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### U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

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## Minutes of the 879th Provincial Council Meeting March 6-7, 2018, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Duy Nguyen and Br. Frank Presto, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Fr. Tom Knoebel, SHSST president-rector, for updates on the seminary; Fr. David Szatkowski via phone conference for formation concerns; Mary Balistreri, province director of Healthcare Services, via phone conference, for discussion of nursing care and assisted living options; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Excused: Fr. Christianus Hendrik, who was unable to travel due to the weather.

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

- Administrative concerns — Br. Presto noted several administrative concerns that affect SCJs. The first is that as of January 1 the Archdiocese of Milwaukee requires background checks of all priests seeking full-time faculties. The chancellor's office has agreed to accept the background checks already done by the province on its membership; international SCJs will need to have background checks specific to the time that they have been in the United States. Also, as of January 1 the Social Security administration stopped issuing specialized Social Security numbers that were not valid for employment but useful as identification for things such as background checks and insurance coverage. This is of particular concern for international SCJs in the US Province.
- SHSM In-Service — Members of the US Province Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission were the presenters at the February 19 in-service for staff of Sacred Heart Southern Missions in Mississippi. In October, SHSM staff heard from several young people affected by DACA. Continuing the theme of migration, the JPR Commission provided an in-depth look at immigration and related issues. The focus was on the human aspect of immigration, asking attendees to look at the issues not as politicians, but as Christians. The in-service was very well received by SHSM staff.
- Power of Attorney for Health Care — The Sacred Heart Community at SHML recently discussed the significance of POA documents and the need to regularly update them.
- Vocations — At least two young men are expected to take part in the next Come and See Weekend, April 6-8.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston — The remodeling of the concinita at Our Lady of Guadalupe is expected to be finished by the end of March. Once complete, it should allow for SCJ guest space and/or expanded community space on the parish grounds.

II. Administration

A. Membership

1. Fr. Joseph Dinh — Fr. Dinh was unable to get a student visa so he will return to the United States from Italy in April and apply for the visa in Chicago. Shortly after, he hopes to return to Naples for continued Italian language study. He has a pilgrimage commitment in August. Fr. Dinh proposes coming back to the United States after the pilgrimage, on August 25, and returning to Italy for the formators course at the end of September.

The council is concerned that the breaks in Fr. Dinh's Italian studies will make it difficult for him to be prepared for the formators' course that begins in October. Also, they believe that he would benefit from being in Rome in September with the other participants, building community with them, prior to the start of the course. For these reasons, Fr. Kilianski will inform Fr. Dinh that he is to remain in Rome following the pilgrimage (which ends in Rome) to more fully prepare for the formators course. If possible, he should also meet the pilgrimage in Europe instead of returning to the United States to travel to Europe with the group.

