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U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

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Minutes of the 877th Provincial Council Meeting November 7, 2017, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Duy Nguyen and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Fr. Thomas Knoebel for discussion of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; Frank Windt of Schenck Business Solutions to discuss the province financial audit; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Quang Nguyen excused for the General Conference planning meetings in Rome.

I. Check-in — Members of the council shared information about themselves, their communities and ministries. Items of note:

- Houston — The cocinita at Our Lady of Guadalupe is being remodeled to allow for more living space for the community. Work is being done primarily by those volunteering their time so it is moving forward slowly. Br. Andy Gancarczyk is now serving as office manager at the parish. Also, OLG recently held its parish festival.
- Mississippi — Construction of the Fr. Gregory Bezy Volunteer House in Mississippi has run into several delays, including installation of the wrong windows. It is hoped that the building will be ready for use by early 2018. Renovations are also slightly behind on the current volunteer house in Walls, MS. A new Human Resources director has been hired for Sacred Heart Southern Missions; she and another member of the staff visited St. Joseph's Indian School to learn about its HR Department and about the ministry there in general. Fr. Kurps also noted that all SHSM social workers are now specifically trained in the field. A new emphasis is being placed on education and life skills development for clients, trying to help them move beyond direct aid.
- South Dakota — Fr. Hendrik said that Fr. Mark Mastin was on his way to Lower Brule. He will be introduced to parishes on the east side of the Missouri River during the upcoming weekend, and parishes on the west side the following weekend. Mass schedules are being adjusted to include him in the pastoral team's ministry. The team has had a difficult time retaining a secretary for finance and administration; they will most likely work with Donna Dean at St. Joseph's Indian School to seek assistance. Fr. Vincent Suparman has been on a home visit in Indonesia; he returns on December 19. Overall, the SCJ community in South Dakota is in good health and is supportive to one another. Priority is placed on shared meals and prayer. It was noted that Fr. Mastin will be staying in the former sisters' residence; this has guest space that would allow for students to stay at the residence during summer ministry.

II. Membership

- A. Fr. Mark Mastin — Fr. Mark has been assigned to the South Dakota community and will serve with the Lower Brule Pastoral Team. He will live in the former sisters' residence, which has been vacant for much of the past year. This will add a measure of security to the property.
- B. Fr. Paul Kelly — Fr. Kelly has been hospitalized for what was originally thought to be heart issues.
- C. Fr. Robert Naglich — According to the province health care director (Mary Balistreri), Fr. Naglich is having increased health concerns.

- D. Br. Brian Tompkins — There have been challenges in trying to get Br. Tompkins a green card; Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, continues to work on it.
- E. Fr. Vien Nguyen — Fr. V. Nguyen is moving to the St. Joseph's Community (4th Floor at SHML) in the next few weeks; he will be assigned to ministry at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology as of January 1, 2018. Br. Presto will begin the process of applying for faculties for Fr. V. Nguyen in Milwaukee.
- F. Fr. Greg Speck — Fr. Kilianski appointed Fr. Speck as administrator of the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park, FL, for one year. Community members are reevaluating how they can work together to offer greater support to one another.

III. Formation

- A. Joseph Vu — Joseph Vu informed Fr Kilianski that he would not be professing final vows as planned; he has left the community. He emphasized that he has no animosity toward the SCJs and is appreciative of his time with the community.
- B. Province Ratio — The committee which has been given the task to review and revise the Province Ratio had its first meeting in Chicago; it will next meet December 8. Fr. John Czyzynski, a member of the committee, is comparing the old and new general ratio to identify differences.
- C. Novices — Fr. Kilianski spent several days with the novices, filling in while Fr. Byron Haaland and Fr. Andrzej Sudol were at meetings in Rome. He said that he was very impressed by the novices; they are committed to a significant prayer schedule that includes morning prayer before Mass, evening prayer and night prayer.

While at the novitiate Fr. Kilianski decided to invite the novices to join him on his December visit to Vietnam. He thought that it would be a good opportunity for them to experience the internationality of the congregation, and to meet some of the Vietnamese SCJs who may one day come to the United States.

