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Minutes of the 875th Provincial Council Meeting August 29-30, 2017, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Quang Nguyen and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Fr. Thomas Knoebel for discussion of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Kelly Kornacki for discussion of the ESL program; Frs. Byron Haaland, Andrzej Sudol, David Szatkowski and Bob Tucker for discussion of formation; Br. Duane Lemke for discussion of the State of the Province Report; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Duy Nguyen excused due to Hurricane Harvey.

- I. Extended prayer and check-in — The council spent the first morning at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake in extended prayer.
- II. Administration
 - A. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Tom Knoebel, SHSST president-rector, visited with the council, as he will periodically throughout the school year.
 1. Enrollment — Fr. Knoebel noted that there will be 123 students on campus at the opening of the 2017-18 school year; this includes seminarians (M.Div. candidates), MA students, those in the ESL program and students in the new Cor Unum MA program. There are also several students connected to the seminary on leaves of absence; most seminaries include students on LOA as a part of their enrollment. With the LOA students SHSST has 141 students; Sacred Heart continues to be in the top ten seminaries in the country by enrollment. The total number of students from St. Francis de Sales Seminary is 41. There are 22 new M.Div. students this year.
 2. Remote MA program — The seminary is investigating the possibility of creating an MA program that can be done remotely by students in India. The first year would be done via Skype; the second year, students would be on campus.
 3. Dehonian charism — Dr. Robert Gotcher is SHSST Director of Mission; this position was created to ensure that the Dehonian charism is well integrated in the life of the school. Plans for the upcoming year include incorporating the Dehonian charism in school liturgies, noting and celebrating special days in the Dehonian calendar (such as the feast of Blessed Juan María de la Cruz), a Dehonian meditation during Adoration, regular petitions for the Priests of the Sacred Heart, reminders about the availability of the Ordo from the Province Development Office, posting a Dehonian quote of the week on the lobby monitor, sharing the *Dehonian Spirituality* publication with staff and students, exploring possibilities for a faculty development session on Dehonian pedagogy, and a regular “Dehonian Minute” at faculty council meetings. Also, David Schimmel, province director of Dehonian Associates, has been contacted about leading the ten-session introductory Dehonian Associates program.
 4. Honoring Fr. Charles Yost — The library would like to memorialize Fr. Yost, honoring his many years of work with the Leo Dehon Library. Initially, it was suggested that the library be renamed in his honor. However, councilors preferred to leave the library’s name as it is, in honor of the founder. Fr. Knoebel was asked to talk with library staff about dedicating a section of the library or perhaps a collection in Fr. Yost’s name. Fr. Knoebel will bring the topic back to the October council meeting.

