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U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

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Minutes of the 876th Provincial Council Meeting October 3-4, 2017, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Duy Nguyen, 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; Mary Gorski, recording secretary.

- 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.
 1. NCDVD Convention — Fr. Knoebel spoke about the recent convention of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors at which SHSST had a booth. The seminary also sponsored the new-comers dinner, which he said was an excellent opportunity to introduce SHSST to the new vocation directors. The meal sponsor is given time to speak at the start of the dinner. Fr. Knoebel noted that turnover is high in vocations so it is important that the seminary continue to find ways to make itself known to people who are new to the ministry. At the booth, SHSST staff spoke to 85 people, 67 of whom are directly involved in vocation ministry. He anticipates sending 60 follow-up letters to new contacts. Sacred Heart's ESL and accent reduction classes, as well as a Hispanic Ministries program, are important assets of the school; many dioceses have seminarians who speak English as a Second Language and/or who will be involved in ministry to Spanish-speaking Catholics. While SHSST welcomes second-career or older seminarians, this is no longer its major focus. Fr. Knoebel emphasized that SHSST is a school with a variety of programs.
 2. New Ratio — Fr. Knoebel said that an updated ratio for the formation of priests (Ratio Fundamentalibus Institutionis Sacerdotalis) was released last year by the Vatican's Congregation of Clergy. The revised guidelines focus on the concept of formation as a life-long process of which seminary education is just one component. It suggests that a propaedeutic period — a year of intensive spiritual formation — be incorporated into the preparation of men for the priesthood. This is much like a novitiate year for those preparing for religious life.
 3. SCJ Formation — The province formation team needs to meet with members of SHSST staff to clarify requirements for in-coming students as well as other needs of the SCJ formation program once it is relocated to Sacred Heart Monastery. Fr. Knoebel and Fr. Q. Nguyen will arrange for the meeting.
 4. SCJ faculty and staff — The province and SHSST need to clarify the process for hiring SCJs as members of the faculty and staff at SHSST. What are the timelines? What is the hiring process for faculty and staff? What is the evaluative process?
 5. Apostolic Nuncio — Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, is confirmed to speak at SHSST on Wednesday, November 8. His topic will be "The Heart of a Priest." It is expected that seven SHSST students will enter candidacy

at the Mass to be celebrated by the archbishop. The schedule is contingent on his final travel plans.

The tentative schedule on November 7 has the archbishop speaking from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Lunch will follow. From 1:30 to 3:30 he will respond with several panelists. Refreshments will follow and Mass will be at 5:00 p.m. The topic of the archbishop's presentation will be "The Heart of a Priest." The council plans to attend. Most likely, the presentation will take place in the SHSST lobby due to the size of the audience. The public at-large cannot be invited to the presentation; there will not be room beyond the full seminary audience and invited guests.

6. Updates — The seminary hired Vernal Management Consultant to assist in its strategic planning process. As a part of accreditation requirements, the strategic plan for the seminary must be reviewed every three years. Vernal has previously worked with SHSST. The remote MA program for SCJ students in India is scheduled to begin in November; this will involve one year of coursework online and one year at the SHSST campus.

B. Visitations — Continuing to work with the 2014 Provincial Chapter Synthesis Statement Fr. Kilianski suggested that the focus of the 2018 visitations be "vocations," in particular, the concrete tasks that individuals and local communities are doing or can do to promote vocations. This includes promoting Dehonian spirituality in all province ministries.

Councilors agreed with this. For years the province has spoken of the need for all members to be responsible for vocations, not just the vocation office. There is a frustration in the vocation office that some communities are not always encouraging of or welcoming to potential candidates.

Fr. Kilianski asked the council to assist him in developing questions for reflection at local community meetings. Suggestions:

- What do you — individually and as a community — concretely do to welcome potential candidates to the province?
- What do you — individually and as a community — concretely do to promote vocations to the congregation and the wider Church?
- Describe your own experience of pursuing your vocation with the Priests of the Sacred Heart; drawing from that, how can you help people to discover their own vocations?
- How can your community do more to assist the province vocation office?
- Do you make a positive or negative impact on vocations?

Councilors also spoke of the importance of properly nurturing those in formation as they continue to discern their vocation. They need a good foundation in spirituality, in particular, Dehonian spirituality. It is important that several members of the province receive professional training in spirituality so that they can assist with this. It was noted that Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh will be taking the congregation's formators' program.

C. Jubilees — The province jubilee celebration for 2018 will take place September 8. The 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). It was suggested that the celebration be at 10:30 a.m., with a reception and lunch to follow. Br. Presto will contact the jubilarians to get an estimate on the number of guests and then determine whether the celebration should be at SHM or SHML.

D. Election Assembly Bylaws — Br. Presto presented the revised bylaws for the 2018 Province Election Assembly. There was a question regarding terminology in the second section of the introduction. As presented, the text reads: "After the convocation of the assembly has occurred, anyone having the right to *vote* may renounce his right." In previous bylaws the reference was to the "right to *attend*." Councilors replaced "vote" with "attend." Br. Presto will do research to ensure that this is the appropriate term.

The council voted to approve the Election Assembly Bylaws with the confirmation of the change noted in the previous paragraph. The bylaws will be sent to the membership in November.

- E. Protecting the People of God — The council voted to approve revisions to the policy for “Protecting the People of God.” The province policy was revised to incorporate the requirements of the congregational policy. As noted at the previous council meeting the most significant change 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.
- F. Senior Life — Mary Balistreri, province director of healthcare, was appointed to the Senior Life Commission as a non-voting member. Also, the council reviewed the minutes of the Senior Life Commission’s September 17 meeting. The minutes will be included in the next *Cor Unum*. Before they are published Br. Presto will double-check the demographics noted in the minutes.
- G. Fr. Johnny Klingler Award — Earlier this year the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission established the Fr. Johnny Klingler Award to acknowledge an SCJ or someone nominated by members of the province who, like Fr. Klingler, has worked tirelessly for social transformation. The award is to be given each year. The commission prepared guidelines for the award which it asked the council to review.