IV. Finance

- A. Sacred Heart Monastery remodeling — The Sacred Heart Monastery project is on schedule; the new elevator is expected to be installed December 4-5. All members of the SHM community have moved out of the SCJ wing to allow for the next phase of work. Maintenance staff from SHSST have been very helpful in helping to remove furnishing from the SCJ section. There have been some complaints regarding noise from the construction.
- B. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel will be in Germany for the General Finance Commission meeting November 20-24.
- C. Province audit — Frank Windt of Schenck Business Solutions joined the council for review of the financial audit of the province for FY17. No concerns were noted by the auditors; financial statements were in order and questions were answered promptly. Expenses were similar to the previous year; income was slightly higher. The most significant increase was in investment income. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake has provided a steady income to offset the needs of retired SCJs. The council voted to accept the audit as presented by Schenck Business Solutions.

Dn. Nagel shared a financial report to the province that is based on the audit information. It is attached as Addendum A.

- D. Province Development Office — Sid Libenson, current director of the Province Development Office, will retire early next year. Dn. Nagel spoke with Kory Christianson, executive director of development for St. Joseph's Indian School, about assuming Mr. Libenson's duties. Staff from St. Joseph's have been working with the Province Development Office for the past year. Mr. Christianson agreed to do so. He will continue to be based out of his home in Nebraska. Details of the expanded role of the development team from St. Joseph's will be finalized in the months ahead.
- E. Chicago property — The buyer of the property that currently houses the Dehon Formation Community has deposited additional earnest money with Chicago Title. This holds their interest in purchasing the building. Members of the community are continuing to prepare for next year's move to Sacred Heart Monastery.

It was noted that the province has had a formation program in Chicago for many years; departure needs to be appropriately ritualized.

Fr. Kilianski asked Fr. David Szatkowski to look at possibilities for campus housing for international SCJs studying at Loyola.

- F. SCJ Medical Plan — The plan was renewed on October 1. For a variety of reasons — for example, a member with substantial medical needs became eligible for state funding — it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in medical expenses for the province during the next year. At a minimal cost (\$5 per person, per month) the province added separate insurance coverage for organ transplants.

V. Administration

- A. St. Joseph's Community (4th Floor at SHML) — Fr. Joseph Dinh will be leaving the community at the beginning of the year to study Italian and then take part in the formators course in Rome. Consultation for a new superior will need to be done. Also, it was noted that several people are in the process of moving into the community, including Fr. Vien Nguyen and Fr. Ed Zemlik (Fr. Zemlik is in residence until the SHM remodeling is complete).
- B. Provincial Conference — As a part of their focus on planning for the province's future, councilors discussed the need to ensure that members of the province do not become overly stressed and burned out. This can lead not only to mental and physical health concerns, but in some cases, the loss of a person's vocation. This is of particular concern as the province continues to maintain a variety of ministries with fewer personnel. Young SCJs especially seem prone to (or subject to) over-commitment.

The council decided to call for a Provincial Conference to take place January 30 through February 1. The topic will be "Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry." The conference is specifically for members of the province in active ministry; all members of the province in active ministry will be expected to take part in the three-day conference. Councilors realize that this may mean that individuals will have to rearrange prior commitments. While this can be very challenging, councilors said that the Provincial Conference must be a priority.

At the conference those in active ministry will be asked to work together to create a vision for how they can best live and serve together in a way that is healthy and life-giving. It may include new ways of doing ministry to guard against burn-out, including greater use of lay staff. It may also mean looking at ways in which local communities, and the province, can be more supportive to those in ministry. It will be a time to look at what is sustainable and how members of the province can sustain each other as fellow religious.

It is a stepping stone toward planning for the future, including the needs of internal ministries.

Details will be more fully developed in the weeks ahead; those in active ministry will receive personalized letters of invitation from Fr. Kilianski in early December.

Councilors emphasized that they are not discounting the input of retired SCJs, but that this conference is specifically intended for those in active ministry.