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5. Strategic plan — As a part of accreditation requirements the strategic plan for the seminary must be reviewed every three years. The review team includes the provincial superior, the chairperson of the SHSST board and three to four seminary administrators. Fr. Knoebel suggested that an outside facilitator be hired to lead the review, as has been done in the past. The rector's office will work with Fr. Kilianski to determine a meeting schedule; the process is expected to require four to five meetings.
 6. Collaboration with St. Francis de Sales Seminary — Fr. Knoebel reported that he had a pleasant meeting with representatives from St. Francis regarding collaboration between the two seminaries.
 7. Construction — Dn. Nagel said that Phase I of the remodeling of the building that houses both SHSST and Sacred Heart Monastery is scheduled to begin in mid-September. Phase II will most likely start in mid-October.
 8. Communication — Fr. Knoebel said that the seminary is in the process of clarifying lines of communication. He does not want to prevent people from coming to Fr. Kilianski, but as much as possible, seminary issues and concerns should be dealt with at the seminary. Also, Fr. Knoebel is reviewing the process regarding public statements that come from faculty, staff and students. If a statement is made that gives the impression that it speaks for the seminary he, as rector, would like to review it. The council encouraged him to make province administration (including the communications director) aware of statements or other activities that might create public attention.
 9. Vision statement — Fr. Knoebel shared the written text of his vision statement for SHSST that he had given to faculty and staff at the beginning of the school year. He offered to share the text with members of the province.
 10. SCJ Community at SHSST — The SCJs in the SHM community, and others who interact with SHSST regularly, have been a very positive presence on campus. Many of the ESL students spoke highly of Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Br. Duane Lemke in regards to their time in ESL. Both SCJs were invited to and took part in the seminary staff days; their presence was well appreciated.
- B. ESL Program — Fr. Yvon Sheehy (residential coordinator) and Kelly Kornacki (academic director) of the ESL program visited with the council.
1. Enrollment — The first ESL summer session had 47 students that represented 16 countries. Already, there have been many inquiries about the program for next summer. There are 14 students in the second session; five recently arrived, more are coming in October and November. Brazil sends the largest number of students.
 2. Atmosphere — The summer students expressed their gratitude to many for the sense of welcome that they felt in the local SCJ community and from others connected with the province and SHSST. Ms. Kornacki expressed her personal gratitude to Fr. Sheehy and Br. Lemke for their efforts in making the program a success and helping the students to feel a part of the local community. There were weekly field trips to historical and cultural sites, and to cities near Milwaukee. Each Sunday ESL students were invited to attend a different parish so that they could get a sense of worship communities throughout the area.
 3. ESL in Brazil — An SCJ student from Brazil asked if there might be interest in holding ESL classes in Brazil so that more students could attend earlier in their formation. Later, ESL graduates might be able to serve in assignments in the US Province. This is a recent suggestion that hasn't gone beyond the discussion stage.
 4. Visa issues — Occasionally international students have difficulty getting a visa for studies. Sometimes, this is the result of simply misunderstanding the process. Fr. Kilianski asked if Ms. Kornacki could work with others to compile an FAQ about the visa process including timelines, necessary documents, and questions a potential student may be asked during the visa interview process. He would like to share this with major superiors at their meeting in November in Rome.
 5. Age limit — The minimum age for an ESL student has been set at 18 to comply with SHSST accreditation standards.
 6. Identification — It is important that students be properly identified. A religious community's initials (such as "SCJ") should not appear after a student's name unless he is in vows. If he is a candidate, it can be noted that he is sponsored by the SCJs, or is a candidate with XYZ Province. Also, only those in vows should be referred to as "brother." Priests are listed as "Fr." or "Rev."

7. Concelebration — Priests in good standing may concelebrate within a community house, such as Sacred Heart Monastery, without requesting faculties from the local bishop. At St. Martin of Tours, the pastor can give permission for concelebration, noting that the student is participating as a part of his educational program (working to improve his English skills in a parish setting). Outside of these limited situations, a priest must request faculties to concelebrate.

C. Mission Statement — The vice secretary general, Fr. Radek Warenda, sent a letter to the major superiors and secretaries about the congregation's new mission statement. A website has been created to share information about the statement (www.openheartandmind.org). The purpose of the letter was to inform entities about the website and ask them to help make the mission statement known, especially through visible items such as tee shirts and mugs. A logo with the theme "Open Heart and Mind" is available for download from the website. This can be used to print on items in an entity. Fr. Warenda also reminded the superiors and secretaries that in an earlier letter Fr. Heiner Wilmer, superior general, asked entities to begin to transition to use of the common title "Dehonians." The International Communications Commission hopes to produce an identity package around a common logo and name later in the year.

Tee shirts with the Open Heart and Mind logo were worn by several ESL students; some entities are beginning to print and share them. Perhaps the tee shirts are something that could be given out at vocation events? Fr. Q. Nguyen said that the vocation office has a lot of materials and that he would like to use those before creating new items.

Fr. Kurps said that the logo would work well on a tee shirt for volunteers in Mississippi. He will consider printing some.

As for the Mission Statement itself, more efforts will be made to share the statement with the membership, as well as the website. In the future, materials from the development offices of the province may include information about the statement.

Mary Gorski is a member of the International Communications Commission. The commission has a meeting the week before the North American councils meeting. Most likely there will be more information at that meeting about the Mission Statement and how it will be disseminated. It is hoped that she can update both councils at the NORAM meeting in Montréal.

D. Election Assembly

1. Bylaws — Br. Presto shared the draft of the bylaws for the 2018 US Province Election Assembly. Of note: 1) the bylaws have been grouped by topic, 2) dates by which each task is to be completed have been included (councilors suggested that all dates be boldfaced and in the same format), and 3) footnotes and citations have been removed to make the document more readable.

Councilors reviewed the list of those who do not have full voting rights. These include SCJs who serve in the province but who are not members, as well as those whose Power of Attorney for Health Care has been activated.