Overall, the council is supportive of the award but asked that its document be streamlined into a more concise listing of criteria along with a brief description of the nomination process. If the commission would like the award to be given during a province event it will have to work with organizers of that event to schedule it. This is not something that needs to be included in the criteria or guidelines.

- H. Significant purchases — Recently Fr. Kilianski sent a memo to the membership asking them to be mindful of the expense of purchases such as an iPhone X. The council endorsed the memo. Related to this, councilors also discussed the purchase of SUVs by members of the province. In most cases their price is beyond the \$20,000 limit that the province has set for vehicle purchases. Fr. Kilianski questioned whether most SCJs, with the exception of those who live in areas such as South Dakota, need an SUV. Councilors discussed other reasons for SUVs that go beyond terrain. For some with mobility concerns they are easier to get in and out of. Others find them to be easier to drive because of the visibility. The council would still like SCJs to stay close to the \$20,000 guideline for vehicle purchases; however, if an SCJ has a compelling reason to purchase an SUV he will discuss these reasons with the province treasurer before making the purchase.
- I. Formation — Previously the province had a director of formation; often the director of vocations has served in this role. However, Fr. Q. Nguyen, the current director, already has a significant number of responsibilities. The Province Directory calls for the role, but perhaps this is no longer necessary.

The council voted to establish a Province Formation Committee. Its members will include the formation team (Chicago and the novitiate) and the province vocation director (Frs. David Szatkowski, Bob Tucker, Byron Haaland, Andrzej Sudol and Quang Nguyen). The role of province formation director will be reviewed and perhaps brought to the next provincial chapter if it is determined that it should no longer be listed in the province directory.

- J. International students — Fr. Kilianski reaffirmed his desire to have the US Province finance the studies of international SCJ students in the United States, both for ESL and for advanced studies. This is a way for the province to support the overall congregation. However, each request will be reviewed as it is presented. He noted that several international SCJ students have indicated their desire to serve in the US Province for a period of time after their studies. The arrangement is a benefit for both the US and the home entity.
- K. Fr. Jean Pierre Badidike — Generally the province will not finance the education of international students who are not SCJs. However, exceptions may be made in the case of a non-SCJ who has close ties to the community. The province has been asked to assist with the ESL expenses of Fr. Badidike, a diocesan priest from Kisangani who has worked extensively with the SCJs in formation. The council approved financing Fr. Badidike’s ESL program. Fr. Kilianski will inform Kelly Kornacki, ESL academic director, of this.
- L. North American Councils Meeting — The administrations of the US and Canada will meet October 16-17 in Montréal.

Councilors suggested that one of the topics at the meeting be the NORAM meetings themselves. How do both councils envision the meetings? It was noted that they are an excellent time for sharing and fraternity among the councilors. However, some asked if there should be more focus on collaborative projects and issues. If so, what are — or could be — areas of collaboration for the two councils? If the primary purpose of the meetings is updating and fellowship (which is significant in itself) should the councils consider meeting only once a year, alternating countries?

The US council is not proposing a particular position regarding the meetings; they would simply like to discuss the topic with the Canadian leadership.

Mary Gorski will have just attended the International Communications Commission meeting in Rome. The council would like to receive an update from her about this at the NORAM meeting. She was asked to inform Fr. John van den Hengel of this, as well as the desire of the council to discuss the NORAM meetings themselves.

- M. Future planning — At each meeting the council will devote time to future planning. This will include reviewing succession possibilities for key positions in the province (internal and external), as well as province commitments in general. How can the province best utilize its financial and personnel resources? What is the congregation called to in the United States at this time? What is the vision of younger members of the province; what are their priorities for community and ministry in the future?

Councilors spoke about a few specific situations. When the SCJs who currently serve as spiritual directors of the development offices leave these positions might there be other ways to have a “face” of the province for benefactors? Some communities use the provincial superior as the face of the community.

Fr. Hendrik spoke of his efforts to get more assistance in South Dakota, perhaps another SCJ from the Indonesian Province, but also one or more religious sisters and/or brothers from the United States. It was suggested that he contact Donna Dean at St. Joseph’s Indian School to help him place an advertisement in the National Catholic Reporter and other appropriate publications.

If the province is stretched too thin there is always the possibility of reducing ministries, but this may have a negative snowball effect. Fewer ministries mean fewer options in ministry, making the community less appealing to potential vocations. Some have suggested starting over, really looking at what Dehonians are called to do and to be in the United States at this time. Legacy ministries can sometimes make it difficult to be open to creative thinking. Young SCJs have expressed their desire for youth outreach; how can they be challenged to develop this if it is where they believe that the community is called? How can lay staff be utilized better; is the province able to consider them as collaborators in ministry?

During formation should students be asked to develop practical skills for a particular ministry; job skills development?

The council suggested that those of ministerial age be brought together to have a conversation about how they envision the province in the future. This would not be an effort to exclude the retired members of the province but to give greater voice to those who will be serving and leading the province in the near future.