2. Br. Brian Tompkins — The council voted to appoint Br. Brian Tompkins as treasurer of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML.
  3. Fr. Tim Gray — He met with Fr. Kilianski regarding possible retirement plans; he turns 70 in November. Fr. Gray would like to have "semi-retired" status and remain in Houston and do help-out ministry. Fr. D. Nguyen and Fr. Gray will talk about how that arrangement might work. Details can be reviewed during the Houston visitation in May.
  4. Br. Ray Kozuch — The council appointed Br. Kozuch as administrator of the St. Joseph's Community (4th Floor) at SHML until a consultation for leadership is done. The consultation will take place after the renovation of Sacred Heart Monastery is complete and members of its community relocate to SHM.
  5. Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas — The council voted to approve Frater Juancho to receive the ministry of acolyte on April 7; this will take place in Hales Corners. The council also voted to approve Frater Juancho for ordination to the diaconate; this will also take place in Hales Corners, on June 16, the Saturday prior to the Election Assembly.
- Fr. Kilianski will contact Bishop James Scheurman, auxiliary bishop of Milwaukee, to find out if he is available for the ceremony. If he is able to do the ordination, Fr. Kilianski will inform Archbishop Jerome Listeck.
6. Fr. Jerzy Mordalski — Fr. Mordalski, a member of the Polish Province, will come to the United States on July 1 to begin a one-year sabbatical.
  7. Indonesian SCJs — Two members of the Indonesian Province — Br. Markus Triyono Yulianto and Fr. Hendrik Arianto — will be coming to the United States in the next few months to prepare for full-time ministry and community in the US Province. These men will be available for ministry anywhere in the province, not necessarily South Dakota. Following up on the recommendations of the recent Provincial Conference, they will receive planned enculturation to both American culture (society in general and the Church specifically) and the US Province. This will be more fully discussed at the April council meeting. It was noted that there is a program on enculturation at St. Meinrad's, and Fr. Andrzej Sudol could possibly assist with an enculturation program since this is the focus of his graduate studies.
  8. Consultation with Director of Province Healthcare Services — In the months ahead, Mary Balistreri, province director of Healthcare Services, will visit with members of the province living on their own to help them assess their health care needs. The visits are advisory; however, general summaries of an SCJ's well-being will be shared with the provincial superior.
  9. Br. Leonard Zaworski — Fr. Kilianski gave Br. Zaworski permission to go to Vietnam to assist with ESL this summer.
- B. Formation Ratio — Br. Presto updated the council on the revision of the Formation Ratio. The committee is approximately halfway through the book, has another meeting in two weeks, and anticipates having a draft to show the council in May.
- C. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Tom Knoebel, SHSST president-rector, joined the council to update it on seminary activities. Among the topics discussed:
1. MA Program for Indian SCJs — Fr. Knoebel and Dr. Patrick Russell (SHSST academic dean) visited India in February to finalize the details of "Adveniat Regnum Tuum Pathway: a Master of Arts Initiative," the MA program designed in partnership with the District of India and SHSST. The first three Indian students will begin the on-site portion of the program at SHSST in January, 2019.

Fr. Knoebel said that the equipment is in place to allow for the online portion of the program, though a new router will be needed. Visiting the community in Eluru where the Indian portion of the program will be based, Fr. Knoebel said that he found the students to be intelligent, hard-working and enthusiastic. However, he did note that many have a

naiveté about the world beyond India. They will need transitional assistance when they come to the United States. Fr. Michael Benedict, rector in India, will travel with the first group of SHSST on-site students to help them settle in; they will arrive in January, 2019. This first group will remain a full year, but once the program is established, the on-site time at SHSST will only be six months.

It was noted that the seminary is providing academic instruction but plans need to be made for the students' formation. Several possibilities can be considered, including having an Indian formator at SHSST.

During breaks in the academic calendar it was suggested that the Indian students visit other communities and ministries in the US Province.

In Eluru, students watch videos of their instructors. Fr. Tom Cassidy or Fr. Michael Benedict are with them to assist with the online classes. Generally, the students will watch the video twice and then have the option of submitting questions to either Fr. Cassidy or Fr. Michael Benedict, or to the instructor. Responses from the instructor are given a couple of days later.

Fr. Knoebel noted the lack of resources for seminarians in Eluru. He said that SHSST will try to send extra books that it has to the theology community to help it build up its library.

2. Strategic planning — The seminary is in the midst of its strategic planning process. Among the variables that SHSST is taking into consideration in its planning is the enhanced presence of the SCJs at the seminary, both on staff and in residence through the formation program.
3. Permanent Deacon Program — SHSST is an academic support to the permanent deacon program for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
4. Fall symposium — Fr. Knoebel updated the council on plans for SHSST's International Symposium: "Discovering Pope Francis: Theological, Philosophical, Cultural and Spiritual Perspectives." It will take place October 8-11, 2018, and include several internationally respected speakers, including Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio to the United States. Fr. Knoebel believes that this will not only be an excellent program, but also a significant boost to the reputation of SHSST. The nuncio would like to open the program to 500 participants; SHSST is looking at possibilities for accommodating this. One suggestion is to prepare the auditorium/gymnasium. Archbishop ListECKI will be among those present and will celebrate a Mass during the symposium. The Mass may take place at St. Martin of Tours parish. It was suggested that Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the USCCB, be invited to the symposium.
5. Renovation — Discussions have taken place regarding a possible contribution by SHSST toward renovations of the building it shares with Sacred Heart Monastery. Archbishop ListECKI expressed concern about the importance of maintaining a separation of the two entities: SHSST and the archdiocese. This stems from his experience with the archdiocesan bankruptcy.

Related to discussion of the renovation, Dn. Nagel informed the council that preliminary plans have been drawn up for renovation of the student section of SHSST. No timeline has been set for this; discussions are in the preliminary stages.