Councilors will review the document before their October meeting and vote on it at that time.

2. State of the Province — At the last meeting the council set up a committee to suggest a creative and effective method for sharing the State of the Province. Br. Duane Lemke, Br. Joseph Vu and Br. Andy Gancarczyk were named to the committee; Mary Gorski was later asked to assist. Br. Lemke met with the council to share the group's idea for the presentation; they suggest both a video and printed component. The video will involve video work by either Br. Gancarczyk or Br. Vu at each province location. Members of the committee will contact key persons in each area to learn whom they should speak to in regards to information needed for the report and to set up filming.

The committee asks that the council answer the following questions:

- a. Who will write the sheets that contain the supplemental information about an area to go with the video?
- b. Which internal apostolates should be featured? The committee identified the following list: Province Treasurer, Formation, Foreign Missions, Vocations, Senior Life, ESL, JPR and Province Health Care.
- c. Should each member receive an updated ID card with his supplemental folder?
- d. Who should the local contacts be? The committee identified contacts for each location in its outline to the council; are these the most appropriate people?

The council will have answers to these questions following their next conference call. Also, Fr. Kilianski will send a let-

ter to the US membership introducing the committee and noting that they will be contacting local communities for their assistance. They are working under the authority of the provincial to assist him in preparing the State of the Province Report.

Fr. Kilianski thanked Br. Lemke and the rest of the committee for its work and creativity.

- E. The provincial superior's annual letter — As he did last year on the anniversary of his installation as provincial superior, Fr. Kilianski plans to write a letter to the province in which he shares the highlights of the past year. He gave a draft of the letter to the council for input. One councilor noted that the letter is very much like a State of the Province, giving a good overview of the past year.

Councilors were asked to get corrections and/or suggestions to Fr Kilianski in the next few days. The letter is scheduled to be sent on September 18.

- F. Protecting the People of God — The province policy needs to be revised to incorporate the requirements of the congregational policy. Br. Frank shared a draft with proposed revisions. One of the more significant changes is that there is now a distinction when an allegation of abuse is made against a cleric or a non-cleric (non-clerics are divided into two groups: novices or those in temporary vows, and brothers or scholastics in final vows). The provincial superior initiates the investigative process in all cases; however, if the accused is a cleric the provincial superior must forward all materials, evidence, documentation and his votum to the general superior. The general superior is required to refer the entire dossier to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for its review and final determination. The accused cleric may not exercise public ministry or identify himself as a cleric until after the CDF has decided on the merits of the allegation.

Br. Presto also said that the US Province must determine which definition it will use to identify “sexual abuse.” The council agreed that it should continue to use the one established by “Instruments of Hope and Healing, 2016 edition.”

- G. Formation — Members of the formation team (Frs. Byron Haaland, Andrzej Sudol, David Szatkowski and Bob Tucker) joined the council for a dialogue on a variety of formation topics. Among the issues discussed: timelines for advancements in formation (rites of acolyte, reader; final vows; ordination), upcoming moves, and the new academic year in general. There are currently four candidates, two SCJs in temporary vows preparing for final vows, one brother in final vows doing priesthood studies, and two novices.

1. General updates — Each formator briefly updated the council on activities in his area. Fr. Haaland noted the challenge of starting the novitiate year with construction going on in the background. However, renovations are expected to be completed by mid-September. The novitiate community will join the Chicago community for most First Fridays; the inter-novitiate meetings begin the first week of September. The community will go to South Dakota in September for the annual American Indian Day at St. Joseph's Indian School.

Fr. Tucker spoke of the Chicago community's kick-off to the new academic year that included a boat tour and time together at Navy Pier. Fr. Szatkowski said that the house schedule has been revised so that Saturday mornings are always kept open for community functions. This may include house meetings, chores or hosting Come and See visitors.

There seems to be a good enthusiasm in the house for the new year, though there is some sense of tension regarding the upcoming moves both within the house (for some) and next year to Hales Corners.

Fr. Sudol spends most of his time in Chicago where he is a formator but is also completing studies at Catholic Theological Union. One day a week he is at the novitiate. He also noted the positive spirit in the house and that it is good to welcome Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas back from Brazil.