III. Membership

- A. Br. Joseph Pham Vu — The council voted to approve Br. Vu for profession of final vows. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 2, at Sacred Heart Monastery. Br. Vu is to finalize details. Most likely the ceremony will take place at 10:00 or 10:30 with a reception and lunch after.
- B. Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas — Fr. John Czyzynski submitted an update on Frater Castañeda Rojas; Fr. John is his final vows director. The report was positive, noting the transition Frater Castañeda Rojas recently made back to the formation house after a year in Brazil.
- C. Fr. Ed Zemlik — Fr. Kilianski met with Fr. Zemlik to discuss future ministry. Fr. Zemlik will be assigned to the Province Archives, where Fr. Wayne Jenkins will train him for the next two months in preparation for future work in the archives. Fr. Jenkins is of retirement age. Fr. Zemlik will be able to continue with his current obligations as treasurer to the ESL program and in help-out ministry with seniors at SHML.
- D. Fr. Mark Mastin — Fr. Mastin’s position as a contract priest for the military is ending; he will be available for a province

assignment at the end of October.

- E. Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh — Fr. Dinh is exploring options for studying Italian in Italy beginning in January; this is in preparation for congregation's formators' program. It was noted that since Fr. Dinh is superior of the St. Joseph's Community at SHML a consultation for new leadership will need to be done after he is gone.
- F. Fr. Quang Tran — Fr. Tran, a member of the Vietnamese District, is to arrive on October 6. He will serve at St. Martin of Tours parish and be a resource to students from the Vietnamese District studying at SHSST. Fr. Q. Tran will initially reside with the St. Joseph's Community at SHML. Br. Presto will pick him up at the airport, and Fr. Q. Nguyen will visit with him over the weekend.
- G. Fr. Vien Nguyen — Fr. V. Nguyen wrote to Fr. Kilianski to inform him that he will move his belongings to Hales Corners by the end of November but that he will return to Berkeley to work with his advisor and readers to complete the revision of his dissertation. He anticipates moving to Hales Corners on or around January 21.
- H. Fr. Paul Kelly — Fr. Kelly has been transferred to St. Joseph's Community at SHML. He will continue to serve at SHSST

IV. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — Kory Christianson and the Direct Mail Team from St. Joseph's Indian School met with the Province Development Office on September 18-19. They reviewed recent mailings and did future planning. The office continues to report a decrease in expenses and an increase in net income. Expenses are down \$900,000 from last year. Spanish mailings have been discontinued because of their expense; however, the office continues to offer correspondence and phone assistance in Spanish.

Pam Milczarski and Fr. Dominic Peluse have done a number of donor visits, sometimes taking ESL students with them. They will take several benefactors to view ministries in Asia in October, and in April the development office plans to offer a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Councilors are welcome to take part

- B. Corporate Minutes — The council voted to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the US Province of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart which took place October 3, 2017. During the meeting Schenck Business Solutions was hired to conduct the annual audit and the following officers were elected to the corporation: Fr. Edward Kilianski (president), Fr. Quang Nguyen (vice president), Dn. David Nagel (treasurer) and Br. Frank Presto (secretary).
- C. Investments — The Province Investment Committee met on September 12 with James Ryan and Courtney Moore from Merrill Lynch and Garrett Stinson from SageView. The Growth Pool was up 2.87% for the second quarter and the year-to-year return was 14.97%. The trustees for the Employee Pension Plan and the Support and Maintenance Trust met after the Stakeholders meeting. Both members of the committee and the stakeholders were satisfied with the reports.
- D. Chicago Property — The closing date for the sale of the property that houses the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago is set for January 1, 2018. The community will lease the property until the end of the academic year with continued access to the community areas (ground floor chapel and first floor kitchen, dining and living space). The formation directors are beginning to pack and have already moved a few items to storage in Hales Corners. Furniture that is not needed in the new living space will most likely be donated to a Catholic organization. The etched glass in the Chicago chapel is to be incorporated in the entrance of the redesigned Sacred Heart Monastery.

Dn. Nagel noted that Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, did much of the work on the sale.

- E. Remodeling of SHSST / SHM — Work on the renovation of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology / Sacred Heart Monastery has begun. Asbestos abatement is in process, and initial work regarding the construction of the new elevator is to begin next week. Phase II of construction is to start in November; at this point the project is on schedule. Dn. Nagel reviewed the finalized plans with the council. The original estimated cost of the project was \$7.2 million; with several cost-cutting changes that price is now \$6.5 million.
- F. Novitiate — Remodeling of the novitiate property is complete, with the exception of lock replacements. This should be done soon. The total cost of remodeling was \$200,000

- G. Special project fundraising — Each year, the province budgets how much money it will be able to give to the missions and other entities. All such money goes through the general treasurer's office so that there is appropriate accounting and transparency at the general level. A councilor asked about fundraising by the province development office for particular projects. Dn. Nagel explained that some donors respond to projects more so than general fundraising. The money raised for a particular project is not above and beyond the amount committed to by the province for another entity. Rather, it is a way to meet budgeting goals.
- H. Province audit — A draft of the province audit is complete. The province had an income of \$13.6 million and expenses of \$12.4 million including the purchase and renovation of the novitiate. More cash is on hand than last year.. No concerns were cited in the management letter. The auditors will be available for questions on November 7 at 10:30 a.m.
- I. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel will be in Germany November 20-24 for the General Finance Commission meeting.
- V. Future Meetings — The council will meet briefly in Montréal (where they will be for the NORAM meeting) to review the minutes of this meeting. The next Provincial Council meeting will be November 7-8; on November 8 councilors will attend the presentation of Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

Summary of the Meeting of the Councils of Canada and the United States October 17, 2017 • Montréal, QC

PRESENT: Fr. Edward Kilianski (provincial superior, United States), Fr. John van den Hengel (regional superior, Canada), Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Maurice Légaré, Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Paul Tennyson, Fr. Richard Woodbury, and Mary Gorski (minutes).