- C. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Tom Knoebel, president-rector of SHSST, met with the council to share updates on the seminary.
1. Vice rector — There is a need for a vice-rector and Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec has been suggested to fill the role. Fr. Knoebel said that Fr. Morawiec has become very involved in the seminary and is well appreciated by students and staff. The council voted to approve Fr. Morawiec as vice-rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology as of January 8, 2018.
 2. Spiritual directors — With Fr. Paul Kelly unavailable due to health concerns, the seminary needs more spiritual directors. Fr. Jim Walters has agreed to take some seminarians; councilors suggested several other SCJs. Fr. Knoebel emphasized the importance of allowing seminarians to choose a director, not simply assigning one to them.
 3. Apostolic Nuncio — Fr. Knoebel reminded the council that Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, would deliver the Dehon Lecture the next day at SHSST. Fr. Kilianski and the council were to be present at the lecture and related activities. Area bishops were also expected, including Archbishop Jerome ListECKI of Milwaukee.

4. Quoted— Fr. Knoebel shared a text in which he was quoted by Bishop Edward Braxton, of Belleville, Ill., in an address at the National Catholic School of Social Service at The Catholic University of America. The bishop referred to Fr. Knoebel's letter written in response to the events in Charlottesville as an example of good leadership in the wake of disheartening events.

- D. St. Gabriel Mercy Center — Fr. Kilianski received a request from the executive director of St. Gabriel Mercy Center, Inc., in Mississippi. She asked if the Priests of the Sacred Heart would be consider staffing several positions at the center. Councilors agreed that the province does not have the personnel to consider such a request at this time.

- E. Fr. Johnny Klingler Award — The council reviewed input from the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission regarding the Fr. Johnny Klingler Award. The council is in favor of the award but asks that it not be restricted to members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart and that the \$1,000 award be given to the ministry or charitable institution of the recipient's choice, not simply as a cash gift.

- F. SHSM Board of Directors — The council voted to approve the following for the Board of Directors of Sacred Heart Southern Missions: Bishop Joseph Kopacz and Ms. Barbara Caldwell to new three-year terms; and the re-election of the following officers: Sr. Nancy Schreck, OSF (president and co-chair), Dn. David Nagel (vice-president and co-chair), and Fr. Thi Pham (secretary and treasurer).

- G. Province Election Assembly — A letter of convocation for the 2018 Province Election Assembly must be sent by Fr. Kilianski to the membership by December 15. Br. Presto will write a draft.

Addendum A

DATE: November 16, 2017
TO: Province SCJs
FROM: Dn. David Nagel, SCJ



RE: Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2017

The Provincial Council on November 8, 2017 reviewed the financial audit for the Province. The Statement of Activities is summarized here:

Support, Revenue, & Other Gains:	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 13,660,024	\$ 11,646,200
Cash on Hand (Beginning)	<u>2,345,780</u>	<u>2,754,708</u>
Revenue Available:	\$ 16,005,804	\$ 14,399,908
Expenditures:	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total program services	\$ 11,114,435	\$ 9,996,955
Administration and general	<u>1,366,817</u>	<u>2,058,173</u>
Total expenditures	\$ 12,481,252	\$ 12,055,128
Reserve on Hand (Ending)	\$ <u>3,524,552</u>	\$ <u>2,345,780</u>

Expenses for most Province operations were about equal with the previous year. The most significant increase in income was from investment income.

Worries over the economy and donors vulnerability to financial difficulties has slowed the annual contributions received by the Province. The Priest of the Sacred Heart Development Office in Hales Corners gave \$5.7 million to the Province for operations and overseas missions. St. Joseph's Indian School has raised their contributions level by an addition \$1.5 million to the Province. Contributions from other sources also increased Province income from investments helped to offset the expenses.

As of June 30, 2017 the Province Ministry Fund was \$ 2.4 million. The total reserves available for the Province needs were \$4.8 million which is about five months of surplus.