2. Advancements in formation — The Chicago formators were reminded that Br. Joseph Vu needs to submit the appropriate paperwork to request final vows. This should be done by September 22 so that the council can review it at its October 3 meeting. The request, which must be reviewed and voted on by the local house council, should include the time, date and location at which the final vows are requested to take place.

Fr. Kilianski and Fr. Szatkowski will work together outside of the council meeting to set dates for other advancements in formation. It was noted that Fr. Kilianski will be at the General Conference the last two weeks of July.

It was suggested that the postulancy ceremony take place in Chicago in January. Fr. Szatkowski and Fr. Kilianski will finalize a date. The postulants' retreat prior to the novitiate will be the formation retreat that is being organized by Fr. John van den Hengel, Fr. Jim Schroeder and David Schimmel.

3. Formation ratio — Both the formation handbooks and the province ratio need to be reviewed and updated. A committee has been formed to begin work on revising the province formation ratio so that it is in sync with the general ratio. Members of the committee: Fr. John Czyzynski, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Andrzej Sudol, Fr. David Szatkowski, Fr. Bob Tucker and Br. Frank Presto. Fr. Szatkowski is chairperson. The committee is expected to complete its work within the next year. Quarterly updates will be given to the council for review.

As a part of this conversation it was noted that more needs to be done to create distinctions in the stages of formation.

4. Upcoming moves — There will be challenges with the upcoming moves but the formation team said that it is committed to maintaining a positive spirit about the process. Fr. Q. Nguyen and Fr. Szatkowski will finalize details with Marquette University, SHSST and Cardinal Stritch University regarding the formation program's academic needs. The council reiterated its preference for Marquette University for the province's undergraduate students. However, some students may do coursework at Cardinal Stritch through its program with SHSST.

Fr. Szatkowski will begin to seek placement for unneeded items (such as chapel chairs) in the months ahead. Some things can be brought to Hales Corners for storage; there is some room at the development office.

5. Millennials — Fr. Kilianski spoke about a presentation at the recent CMSM conference about Millennials, loosely defined as people born between 1980 and 2000. Some have suggested that Millennials have difficulty making commitments, making decisions. Recently several men left formation; Fr. Kilianski asked if part of the reason for their departure was this difficulty with commitment that some Millennials have. If so, is there something that the province can do to help Millennials in formation work toward commitment? Are Millennials not finding the fulfillment that they seek when they are in the SCJ formation program?

Councilors discussed this with the formation team. There was agreement that commitment is a challenge, but not just for Millennials. Throughout the history of the province students have left formation programs. However, now that the programs have fewer students, departures are felt more significantly. It was noted that in previous generations some stayed in formation but later left after many years in vows. Commitment is not just a Millennial issue. People find dissatisfaction with the Church, or perhaps after discernment simply feel that they are not called to the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Is the community attractive to others?

Students who have done summer ministry in Mississippi have said that they felt that it was a powerful experience because they were in service to others and because the SCJ community was very present to them. Feeling a sense of support in community is vital to making a student (or any SCJ) feel committed to the community. A healthy community life is probably one of the most important things in helping a man develop his vocation and his commitment to the SCJs. Even time in the kitchen cooking together is a way to build community life. Opportunities need to be given for people to build bonds among each other, to create an identity of being part of something bigger than themselves.

6. Finances — All students who are not in final vows should be expected to seek financial aid for their education. The formation directors need to work with students to ensure that this is being done. It was noted that students who are on F-1 visas are not able to utilize the same financial resources as US citizens. However, each student should in some way take financial responsibility for his education. Once a person is in final vows his student expenses will be covered by the province.

- H. Jubilees — Next year's province jubilarians are Fr. Bryan Benoit (30 years), Fr. Bob Bossie and Br. Leonard Zaworski (50 years), and Fr. Tom Burns and Br. Matt Miles (60 years).

III. Personnel

- A. Fr. Mark Mastin — Funding for Fr. Mastin's position as a contract priest is being discontinued. Most likely he will leave the military and be available for assignment in October.

