montréal. Fr. van den Hengel will ask the Canadian vocation personnel to get in touch with Fr. Q. Nguyen, US vocation director, to discuss ways of collaboration. Fr. Nguyen noted that Fr. PJ McGuire put a booklet together about the history of the congregation; perhaps it could be adapted for use in Canada.

- XI. Local superiors workshop — A workshop for the local superiors of both the US and Canada will be held in Hales Corners March 14 (beginning with dinner on March 13). Fr. van den Hengel was invited by Fr. Kilianski to attend. The US council plans to talk about details of the workshop at their November meeting.

XII. North American Dehonian retreats — Fr. van den Hengel said that plans are coming together for the retreats. Approximately 30-40 SCJs will be at each retreat; French translation will be available at the Mississauga gathering. The retreats will be a mix of large and small group activities as well as time for private reflection. They will begin Monday morning and end Friday evening. Mary Gorski was asked to send an updated list of registrants to members of the retreat planning committee and members of the two councils. The retreat planning committee will meet again in March.

XIII. Next meeting — The North American councils will hold their next meeting on May 15, gathering for dinner on May 14. The US Province will have a council meeting May 16-17. Fr. Q. Nguyen reminded those who need rooms at SHML to let him know.

Minutes of the 866th Provincial Council Meeting Held by Conference Call September 22, 2016

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Duy Nguyen, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Mary Gorski, recording secretary.

- I. Minutes — The council voted to approve the minutes of the 865th Province Council meeting.
- II. Administration
 - A. Fr. Francois Tsonga — Fr. Kilianski informed the council that Fr. Tsonga, a Cameroonian SCJ serving in Texas, has a green card. When his service is complete in Texas Fr. Tsonga will join a province community.
 - B. Fr. Thi Pham — Fr. Pham agreed to serve as chairman of the 2017 Province Assembly organizing committee.
 - C. Religious habit — Fr. Jim Schroeder contacted the formation directors regarding scholastics wearing a religious habit. Fr. Wayne Jenkins was asked by Fr. Kilianski to get background information on the use of the habit in the congregation. Fr. Jenkins was unable to find any reference in materials from the 1979 General Chapter or in the current editions of the Constitutions that prohibits the use of a religious habit by SCJs or seminarians.
 - D. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — The SHSST executive board of directors has developed a timeline for the president-rector search. Fr. Kilianski noted that there had been a rumor that the province planned to close the seminary. In response, he sent a memo to the seminary community expressing the province's commitment to SHSST, noting that the council's desire to find an SCJ to serve as president-rector is an example of the province's continued commitment to the school. The memo was well received.
 - E. US Province response to General Plan — The council reviewed the draft of the response to the General Plan. This was developed following discussions that took place during the first morning of the US council meeting. Councilors approved the response and asked that it be forwarded to the General Curia.
 - F. Election Assembly — Sr. Cathy Bertrand has been asked to serve as the facilitator of the 2018 Election Assembly. Election bylaws call for an SCJ of another entity to serve as a canonical witness. It was suggested that a member of the Canadian Region be asked. The council will discuss this at its November meeting.
- III. Novice master — The council voted to appoint Fr. Byron Haaland as novice master for the US Province for a term of five years. An assistant novice master will be sought during the months ahead. The council continues to look at various locations to house the novitiate.

Notes from the Justice, Peace & Reconciliation Commission Meeting **November 22, 2016 • Provincialate Offices, Hales Corners, WI**

Present: Fr. John Czyzynski, Fr. Wayne Jenkins, Fr. Johnny Klingler, Mark Peters; (by phone) Fr. Bob Bossie, Frater Joseph Vu, Fr. Greg Schill

Meeting began with member updates and a prayer for after the election. We especially remembered the “water-protectors” protesting at Standing Rock and the violence that has been unleashed on them by the authorities.

Commission Response to Provincial Council: We agreed to send an email to Fr. Ed (cc'd to the rest of the council) asking for follow-up on the areas of Formation, Assembly planning, engaging the laity, and regular meetings between the Director and the Provincial Superior and/or other members of the council. Mark will get a draft out to the group for approval. In terms of the laity, we will start by asking for Ed to suggest one apostolate for us to work with, and to open the door for us to a discussion with SCJ leaders or designees there.