I. Mass— The councils joined the Montréal community for morning prayer and Mass.

II. Sharing and Updates — Participants updated each other on various items, including:

- A. Vietnam — Fr. Kilianski is going to Vietnam in December to visit the communities there and discuss further collaborative efforts between the US Province and Vietnamese District. This includes hosting Vietnamese students at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and welcoming Vietnamese SCJs for ministry. Fr. Quang Tran (Vietnam District) recently moved to Hales Corners to serve at St. Martin of Tours parish and to assist with the formation of Vietnamese students at SHSST.
- B. Ministries in Quebec — After some challenges in recent years, there is a good atmosphere at Séminaire du Sacré Coeur; current leadership is well appreciated. However, there is concern that school enrollment is down. Regarding parish ministry, Fr. Woodbury noted that the bishop has asked that the eight parishes to which he and another priest minister be consolidated into eight. This presents obvious challenges. The number of active parishioners in most parishes in Quebec is generally small. Few are under 50 years old.
- C. Medically Assisted Dying — Canada legalized medically assisted dying in 2016. The SCJ community in Ottawa has had a conversation on how to address this in ministry. How does one compassionately minister to a person who chooses Medically Assisted Dying (and minister to his or her family) while also respecting the beliefs of the Catholic Church against such procedures?

Fr. Tennyson, a chaplain at an elder care facility, noted the many unintended consequences of Medically Assisted Dying that are just now being explored. Will caregivers suffer post-traumatic stress? How is the death appropriately communicated to those who have cared for the individual while respecting the right of the deceased to keep the method of his death private?

Discussion of this difficult issue have been a good way for the local SCJ community to be supportive of an individual's ministry.

- D. Vocations — Vocation inquiries have been lower than normal in the US Province; the Canadian Region has not had many inquiries either. The US vocation office no longer uses the poster to seek names; the focus will be on reaching out to potential vocations via electronic media. Fr. Nguyen tried doing parish mission appeals to get the name of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in the public eye, but he found that most of the people who were at the Masses when he spoke were not the right demographics for vocations. He was hoping to reach a younger audience.
- E. Health and wellness — The US Province hired a nurse as the Director of Province Health Care. So far, she has primarily worked with the community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. In the months ahead she will be reaching out to senior SCJs outside of SHML, as well as younger members of the community, to discuss health and wellness concerns.

Much of her work at SHML has focused on assisting senior SCJs to comfortably “age in place,” bringing the resources need to help an older person with health and/or mobility challenges remain in community. This included helping to facilitate home hospice for Fr. Charles Yost, who died several months ago. Being with Fr. Yost was both a blessing and a challenge for the community, said Fr. Nguyen, local superior. If offered the choice, many people would choose to die at home. However, it was difficult for many in the community to watch Fr. Yost decline toward his last days. As local superior, Fr. Nguyen said that it was especially challenging for him as superior because prior to hospice, Fr. Yost preferred that the severity of his health not be shared with others. It is important to respect the wishes of an individual, but vague information about such a serious situation can be hard on others in the community.

- F. Montréal community — The community's local superior, Fr. Gustave Lulendo, is home in Congo for the month so many of his tasks have been absorbed by others in the community. Two of the senior SCJs are receiving in-home care assistance. It was noted that Br. Luc Coursol's death is strongly felt in the community.

G. Fr. Gregory Bezy Volunteer House — Fr. Kurps spoke about the Fr. Gregory Bezy Volunteer House being built in Holly Springs, Miss. Sacred Heart Southern Missions hosts volunteer groups from throughout the country; their work primarily focuses on home repairs for the poor and disabled in northern Mississippi. Currently, volunteers stay in a renovated rectory but space is quite tight there. The new volunteer house will have room for 32 people plus common areas. Fr. Kurps noted the challenges of construction; recently he learned that the wrong windows were installed. The building is supposed to be completed by the end of the year but unexpected delays could push that to January.

III. Province and Regional Updates — Following personal updates, the councils received general updates on each entity.

A. Canadian Region

1. Mission Office — Nicole Béland has been in-charge of the development office for several months and is doing well in the position. Fr. Claude Bédard, the former director, assists with letters and other tasks.
2. Overseas donations — The regional council now has a policy that all international donations go through the General Aid Fund in Rome to ensure transparency and accurate accounting.
3. Presentation Manor — The region invested \$500,000 in Presentation Manor in Toronto; over 20 religious communities have contributed to the project. To be completed in 2018, the Manor will be a residence for aging religious men and women, as well as lay people. They will share a common life that includes prayer, sacraments and social activities.
4. Sexual Abuse Policy — Fr. Jim Casper, working with a canon lawyer in Toronto, revised the region's policy regarding sexual abuse, incorporating the recently released document from the general administration.
5. Séminaire du Sacré Coeur — The region plans to hire a chaplain (lay or religious) to ensure spiritual animation at the school. The position should be filled by the start of the 2018 school year.
6. Feast of the Sacred Heart — As they have done previously, the region anticipated the feast of the Sacred Heart at a community celebration in Ottawa on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning prior to the feast. This allows SCJs to celebrate the feast itself with their local communities, and for those in parish ministry, to return in time for weekend commitments.
7. Br. Luc Coursol — Br. Coursol's death has been strongly felt not only in Montréal, but throughout the region.
8. Fr. Engelbert Fotsing — Fr. Fotsing has left the region to accept an assignment as a parish priest in Cambrai, France. He left Canada on August 30.
9. Regional Assembly — Due to the scheduling of the retreat in Mississauga in August, the region postponed its annual assembly to the first week in October. The shortened gathering took place in Kingston. Discussion topics included vocations and youth, finances, policy updates regarding abuse, the Dehonian Spirituality Seminar in Indonesia, and the pastoral plans of the three communities (Montréal, Ottawa and Toronto). The North American Migration Committee gave an extended presentation on Tuesday afternoon. It included a video of Sr. Norma Pimentel's presentation at the U.S. Province assembly in June and information on Canadian immigration and refugee policies by Joe Gunn, executive director of Citizens for Public Justice. On Tuesday evening the region celebrated the jubilees of Frs. Peter Sanders and Roger Phaneuf (50 years of ordination) and of Fr. Maurice Légaré (40 years of vows).
10. Fr. Greg Murray — Fr. Murray will join the Montréal community in January, serving on the pastoral team with Frs. Gustave Lulendo and Louis-Marie Butari.
11. Fr. Élie Muzungu Ngoy — He serves the Burundi community at Saint Frère André parish in Vanier. This is a multiethnic parish that includes significant Congolese and Syrian communities as well.
12. Toronto — Fr. Paulin Makiala from Congo and Fr. Martin Anthony from India are expected to arrive in Canada soon for ministry and studies. Fr. Anthony spent two years in Argentina and speaks Spanish fluently; this will be very helpful at St. Thomas More parish in suburban Toronto. Fr. Yohanes Yuliwan Maslim of Indonesia, who has been a part of the Toronto community for several years, will soon become a member of the region.