6. Water damage — Fr. Knoebel informed the council of a water leak and subsequent damage in the building.
  7. Cardinal Stritch — Fr. Knoebel was asked to clarify how the partnership program with Cardinal Stritch University works. There are possibilities for degrees and certificates for both ordained and non-ordained ministry.
  8. Meeting with superior general — During the Christmas break Fr. Knoebel was in Rome and met with Fr. Heiner Wilmer, superior general. Fr. Knoebel said that it was a good opportunity to talk about the seminary and plans for the future. Fr. Wilmer asked about the possibility of SHSST granting doctorates. Fr. Knoebel said that this is something which the seminary could pursue; however, it would not be able to grant a pontifical doctorate, only a Ph.D or D.Min. However, both of these options would be beneficial for the publics served by SHSST.
- D. Visitations — Five of the nine province visitations have been completed. The theme of "vocations" has been a good topic of discussion in the communities. At Sacred Heart at SHSM there were positive ideas about supporting the vocation office in general, and Fr. Q. Nguyen in particular.

The Sacred Heart Monastery Community is doing well, despite the fact that its members are living outside of the monastery while waiting for renovations to be done. Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Br. Duane Lemke are well-appreciated for their work with the ESL program.

Although it is in a state of transition, the Chicago formation community appears to be in good spirits. It is important that some type of closure ceremony be done to honor the time that the province has spent in Chicago.

Fr. Kilianski had a good visitation at the novitiate. The novices feel well-connected to the province, often taking part in activities at SHML and SHSST. The novitiate has also hosted SCJs and events, including a Lunar New Year's celebration. Both novices are on track for profession. Fr. Andrzej Sudol will be joining the community full-time in a few months.

There is a possibility of up to five novices in the next novitiate class: three for the US Province and two for Vietnam. It will make for a very international novitiate with each of the potential US novices from a country other than the United States (Togo, Costa Rica and Mexico).

- E. Memory care and assisted living — Last year the council decided to send members of the US Province who need assisted living and/or nursing care to St. Camillus, a Catholic health care facility that is also used by the Jesuits. Previously, those needing such assistance lived at the Congregational Home.

Two SCJs remain at the Congregational Home: Fr. Joseph Doscher and Fr. Leonard Tadyszak. Although the council had initially planned to have these men move to St. Camillus once its memory care facility was updated, after consultation with several people, including Mary Balistreri, province director of Healthcare Services, the council decided to have Frs. Doscher and Tadyszak remain at the Congregational Home. It was noted that while they would receive excellent care in either facility, at this stage in their life it would be beneficial for them to have consistency and familiarity.

- F. Provincial Conference — Follow-up activities from the Provincial Conference, “Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry,” will be developed in collaboration with Sr. Cathy Bertrand, conference facilitator. A date for the next gathering of those in active ministry will be set at the next council meeting. Most likely it will take place in winter or early spring, 2019. Mary Gorski is to contact SHSST to find out when the Christmas and Spring breaks are so that the students can more easily take part. It was suggested that the next conference include an outside presenter on a topic such as interculturality and/or inter-generational living.

The summary and evaluations of the conference will be included in the next *Cor Unum*.

- G. Province Elections — The council reviewed the two lists of names (one for provincial superior and one for provincial councilors) to be forwarded to the General Council for its approval in preparation for the 2018 US Province Election Assembly. After minor corrections, the council voted to send the list of names for provincial superior and to send the list of names for provincial councilors to the General Council for its approval.

The Election Assembly will begin on Monday, June 18, at 1:15 p.m. The following days it will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Provincial Conference Center. The lunch break will go from noon until 1:15 p.m.

The next mailing from Br. Presto will include directions regarding proxy ballots.

Fr. Kilianski was in Houston the weekend prior to the council meeting to work with Br. Andy Gancarczyk on the State of the Province video. Fr. Kilianski asked that Br. Brian Tompkins do the narration. In reviewing the report, the council asked that a written report be added from the Communications Office and from the Province Archives. Mary Gorski will contact Br. Duane Lemke about this. It was noted that Fr. Kilianski needs to write a brief introduction to go with the written report.

- H. Religious Brothers Day — The council endorsed the request of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men to celebrate May 1, 2018, as “Religious Brothers Day.” Resources will be made available to the membership via the *Fridge Notes* and other province communications.