The POSH Development Office had contracted with the St. Josephs' Indian School Team to provide a full range of services for the organization. The goal is to stabilize contributions and reduce operating costs so that the Office can continue to support the

Province at the \$7 million level. The Development Office continues to make changes that will lead to improved income and sustainability.

SCJ Medical Fund expenses exceeded contributions due to increased costs as the Province membership continues to age.

Medical Fund Activity 2016:

Starting Balance:	\$ 231,340
Contributions:	\$ <u>1,657,804</u>
Total Income:	\$ 1,889,144
Expenses:	\$ <u>1,620,301</u>
Gain/ (Loss):	\$ 268,843

The monthly contribution was \$1,150 per SCJ member. The SCJ Medical Plan has stop-loss insurance of \$60,000 per member so the liability is limited to that amount and expenses over \$60,000 for an individual are reimbursed by the insurance carrier. The Provincial Chapter in July passed a resolution to fund the medical plan individual contribution at 90% of actual claims which the current premium should do.

Priests of the Sacred Heart Support & Maintenance Trust continues to support those members of the Province who are not active in ministry. The Trust provides support to retired SCJs for a total of \$1.4 million per year. The monthly support contribution from SCJs active in ministry was \$200 per person. (The monthly contribution will be raised in July of 2017 to \$400.)

The investments for Fiscal Year 2017 returned 14.9% which was great! Quarterly meetings are held with the investment committee and our consultants to review the investment activity. Monthly reports and frequent phone conversations are also used to manage the investments.

These are a few of the financial highlights of the finances for fiscal year 2017. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this information.

**Notes from Justice Peace & Reconciliation Commission Meeting
October 12, 2017**

Chicago, SCJ Formation House

Present: Fr. Bob Bossie, Fr. John Czyzynski, Fr. Wayne Jenkins, Mark Peters, and Frater Joseph Vu.

The meeting began with “checking in” by the members and Fr. John led us in reflection on words from Thomas Merton: “Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited....”

As part of our own education, we watched video updates on DACA, the Trump Administration’s big reduction in refugee limits, and the Share the Journey campaign coordinated by Caritas Internationalis and kicked off last month by Pope Francis. Mark reported that many of the immigration initiatives he’d been working on are stalled at the moment (Paul Ryan’s office has stopped answering his emails so Mark has asked the SCJs in Ryan’s district to contact him directly about their concerns; the Justice for Immigrants Committee of the Milwaukee Archdiocese is meeting infrequently with dwindling participation; and Voces de la Frontera has given up on getting institutional support from the local Church so is focused on organizing the undocumented community to fight anti-immigrant legislation in Wisconsin). But Mark continues to look for avenues to pursue and to provide updates and “easy action” opportunities for the Province. He has also talked to a couple of parishes in the archdiocese who are interested in the issue and offered to resource them. Mark has hopes that the North American Migration Committee will pick up on the Share the Journey initiative in the coming months.

In his capacity as Board Chair for the 7th Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investing, which recently lost their founder, Fr. Mike Crosby, OFM, Mark was deeply involved in that group’s strategic planning this past summer, and will be leading the group’s attempts over the next couple of years to expand their membership and raise the funds to hire an associate director for the organization now that the former associate director has stepped into Fr. Mike’s shoes.

We then looked at our goals for 2017 to assess our progress. On our top goal, we now have had two visits with local communities (Houston and Chicago) and are working on one with Mississippi this winter. While Fr. John coordinates things with Fr. Jack Kurps and Fr. Thi Pham about that visit, Mark will talk to Fr. Terry Langley, Br. Duane Lemke, and Fr. Quang Tran about possibilities for working on immigration education or other ways we could be of assistance at St. Martin of Tours Parish. Immigration materials for parishes and schools, a directive of the Provincial Council, were provided over the summer to SCJ pastors. To this point we have not heard that anyone is using them, and none have requested our JPR Commission brochures for sharing with parishioners. But we will continue to make social justice resources available and request feedback, and can discuss this further with communities when we have our visits.