13. Communications — The region hopes to revitalize its web presence; it is currently seeking a French translator.

B. US Province

1. Future planning — The Provincial Council decided at its last meeting to make planning for the future a priority. Time will be devoted at each meeting to this. There are currently 29 SCJs in active ministry, along with some who are over 70 who continue to work. The province needs to better determine where and how it will minister with the resources that it has.
2. Novitiate — There is a novitiate — with two novices — for the first time in five years. Next year, it is anticipated that there will be three more novices.
3. Final vows — Br. Joseph Vu has been approved for final vows; he will profess them at Sacred Heart Monastery on December 2. He has decided not to pursue ordination. Br. Vu will be assigned to the St. Joseph's Community at SHML; he will assist in the province treasurer's office and with the vocation office.

Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas is preparing for final vows; it is hoped that he will make his final profession early next year. He is also preparing to request diaconate ordination; tentatively, the ordination will take place in June.

4. Fr. Joseph Dinh — Fr. Dinh will take part in the congregation's formators' course next year in Rome; he plans to go to Italy in January to begin Italian studies.
5. Aging — Since Fr. Kilianski took office there have been eight deaths in the province. Senior members of the province are struggling more with their health. As noted earlier, the US Province has hired a nurse (Mary Balistreri) as the Director of Province Health Care. So far, she has primarily worked with the community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. Mary Balistreri has been well received. In the months ahead she will begin visiting senior SCJs who live alone or in a non-retirement community, helping them to assess their wellness and needs. It is important that SCJs who move to one of the retirement communities do so when they have the health to make the adaptation. In some cases, a member may need to temporarily go to a rehabilitation facility before moving to a new community.

The US Province established a Senior Life Commission in 2015.

6. Dehon Formation Community, Chicago — The formation programs based in Chicago will move to Sacred Heart Monastery for the 2018-19 academic year. Theology students will study at SHSST and undergraduates will attend a Milwaukee area university. The building that currently houses the programs in Chicago has been sold. The community will remain until the end of the academic year. It is a positive move in that the formation program will be more directly integrated into the province, allowing students to better inculturate into the province. However, there is also a sense of grieving after having had the program in Chicago for many years. It is important to honor and ritualize the departure.
7. Visit of Apostolic Nuncio — Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, is confirmed to speak at SHSST on Wednesday, November 8. His topic will be "The Heart of a Priest." The US council plans to attend.

IV. Theological Conference — Fr. van den Hengel, a member of the North American Theological Commission, gave a report on last summer's Dehonian Theological Seminar, "Charism and Devotions: Towards and Inculturated Dehonian Identity." All four members of the North American Theological Commission (Fr. Charles Brown, Fr. Gustave Lulendo, Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec and Fr. van den Hengel) took part in the gathering.

In preparation for the seminar each entity asked its membership to complete a survey designed to help seminar organizers better understand how SCJs link their Dehonian identity with devotions both on a personal and communal level. Sr. Nikla Spezzati, who has served with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, reviewed and summarized the survey responses. Fr. van den Hengel shared her findings with the councils.

She said that there is a spiritual vitality present among Dehonians; they are spiritual men and spiritual teachers, mystics of charity, of "pure love" based in Fr. Dehon's experience. To live the Dehonian charism, the voice of "pure love," SCJs must be truly touched by the situation of the poor, seek dialogue with a variety of cultures, give testimony to living together in community, and live a vocation that is an example of joy, of a fruitful life based in love.

Sr. Nikla reinforced the concept that love is at the core of the Dehonian charism. The North American Theological Commission

met in September and decided to further explore the concept of “pure love” as key in Fr. Dehon’s social writings.

Fr. van den Hengel said that the work of the continental theological commissions is vital in identifying the Dehonian charism, especially as the cultural face of the congregation changes. The charism must be inculturated in each setting, but there must also be essential elements that are the same wherever the charism is lived.

Discussion of how the Dehonian charism is inculturated around the world led to reflection on how inculturation works in community. Increasingly, internationality is becoming the norm in local SCJ communities. Dehonians from Asia, Africa, South America and Europe are now vital members of the congregation’s presence in North America. How do communities both welcome members of other entities and be changed by them?

Also, how does the community address the fact that in some countries, religious life significantly increases the standard of living of its members? Should inculturation mean living as close as possible to the standard of living found in the entity where the community is present?