### III. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — Sid Liebenson has retired from his position as director of development at the Province Development Office. The new development team from St. Joseph's Indian School — Kory Christianson, Neoma Harris, Melissa Chmela and Gerri Beck — was with the office February 5-7. They will work with the office remotely, with quarterly on-site visits throughout the year. The mailings at the office are doing well, and it is anticipated that there will be a \$1.4 million net increase in income.
- B. Chicago property — The closing on the property that houses the formation program in Chicago took place January 18. The building sold for \$5.7 million. The community will rent space on the property until the end of the semester and move to Sacred Heart Monastery in early summer. When the community leaves Chicago, the three international SCJ students at Loyola will live in student housing at the university.
- C. SHM renovation — The renovation of Sacred Heart Monastery is on schedule. The new elevator was inspected January 19 and is available for use. Initial renovation plans have been drawn up for the other side of the building (general student housing). The rough estimate for remodeling of the student side is \$4 million.
- D. Development Office Committee — Representatives of the province development offices met January 22, 2018, to discuss fund raising and related issues. Among the issues discussed: 1) sharing each office's mailings to get a better sense of what each is doing; 2) the primary goals of each office (in particular, raising funds to cover the operating expenses of the ministries for which it is responsible); 3) short and long-term challenges faced by the offices including newsletter options, planned giving, and electronic giving; 4) three-year planning for each office; and 5) how social action or faith in action can be a part of the fund-raising experience. In the future the group would like to discuss branding and social media.
- E. Investments — Although last year investments enjoyed a 15% return, this year has seen a rocky start. The hope for the current year is a 7% return. The next investment meeting will be on May 16.
- F. Audits — The province "bluebook" (a compilation of all the audits and financial statements of the province) is complete; the audit of the lay side of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake is done. No irregularities were cited. The investment audit is in process and should be done soon.
- G. Budgets — The annual budget process is on schedule; the Province Finance Commission will meet to review the budgets April 25-26.
- H. Meetings — The meeting with the Human Resource directors and consultants regarding the employee medical plan will be on April 24. The General Finance Commission will meet May 21-24 in Madrid, Spain. Dn. Nagel will take part in both.
- I. Development training — Fr. Praveen Kumar Richard of India will take part in the first summer semester of the ESL program and then remain for approximately two years to learn about fundraising. Also, an SCJ from Vietnam is expected to come for a brief introduction to fundraising in the US Province; he is to arrive in late spring and remain until August. A councilor asked about how such experiences will be coordinated. If the SCJs are to visit the three offices, how can they work together to ensure that each office covers a different aspect of development? Since the South Dakota operations are the most financially successful, should this be the preferred base for the study of fundraising?

Also, it is important to note that what is appropriate for development in the United States may not be transferable to another country or culture.

Dn. Nagel said that it is difficult to plan an educational program in development for a person who is here for a very short time. For Fr. Praveen, Dn. Nagel suggests that he begin with a 12-week online course from Boston College to give him a good base from which he can learn about the specifics of the SCJ development programs. For an SCJ to really benefit from an experience in the US Province he needs to commit at least six months. The council suggested that Dn. Nagel contact Fr. Francis Vu Tran and suggest to him that the person he sends arrive early enough that he can take the Boston College course.

- IV. Next meetings — The next meeting of the full council will be April 10-11, the day after the North American Councils meeting. Budget review will take place at the June 5-6 Provincial Council meeting.

# Summary of Provincial Conference “Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry”

January 30 – February 1, 2018  
Provincial Conference Center, Hales Corners, WI

## Tuesday, January 30

I. **Welcome** — Fr. Ed Kilianski welcomed participants and thanked them for attending. All SCJs in active ministry invited to the conference were present. He noted much of what he shared in communication prior to the conference, including the fact that the province is becoming smaller in number and increasingly multicultural. How can the membership best support each other in community and ministry? How shall the province move toward the future? Are there new models of ministry that would be beneficial? How do those in active ministry plan for the future together? Fr. Kilianski welcomed Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, as facilitator of the conference.