- B. Br. Joseph Vu — Br. Vu wrote a letter to Fr. Kilianski and the council noting that he will complete his final vows program on September 30 and that he would like to make his perpetual profession as a religious brother. Br. Vu will need to write a formal request to the provincial superior in which he states where and when he would like to make his perpetual profession. This needs to go to his local council for approval before being sent to the provincial superior and council.
- C. Fr. Joseph Dinh — Fr. Dinh will attend the congregation’s formation course in Rome that runs from 2018-19. The council suggests that he go to Italy early in the year to begin his Italian studies. He will conclude his assignment at St. Martin of Tours this fall, first helping to transition Fr. Quang Tran. In October Fr. Dinh is scheduled to go on a pilgrimage with a tour group.
- D. Fr. Quang Tran — Fr. Tran is expected to arrive in Milwaukee at the end of September. He will live with the St. Joseph’s Community (4th Floor at SHML) until the remodeling is completed at SHM. Fr. Tran will serve at St. Martin of Tours and with Vietnamese SCJs in formation who will be studying at SHSST.
- E. Celsus Roberts — Due to complications with his immigration status Mr. Roberts is leaving the formation program.

IV. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — The office will have a break-even budget for the year; no deficit is anticipated. Expenses for direct mail have gone down \$840,000; much of this is due to collaboration with St. Joseph’s Indian School, as well as price negotiation and the use of new vendors. The office tried a significant number of mailings to determine which will work well with its audience. In the long range, the office would like to focus on what it calls a “social action themed brand.”
- B. Chicago property — A sale agreement has been signed for the property that currently houses the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago. The tentative closing date is on or before October 5, though Dn. Nagel reminded councilors that many factors can affect this. Discussions are underway regarding space to be leased by the formation community following the anticipated sale. The buyer would initially like use of the chapel and ground floor which means that the community chapel would be moved upstairs.

The community will move to renovated space at Sacred Heart Monastery next summer.

- C. Remodeling of Sacred Heart Monastery — Hunzinger Construction has been hired to manage the remodeling project. Phase I is expected to get underway in mid-September; bidding for Phase II will begin soon after. The renovation is tentatively scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2018.

Dn. Nagel noted that there is less asbestos in the upper floors than first thought; this will reduce the time and cost involved in its removal. Other modifications to the original plans have also reduced costs. The initial projected cost for the project was \$7.2 million; modifications have brought it down to \$6.5 million.

It was suggested that Br. Duane Lemke, as a representative for SHM, sit in on the meetings that Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto have with those involved in the construction. Fr. Kilianski will contact Br. Lemke about this.

Fr. Kilianski thanked Dn. Nagel for his extensive work regarding the SHM renovation.

- V. Future meetings — As a scheduling note, the council would like to have 15 minutes to settle in prior to receiving its first visitor of the day in the meeting room.

The council will next meet by conference call on Tuesday, September 5, at 1:30 p.m. (central). The next in-person meeting will be October 3-4. The US and Canadian councils will meet in Montréal October 16-17.

CALENDAR

2017

- October 3-4: Provincial Council Meeting
October 16-17: Meeting of North American administrations in Montréal (beginning the evening of October 16)
October 23-27: Novice Masters Meeting, Rome
November 7-8: Provincial Council Meeting
November 12-25: Colloquium of Major Superiors, Rome
December 19-20: Provincial Council Meeting

2018

- January 1 - May 17: Treasurers Course, Rome
January 18-23: Meeting of Dehonian Bishops, Rome
January 30-31: Provincial Council Meeting
March 5-6: Local Superiors Meeting (beginning the evening of March 5)
March 7: Provincial Council Meeting
April 10-11: Provincial Council Meeting
April 16-20: Meeting of Rectors, Rome
May 6-12: North American Dehonian Retreat, Racine
June 5-6: Provincial Council Meeting
June 18-22: US Province Election Assembly, Hales Corners
July 14-28: General Conference, Philippines
August 5-12: Retreat for those in formation, Racine
August 14-15: Provincial Council Meeting
September 18-19: Provincial Council Meeting (transition meeting of out-going and in-coming administrations)
October 1 - June 30: Formators Course, Rome (participants will do Italian studies prior to the course)

NECROLOGY

+Fr. Jérôme Albert Ramanantsoa, a member of the Madagascar Region, died August 26. He was born in 1970, professed in 1997 and ordained in 2006.

+Fr. Giuseppe Morandini, a member of the North Italian Province, died August 13. He was born in 1929, professed in 1947 and ordained in 1956.

+Br. Luc Coursol, a member of the Canadian Region, died August 12. He was born in 1950 and professed in 1975.