On promoting *Laudato Si’* and concern for the environment, which was another priority of the Council, we have done little so far because of the dominance of the immigration issue over the last six months, but it is still our goal. Other goals related to promoting justice awareness and involvement in SCJ formation and possible workshops for Province members will be followed up on as appropriate when opportunities arise. Fr. John Czyzynski is a member of the Ratio Formationis Provincialis revision task force and gave a report on their initial meeting. He and Mark have looked over materials Fr. Bob Bossie provided from past drafts of the Ratio regarding the role of social justice in formation, and agreed that what is already in the current Ratio is very good. John will suggest some language changes in a couple places where we thought the older language would be an improvement, but realize that much of the “specifics” of implementing these ideas will be more appropriate to consider for the handbooks.

We discussed the Council's comments on the Klingler Award guidelines and criteria we submitted, and agreed we need to make some revisions which we'll try to get to them soon. We hope to have publicity go out to SCJs later this fall and over the winter, close nominations for the award by mid-March, and make our selection for approval by the Provincial Superior by the end of March. We'll talk with Assembly planners about the award ceremony as soon as that group is established.

The JPR newsletter was discussed, and it was acknowledged that it has been very heavy on immigration-related topics since President Trump took office. It had also been a goal to have some articles written about good things happening in the Province or Dehonians engaging in social ministry, and Mark will make it a priority to get a couple articles like that in over the coming few months.

Terms for JPR Commission members: We agreed on 3 year terms as the norm, renewable indefinitely but with the understanding that no one is expected to stay on forever. We agreed that Fr. Bob's term will come up next year, Fr. Wayne's and Frater Joseph's in 2019, and John's in 2020. The group identified 3 SCJs that Mark will approach about membership now or in the future.

After the Commission meeting, we met with members of the Chicago Formation Community (Fr. David Szatkowski, Fr. Bob Tucker, Br. Long Nguyen, Fr. Joseph Mukuna, Frater Juancho Casteneda Rojas, and new candidate Hung Pham). We felt that the meeting went very well, and wish to thank Frs. Dave and Bob T. for hosting it, and for taking us all out to dinner later that evening, where we had the chance to meet candidate Angel Romero as well. We enjoyed the chance to introduce ourselves and the work of the JPR Office and Commission, and to hear their stories and concerns. We told Frater Juancho that we especially appreciated his reflections on social justice from his various ministerial experiences over the last couple years that have appeared in the SCJ News and Fridge Notes. The group was especially interested in our visual tour of the JPR website, which most didn't know was so extensive. Fr. Tucker noted that "this is just what I needed when I was a pastor!" They recommended that we incorporate the website tour into future visits with other communities. The community knows we understand what a difficult time of transition this is for them, and that we are at their service. We will follow up with them in January to offer our assistance with their Thursday night formation program.

We will likely meet in Mississippi in February, but will also probably need a meeting before the end of the year, which will be determined after we've coordinated with Fr. Thi and Fr. Jack.

CALENDAR

2017

- 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
Jan 30 - Feb 1: Provincial Conference for those in active ministry (Hales Corners)
March 5-6: Local Superiors Meeting (beginning the evening of March 5)
March 7: Provincial Council Meeting
April 9: North American Councils Meeting Hales Corners
April 10-11: Provincial Council Meeting
April 16-20: Meeting of Rectors, Rome
May 6-12: North American Dehonian Retreat, Racine
May 23-24: Dehonian Media Experts Meeting (Rome)
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)

UPDATES

Fr. Mark Mastin is now a member of the South Dakota community, living in Lower Brule. His address: PO Box 185, Lower Brule, SD 57548-0185.

NECROLOGY

+**Muzio Ventrella**, a member of the South Italian Province, died November 11. He was born in 1929, professed in 1945 and ordained in 1954.

+**Mario Busana**, a member of the North Italian Province, died November 3. He was born in 1920, professed in 1937 and ordained in 1946.

+**Br. Antoine Atzenhoffern**, a member of the Franco-European Province, died October 29 in Dijon, France. He was born in 1931 and professed in 1958.