## II. Morning Prayer

III. **Provincial Council** — Fr. Kilianski and the Provincial Council came to the front of the conference room to individually share their hopes for the gathering. Their comments, paraphrased:

**FR. JACK KURPS** – We (those in active ministry) need to decide what our future might look like. I believe that we can do what we are doing with creative models of ministry. These are possibilities for us, but also for the Church as a whole.

**BR. FRANK PRESTO** – The elders of our province have enriched us greatly, but we have to take next step. We need to look at where we are going and how we support ourselves in community and ministry.

**FR. CHRISTIANUS HENDRIK** – The province helped me to transfer my membership, get a visa, get a green card. We do good preparation with these things. But what preparation is there for someone coming to a new world? A new community? I took a cross-cultural preaching course and went to the Sioux Center for cross cultural ministry. But what about the US Province? How do we prepare people to know what that is like? What part of the US Province do we prepare a person for? How can we understand a new province so that we can walk together?

**FR. QUANG NGUYEN** – We are here not just because Fr. Ed called us to be here but because we are taking ownership and planning our future together.

**FR. DUY NGUYEN** – How do we flourish in ministry and community? Can we find ways to flourish together? We are like an arranged marriage. You didn't pick these people, but you choose to be together in community. We are of different generations, personalities and backgrounds. How do we live WELL together in this situation? How do we work WELL together?

**FR. ED KILIANSKI** – When we talked about this in council I said that I wanted a meeting. One of the councilors said that we should call it a conference. I have invited many to come and share our life and ministry but the mistake I made was not in helping with the enculturation of those individuals into our province. We just put them in a ministry and expected it would happen on its own. But it is a challenge.

In ESL we have wonderful men in service to our students: Fr. Yvon and Br. Duane. They are meeting the needs of our international confreres in ESL. The ESL program has begun to help with enculturation and accent modification. We can teach English. But how, thrown in this “arranged marriage,” do we live together as brothers?

We have the possibility of being joined by Indians, Africans, and others who would like to send their seminarians to SHSST. We have to figure out who we are. How do we invite and include confreres from around the world?

**BR. FRANK PRESTO** – I have been involved in the green card process for many people here. We need to be mindful that this process is becoming more difficult.

IV. **First table discussions and feedback:** What did you hear? Three individual responses:

**FR. VIEN NGUYEN** –I hope that we can help men with enculturation, including issues of isolation, loneliness and acceptance inside and outside community. We focus on SCJs of other entities but also need to be mindful of native-born members too.

**FR. CHRISTIANUS HENDRIK** – In the past there was talk of “prophetic houses” or “prophetic communities.” People lived together but did not do a particular ministry. It is really interesting. It brought me back to the past when in Indonesia our first missionaries were from the Netherlands and the United States. People still talk of those missionaries and how they came to our country with nothing. But in the next few of years, over a thousand people became Catholic. How did these missionaries do this? Were they smarter than us? No. But what attracted so many people when these missionaries lived alone without community at the beginning? People still speak of some of these men who lived simply. Is that the prophetic way of life that we are missing? We need to make people aware of what we are doing. We need to share this with each other. Could each of us share the best thing of our vocation and publish it once a month or more on Facebook or other places? People will see that and say, “Hey, who are these Priests of the Sacred Heart?”

**FR. GREG SCHILL** – At our table there was an insight about enculturation. When someone comes from another country to do ministry we also have our cultures within our ministries in different areas of the United States. We need to be prepared for the culture of the ministry itself, the parish operation, AND the community. This is for international SCJs and for members of the province transferring to a new community.

- V. PowerPoint** — Participants viewed a PowerPoint prepared by the facilitator; the PowerPoint showed the story of a box whose shape is repeatedly changed by external elements. In small groups, participants talked about it. Comments (paraphrased) from representatives speaking for their tables:

**FRATER JUANCHO CASTAÑEDA ROJAS** – Every day there is something new. Every day there is work to do. We have different opinions, ways to do things. The creative part happens when we step outside of our comfort zone and try to do something new. We don’t just live in a perfect square.

Something important to note: the square [of the PowerPoint presentation] didn’t do all the work of change itself. External forces pushed the decision to do something new.

**FR. BYRON HAALAND** – Many years ago I made an eight-day retreat with Richard Rohr about masculine spirituality. As I watched the show, I saw masculine spirituality happening: breaking, shattering, destruction of the square. SCJ spirituality has a kind of masculine spirit. We must look at things that break us apart and what we do with this when we welcome God into the fray of it all. We experience different forms of brokenness; what do I do with it? How do I respond? The alternative is resentment. This is opposed to gratitude. We should give thanksgiving for brokenness.