- V. Dehonian Family — The councils talked about the various Dehonian Associate programs and groups underway in North America. In the US Province, David Schimmel, province director of Dehonian Associates, created the *Spiritual Path*, consisting of ten monthly group sessions that form the basis of discernment for commitment as a Dehonian Associate. Last year Fr. Kurps led a group through the sessions in Mississippi; at the end they made a commitment as a Dehonian Associate. Staff at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology have been invited to begin the program there this fall, and a group at St. Joseph’s Indian School is also coming together. Fr. Richard MacDonald in the Rio Grande Valley has adapted the program for a Dehonian Associates group. In Toronto, SCJs have led several introductory sessions to determine whether there is interest in creating a such a group. Seventy-five people came to the first meetings; 30 attended the most recent session.

The US Province also holds Mission Education sessions every three years and David Schimmel recently began the Dehonian Esprit de Corps, a means of creating fellowship and spiritual sharing among former SCJs and SCJ seminary alumni.

The councils discussed the possibility of a North American gathering of members of the various Dehonian Associate programs.

- VI. Immigration — A continuing priority for SCJs in North America is migration. The councils affirmed the work of the North American Migration Commission (the commission prepared a report about its efforts for the NORAM meeting) noting the presentations that the commission facilitated at both the US and Canadian Assemblies. At the US Assembly, Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ, executive director of Catholic Charities in the Rio Grande Valley, spoke of her work with refugees at the Mexican-American border, and Barbara Graham, director of Legal Services for Immigrants for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, presented the many challenges that immigrants face in pursuing legal residence in the United States. A video of Sr. Pimentel’s talk at the US assembly was shared at the Canadian gathering. Also in Canada, SCJs heard about Canadian immigration and refugee policies from Joe Gunn, executive director of Citizens for Public Justice.

Members of the Ottawa community spoke about their past year with a Syrian family sponsored by the community. In the Canadian Region SCJs have made a commitment to sponsor refugees.

Councilors stressed that social justice efforts — in this case, with a focus on immigration and migration — must not be simply a task of a committee. The councils decided that migration is a priority issue for the congregation in North America. The question: how can individuals and local communities concretely address this? How do SCJs in North America give a concrete Dehonian response to migration and immigration?

Councilors talked about writing a letter to the membership about migration, but after discussion decided that a letter might not make much of an impact. Instead, the councils will focus on personal interaction from leadership on the issue, and frequent reminders via email and other communication about the need for SCJs to concretely address issues related to migration and immigration.

The councils suggested that the North American Migration Committee seek to include a few younger SCJs among its members. Also, it would be helpful if the committee, or Mark Peters (US director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation) helped local communities develop concrete steps for action. Fr. Kurps said that the Mississippi community committed to paying for the legal fees of an immigrant applying for legal status, yet the community doesn’t know how to follow through on this. It would be helpful if the JPR Office or the committee could assist with such things.

Councilors asked that when the summary of their meeting is sent to SCJs in North America that the email with which it is sent include an invitation for SCJs to share what they and/or their community is doing to concretely address migration concerns. They will be asked to send their responses to Mary Gorski, who will share them with the rest of the membership as well as the North American Migration Committee.

VII. Vocations — Councilors talked about vocations. They noted Fr. General's 2017 letter on the topic; the Canadian Region reflected on it during the October assembly. How can individual SCJs take more responsibility for vocation development? Fr. Kilianski said that "vocations" will be the theme of the 2018 visitations; each community will be asked to identify a concrete action that it will undertake to promote vocations.

Fr. Nguyen will prepare vocation-related intercessory prayers for Fr. Kilianski to share at the visitations; they will also be given to local communities in Canada. Fr. Nguyen will send the prayers to Fr. Greg Murray and Fr. van den Hengel to distribute in Canada.

VIII. North American Retreats — The first of the North American retreats was held in Mississauga, Ontario, in August. Twenty-four SCJs took part. Based on the evaluations, the retreat was very well received. Ten indicated that they "loved" the retreat, two "really liked it," and nine "liked" it. The presentations and related materials, as well as prayer, all received positive remarks. Some have asked for written texts of the presentations.

The committee of Fr. van den Hengel, David Schimmel and Fr. Jim Schroeder will meet prior to the May 6-12 Racine retreat to adapt their materials. A third retreat — for those in formation — will be held August 5-11, also in Racine.

Before the end of the year the committee will be in communication with North American SCJs regarding the May retreat.

IX. Communications – Mary Gorski, communications director of the US Province, spoke about the work of the International Communications Commission, of which she is a member. The ICC held a meeting in Rome the week before the Montréal NORAM meeting. Members of the commission include Fr. Radek Warenda (general communications director), Fr. Stefan Tertünte (director of the Centro Studi Dehoniani), Fr. Antonio Rufete Cabrera (Spain) and Mary Gorski. They were joined at the October meeting by Fr. Carlos Enrique Caamaño, vicar general, Fr. Pedro Iglesias (secretary general) and Alessandro Benassi, a specialist from Bologna in digital communication.

A. Mission Statement — The "Open Heart and Mind" Mission Statement has been well-received in entities where presentations on it have been made. Fr. Warenda, newly appointed communications director for the congregation, has spoken about it at several events in Asia and Europe. The statement logo has been printed on tee shirts, banners, notebooks and other items in limited areas. A website has been developed with formative materials about the statement; more materials are planned for the future. Although there have been a couple of comments from North Americans questioning both the statement and the process in which it was developed, these comments have been in the minority. Fr. Heiner Wilmer stated that the statement will remain as is for two years, after which it may be reviewed.

B. Website — The commission spent much of its time together outlining plans for a new website for the congregation that will replace dehon.it. There will be both a desktop and a mobile version. The homepage of both will have much less on it than what appears now. The site is to be an inviting window to the community as opposed to the hodgepodge bulletin board that it is now.