Evaluation of SET luncheon and addressing Council grant concerns: Unfortunately, no members of the council attended, but Br. Ben Humpfer did and had a very good experience. The timing was not good for the councilors, but we will try to offer more opportunities for them and other SCJs to learn more about other groups we sponsor. In terms of the council's concerns about SCJ connections to these groups, Mark will also draft a message to the Council explaining that we are confused by this since our new criteria was approved about a year ago, and attempting to clarify what they mean by “SCJ involvement” and whether that includes the Director's involvement. Mark will ask if the Council wishes to meet with us further on this before we send out grant applications in January.

The Commission was in agreement that the JPR newsletter would become a 2-3 times/month mailing on the order of recent “Updates,” much shorter and focused. Special attention will be given to interviews with people working in our apostolates, both to highlight what is happening but also to engage with the interviewee with some social analysis of the problems being addressed by their ministry and asking them how the Director or Commission might resource them. Mark will acknowledge that this is in response to hearing that some SCJs have felt that their work in direct service was viewed by members of the JPR Commission as secondary to efforts toward systemic change and express our conviction that both are equally important part of a “continuum” of a full Gospel response to suffering and oppression. We are hoping that this could be a focus of all or part of our piece at the Assembly next June as well.

Mark will also work on providing more social justice resources for the Province and its members, which could include things like the CMSM Homily Reflections, seasonal resources from Pax Christi, etc., or things he might develop on his own, such as a glossary of social justice terminology, basics of CST, guidelines for forming JPR committees at the parish level, etc.

Mark also noted that immigration reform is back on the front-burner with the upcoming Trump administration, and the Commission directed him to inform Peter McKenna and Dick MacDonald that he will be focusing on it occasionally in the coming months, unless the new Migration Commission has other plans. Time did not permit discussion of how we might continue to raise consciousness about racial justice and climate change, but we agreed that as a Commission these are two issues that simply cannot be ignored even if they aren't “top-priority” issues for the province.

Mark mentioned his continuing activity with Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment and suggested a joint meeting with the Finance Commission to discuss overlapping issues such as social screening of investments, possible divestment over “dirty energy” and Palestinian human rights violations, as well as our grant program and its funding levels.

We tentatively scheduled our next meeting for Jan. 11 & 12 in Houston. Mark will contact Fr. Duy to see if the timing would allow us to meet with the community there as well as visit some of our funded sites. If so, our plan would be to fly in on Tuesday night the 10th and stay through Thursday morning the 12th.

CALENDAR

2017

January 3-6:	International Communications Meeting, Rome
February 7-8:	Provincial Council Meeting
March 13-14:	Local Superiors Meeting for North America (dinner and check-in March 13; meeting all day on March 14)
March 15:	Provincial Council Meeting
April 25-26:	Provincial Council Meeting
May 1-5:	Meeting of Entity Treasurers, Rome
May 12-17:	Dehonian Family Meeting, Rome
June 5:	Province Jubilee Celebration
June 5-9:	Province Assembly
June 27:	Provincial Council Meeting by conference call, 11 a.m. central (formation requests)
July 20-25:	International Dehonian Theological Conference, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
November 12-25:	Colloquium of Major Superiors, Rome

2018

January 1 - May 17:	Treasurers Course, Rome
January 18-23:	Meeting of Dehonian Bishops, Rome
April 16-20:	Meeting of Rectors, Rome
June 18-22:	US Province Election Assembly, Hales Corners
July 14-28:	General Conference, Philippines
October 1 - June 30	Formators Course, Rome

UPDATES

Fr. Giovanni Pontes, SCJ

After several months assisting at St. Thomas More Parish in suburban Toronto he has returned to Brazil.

Fr. Wojciech Adamczyk, SCJ

2405 Navigation Blvd.
Houston, TX 77003-1599

Fr. Louis-Marie Butari, SCJ

He is now a member of the Canadian Region

NECROLOGY

Fr. Giuseppe Civerra, a member of the South Italian Province, died on September 21. He was born in 1926, professed in 1945 and ordained in 1953.

Fr. Joaquín Imaz Valencia, a member of the Spanish Province, died October 16. He was born in 1933, professed in 1950 and ordained in 1959.

Fr. Thomas McShane of the British-Irish Province died November 5. He was born in 1930, professed in 1951 and ordained in **1956**.

Fr. Jean Geisen of the Franco-European Province, died on November 10. He was born in 1942, professed in 1963 and ordained in 1970.

Fr. Joannes J.T. Eijkman of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation died on November 11. He was born in 1933, professed in 1955 and ordained in 1960.

Fr. Laudelino Roecker, a member of the South Brazilian Province, died December 9. He was born in 1950, professed in 1973 and ordained in 1978.