**FR. ANDRZEJ SUDOL** – The presentation was challenging. Creative. Dramatic but with a happy end. For me it is a beautiful image of the province: a perfect square, happy, a beautiful color. Then every day there is a different challenge, different people. It reminds me of interculturality. It is a difficult challenge. We have to accept differences. To be creative is risky. We don’t know what will happen. But it is always beneficial. The square is happier in a different shape. It can be useful in a different shape. It is happy accepting the differences, the different shape.

I work in formation. Formation in the past was like that, the “perfect square.” But now, instead of putting people in a set mold, formation means adjusting to each other. It is much better.

**FR. ZBIGNIEW MORAWIEC** – When I first came, the US Province was much different. It was in the early discussions about the presence of others, people from other entities. Then I came again eight years ago. The topic was much more evident. We began to speak of the possibility of becoming a province with an international presence. Now, we need to talk not just of the presence of people from other entities but that the province is BECOMING international. It is a big challenge.

It is easy to challenge someone in his 20s or 30s to leave his comfort zone but not someone over 50 or 60. This is reality. The question: are we ready? This challenge is vital for us. Do we want to face it?

We are heading toward the reality of becoming an international province. I am one of those who came from outside. The province is based in the wisdom and experience of our American brothers; you are the engine of this province. But slowly we must incorporate the energy of new entities, new cultures. This is good. The US Province is something important to our congregation and to Church.

**VI. Table discussions regarding the questions: 1) What do you find supportive in community life and ministry, and 2) What do you want to name that needs help?**

**A. First table discussions** (participants were seated randomly at their tables):

**1. What is good:**

- There is a sense of working together for the good of the Church and the community.
- Our spirituality is based in the love of the Sacred Heart.
- We do well at common celebrations, such as anniversaries and the celebrations of cultures.
- Our prayer life and sacramental life with fellow SCJs.
- Intercultural living.
- Collaboration in ministry.
- Encouragement and affirmation.
- Having the resource of the retired SCJs (wisdom and help-out).
- Our ministries, and our commitment to sustain and grow them.
- The fact that we live in community, which is better than living in isolation.
- The integration between ministry, community and prayer. One flows into the other.
- The Dehonian values of reparation and reconciliation.
- Our leadership, which has good pastoral concern for our brothers and those to whom we minister.

**2. What needs help?**

- People often are named to leadership without the necessary skills to help them be successful, both in community and ministry.
- The challenge of those who do not want to participate in community life and prayer.
- The “Four Cs”: communication, clarification, consultation and collaboration in community and ministry.
- The clarification of expectations in all areas of life, but especially when a person joins a community. What are his expectations and what are those of the community?
- We need to trust each other; there needs to be more transparency.
- We need to be more present to the community and find common things to do together.
- We must be careful not to pigeonhole people and/or criticize each other.
- We need more consultation.
- People keep saying that their energy comes from ministry. We need to create an environment in which it is community life that provides energy for ministry.

**B. Second set of table discussions** — For these discussions participants were grouped by years in vows to discuss the same questions noted previously (what is good/what needs help?) Comments:



- What is most significant is our relationships with each other?
- Internationality has allowed us to broaden who we are individually but also as a province. This is a challenge, but also a benefit.
- It is difficult to get to know people when we only see each other at meetings like this. We are widely scattered; it is difficult to create meaningful relationships with each other.
- There is a desire for more transparency in financial matters.
- There needs to be greater communication and consultation, especially in regard to assignments.
- There is a challenge in understanding each other that does not have to do with language itself, but instead, by what is meant by the words spoken. Culturally, we have different ways of looking at things and understanding words. How do we ensure that we are on the same page? Even native-born Americans have this challenge with one another.
- Prayer and ministry are interrelated as a value.
- As men, we might find ministry to be more fulfilling than community life. Working on relationships is not always easy for men. We need to allow for spontaneous time together because this is often more life-giving than planned social events.
- Those from the group who have been in vows the longest noted losses in the past that had not been properly grieved. In some cases, decisions were made without consultation and that has stayed with some people.
- There is a large gap between two of the vow groups.
- Many of the men who have been in vows for a shorter period of time have an international experience of the congregation, either because they come from other cultures or they studied or served in entities outside of the United States. This brings a wealth of knowledge to ministry and community life.
- In communities where there are people doing different ministries it can be difficult to coordinate schedules to allow for shared prayer, meals and social time.
- We need casual time together. Even coming together to smoke allows people an opportunity to spend time together and engage one another.
- More people should be willing to do vocation recruitment, even those who are not yet in final vows.
- We need to remember that we are more than the US Province. But also, internationality does not take away the essence of the US Province.
- We need to learn from other entities. In regard to vocations and youth ministry we are just as capable as other entities.