Much of the member-specific information, including smaller stories, obituaries, letters of appointment and other SCJ-specific items will be in a members section. How this will work has not been determined. The commission realizes that any time that you add a step to the process of people receiving communication, you risk the fact that people might not bother to take the step. To entice SCJs to go to the Members area the commission is considering creating an app. This would be integrated with the Members section. When a new item appears, the SCJ would receive an alert on his phone or mobile device.

A professional website developer will be utilized to create the new platform

C. Corporate identity — Fr. Warenda is seeking an agency to create a corporate identity package for the congregation. This is not an effort to make a significant change in its identity — the Dehonian cross (heart in a cross), the official and popular names of the congregation will continue to be used. The corporate identity package is more about creating a systemized way of presenting the Dehonians so that they are more easily recognized throughout the world.

- X. General Conference — Fr. Q. Nguyen is chairperson of the planning committee for the 2018 General Conference. The committee will meet in Rome in November; there will be one more meeting in spring prior to the conference. The committee is developing a program and reviewing suggested speakers; the general administration will make the final decision regarding the conference program and who will be present. Less than 70 participants will be able to take part because of space limitations. All of the major superiors will be invited.

All entities were asked to respond to a questionnaire to aid the commission in its preparations. However, only 14 entities have returned the questionnaire (the US and Canada are among them). Fr. Nguyen noted the challenge of incorporating the input of the full congregation when only a minority responded to the questionnaire. It is hoped that more responses will be returned before the planning committee meets.

- XI. Current political atmosphere — Councilors spoke briefly about the increasingly polarized atmosphere in society; this is not just the concern of one entity but of societies around the world. Even within SCJ communities there is polarization regarding social and political issues. How do SCJs become a positive force in such an atmosphere? Can these concerns be more significantly addressed in personal and communal prayer? What public actions can or should the congregation take in regards to this? What does it mean to be a “servant of reconciliation” today?

- XI. Future meetings — Traditionally the North American administrations have met together twice a year, alternating locations. Noting that it is sometimes difficult for all members of each administration to be present, councilors talked about whether they should reduce the combined meeting to once a year. The challenges were noted, but councilors also agreed that excellent dialogue takes place during the meetings, there is a good sense of fraternity, and it is simply important that the two administrations have regular communication with each other. If regular times are not set aside to do so it won't happen. This will result in fewer cooperative projects (recent projects include the North American retreats, the North American Theological Commission and the North American Migration Committee) and a lesser understanding of the issues and concerns of the neighboring entities.

The administrations decided to continue the twice-yearly schedule. In the future the meetings will be scheduled around the individual council meetings of each entity to reduce travel.

The next NORAM meeting will take place On Monday, April 9, in Hales Corners, Wis. The day will begin at 8:30 with Mass in the Provincial Conference Center chapel. The councils will go out for a dinner together that evening and have their individual meetings the following day.

Senior Life Commission Meeting September 19, 2017

Present: Byron Haaland, Ray Kozuch, Pat Lloyd, Bill Pitcavage, Jim Schroeder, Vincent Suparman, Brian Tompkins.

Absent: David Nagel

Welcome: Bill Pitcavage was welcomed and thanked for his willingness to join the Commission.

Prayer: Jim refreshed our commitment to minister to seniors according to Constitution #68 and then led an Oblation prayer by a Polish SCJ, Stanislaus Majka, SCJ.

Check-in: Each member checked in, which included difficulties with hurricanes, construction at the novitiate, the death of Charles Yost, problems with staffing and transitions on the Rez, the retreat, etc.

Questions: As a new member, Bill had numerous questions that we addressed: history of the commission, who chairs, who sets agenda, how the group functions, who does minutes, short and long-term goals, projects, pictures, job descriptions for retirement community directors, seniors outside community, and collaboration with Canada.

The one item we will probably pick up at another meeting is his idea of a **Senior Guidebook**.

He clarified with Pat the meaning of “**a competent superior**” for Pinellas Park. We briefly discussed how this reflects the priority given to care of seniors. We agreed that one chosen for that job should have some preparation. We agreed that we will talk about this in the future and at least offer our concerns to the Provincial and Council.

Agenda: Besides the main item planned, preparing for our contribution to the State of the Province report, other that issues surfaced were: having no POA or a non-SCJ as POA, credit cards, seniors living exclaustated, dementing in place, dying inside community, pre-retirement workshop update and suggestion, and how will the Province Nurse and the Commission interact.

State of the Province report—following requests from Bro. Duane Lemke:

I. **Video footage:** Everyone brain-stormed ideas, persons and locations for the video. From these, each one then gave his top three ideas. We all agreed to gather them under three categories, as named by Dr. Richard Johnson: **Well, Wise, and Whole**.

Each one’s top three are as follows: Mass inside at SHML and PP, dining with community and guests, doctor visits. Prayer, community & healthcare. Senior life (prayer & dining), ministry, and shots at SHML & PP, and include Barb Haag and Mary Balistreri. Prayer & reflection, ministry/play, doctors. Community prayer, seniors’ ministry, and SHML hospitality. SHML seniors active and cared for, Congregation Home, PP activities of ministry and care giving. Community life and ministry.

We agreed to let the videographer choose from these, but bring the **editing back to the Commission for final approval**.

II. **Seniors for Vocal Overlays:** We looked at the three questions Duane Lemke suggested the seniors address: (1) What is going on in SCJ ministry and life “here” that is exciting? (2) What is timeless about the charism in regards to senior life? (3) What are the needs of SCJs and society in regards to senior life?

Each member brain-stormed three names for SHML and PP. From those we immediately **selected John Czyzynski, Pat Lloyd, Frank Burshnick, and Joe Potocnak**. We then discussed and chose others: **Johnny Klingler, Tony Russo, and Jim Schroeder**.

Others: We agreed that the following should at least appear in the video and be mentioned by name: **Brian Tompkins, Barb Haag, and Mary Balistreri**.

III. **One Page Summary of Our Ministry to Seniors:**

A. **Demographics:** (as of 9-20-17)

Total: 82 SCJs in the U.S. Province — 74 U.S. citizens, plus 1 from Holland, 2 from Canada, 2 from Indonesia, and 3 from Poland.

Over 80: 21

Over 70 and under 80: 24

Over 65 and under 70: 12

Only 37 in the Province under 70.

SHML over 70 in residence: 19— others at St. Camillus and Congregation Home

PP over 70 in residence: 9

Deaths in the last three years: 9

B. Statement of the Commission’s Ministry:

Our ministry is to help the Provincial and Council in their sacred trust spelled out in our Constitutions #68:

“At the heart of the local and provincial community
we surround with special charity
our sick or aged brothers.

“Particularly through them
the Lord inspires us
to authentic abandonment,
and reminds us
of the fragile nature of our condition;
He wants to be acknowledged and served in them
in a very special way (cf. Matt. 25:40).

“For their part, these brothers shall accept
the care generously given them
as an expression of the charity of Christ,
who asked His disciples
to accept His most humble service (cf. John 13:8).”

We do this by offering consultation to the Provincial and Council, by making recommendations about senior care and promoting future care. The Commission has no direct ministry to seniors.

C. Pressing Issues:

- Personnel—succession of superiors. They will need some preparation.
- Senior SCJs living outside community, i.e., exclaustated
- SCJs who are dementing in place—how to care for them
- Need to have a POA , and have SCJs as POAs
- Preparation program for retirement
- Credit cards—having the Provincial Treasurer as a second signature on every card
- Guardianship

Update on Workshop for Retirement

Ray reported that Dr. Richard Johnson may be available in April of next year, but his health is uncertain. Another who offers such workshops is Bro. Wayne Fitzpatrick, MM. Ray was asked to contact him about what he can offer, whether he has any materials online, about his availability, and about his fees. Ray will also check as to whether Dr. Johnson’s Readiness for Retirement instrument could still be available.

We agreed that the Province Nurse, Mary Balistreri could be involved, Dave Nagel could offer something on finances, Jim Schroeder could offer something on the psychology of aging and on our charism, and Ray Kozuch could offer something on our history of ministry to seniors.

Update on Province Nurse

Mary is preparing some materials for communities on dementia (its signs, and how to relate with a dementing person) and on in-home hospice and death and dying.

Next Meeting: We agreed to meet Wednesday, March 21, 2018 from 9:30 to 3:00.

Statistica SCJ

30.06.2017

| | V | P | D | SVP | FVP | SVT | FVT | Totale | N |
|-----|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| 1AG | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| ACR | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| ANG | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 1 |
| ARG | 1 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 30 | 0 |
| BRE | 0 | 31 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 43 | 2 |
| BRM | 4 | 98 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 1 | 123 | 1 |
| BSP | 4 | 172 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 37 | 0 | 224 | 6 |
| CAN | 0 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| CHI | 0 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| CMR | 0 | 62 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 33 | 2 | 111 | 6 |
| ESP | 0 | 70 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 89 | 1 |
| EUF | 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 52 | 0 |
| GBI | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| GER | 1 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| INA | 1 | 121 | 2 | 14 | 17 | 38 | 0 | 193 | 8 |
| IND | 0 | 47 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 37 | 0 | 93 | 13 |
| ITM | 0 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 0 |
| ITS | 0 | 124 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 139 | 1 |
| MAD | 2 | 22 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 25 | 0 | 55 | 2 |
| MOZ | 3 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 41 | 0 |
| NLV | 0 | 56 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 0 |
| PHI | 1 | 32 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 49 | 6 |
| POL | 1 | 226 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 246 | 5 |
| POR | 3 | 79 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 99 | 1 |
| RDC | 0 | 57 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 37 | 0 | 112 | 8 |
| RSA | 2 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 5 |
| USA | 1 | 64 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 83 | 0 |
| VEN | 0 | 20 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 29 | 0 |
| VIE | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 25 | 6 |
| | 24 | 1562 | 43 | 40 | 130 | 295 | 3 | 2097 | 72 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| 31.12.2016 | 24 | 1558 | 44 | 53 | 134 | 294 | 2 | 2109 | 62 |
| 30.06.2016 | 24 | 1574 | 32 | 50 | 134 | 298 | 3 | 2115 | 58 |

Abbreviations:

V: Bishops; P: Priests; D: Deacons; SVP: Scholastics, final vows; FVP: Brothers, final vows; SVT: Scholastics, temporary vows; FVT: Brothers, temporary vows; N: Novices

CALENDAR

2017

- October 23-27: Novice Masters Meeting, Rome
November 7-8: Provincial Council Meeting
November 12-25: Colloquium of Major Superiors, Rome
December 2: Final vows, Br. Joseph Vu
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 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
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. Quang Tran

St. Joseph's Community at SHML
Cell: 414-852-3358
E-mail: josephquang78@yahoo.com

Fr. Engelbert Fotsing

He has left the community in Montréal for a parish assignment in France.

NECROLOGY

+Fr. Martin Alphonsus Josef Könings, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died October 19. He was born in 1930, professed in 1951 and ordained in 1956.

+Fr. Antonius Martinus van Roij, a member of the Dutch – Flemish Confederation, died October 8. He was born in 1926, professed in 1948 and ordained in 1953.

+Fr. Anthony David Austin, a member of the South African Province, died on September 29. He was born in 1932, professed in 1961 and ordained in 1961.