## Wednesday, January 31

### I. Morning Prayer

II. **Welcome and review** — Sr. Cathy welcomed the participants and asked them to review the written summary of yesterday's table discussions.

III. **First table discussions ("What if..." statements on yellow poster sheets)** — Divided by ministries, participants discussed possibilities for community and ministry and then created "What if" statements. By table, they were:

**A. SHSST**

1. What if the school reflected more fully the SCJ charism and the Dehonian worldview?
2. What if there were a structure/pathway for communication, clarification, consultation and collaboration between the province administration and local SCJ communities?
3. What if we consider/actively seek ministry outreach to young people through university chaplaincies, or perhaps opening a coffee shop or bookstore near a university?

**B. FORMATION DIRECTORS**

1. What if I lived Constitution #23 as if it mattered in my life and in my preaching by verbalizing Dehonian values explicitly?
2. What if we intentionally saw ourselves as prophets of love and servants of reconciliation in how we live together and relate to one another, consciously being affirming and encouraging?
3. What if we lived interculturality intentionally by witnessing to the wider public community living in our present historical circumstances, showing that people of different backgrounds and countries can live together?
4. What if we used our director of communications more and send her stories to share?
5. What if we interacted and honored one another's cultures?

**C. PARISH 1**

1. What if we share our SCJ spirituality with the people to whom we minister?
2. What if we find more ways to interact with each other?
3. What if after watching the Super Bowl we watch soccer championships?
4. What if we met regularly as a community without a "pressing issue?"

**D. PARISH 2**

1. What if senior SCJs were more involved in local communities?
2. What if we had a short checklist for communities (prayer time, sharing time, affirming/fraternal correction)?
3. What if we had resources/workshops for "building blocks" on how to affirm each other, how to welcome others, how to communicate, transparency, people skills?

**E. STUDENTS**

1. What if we prepare students/fraters for vocation ministry and community life?
2. What if we promote the ESL program and ministries of the US Province to other entities?
3. What if we bridge the gap between cultures and generations with community building and conflict management?
4. What if we celebrate Founder's Day together and promote the spirituality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

**F. ADMINISTRATION**

1. What if, in addition to the provincial assembly during the summer, this group meets once a year, preferably at different ministry sites...
  - to build relationships,
  - to develop skills,
  - to increase knowledge of what we do,
  - to create a new story, a common history?

2. What if we could create a culture of vocations within the province and the Church
  - hospitality, welcoming communities
  - pastoral concern for each other and the people to whom we minister
  - open to different cultures/experiences
  - in our parishes and schools, through preaching and programs, promote vocations
  - do what some other religious parishes do: celebrate religious life' everyone knows what community staff it/announce things like ordinations, professions, etc.

**III. Second table discussions** — Continuing in ministry groupings, small tables discussed and answered the statement: **“Regarding community and ministry we hope that...”**

**A. STUDENTS:**

1. We hope that we can see community as a fraternal family in which we accept, respect and enrich each other with the “talents” given to us by God. We hope to promote relationship-building by having regular get-togethers in different settings.
2. We hope to see our ministry as a way of responding to God’s call and love. We hope to reach out to youth and promote the spirituality of love to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**B. FORMATION DIRECTORS:**

1. We hope to learn to name explicitly and to share intentionally our charism of being prophets of love and servants of reconciliation to one another and the world, which leads us to live intentionally Constitution No. 23 in the way we live and minister within society.
2. We hope that this lived reality will lead to new ministry to youth and to young adults to promote Dehonian Spirituality and values.

**C. SACRED HEART SEMINARY AND SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY:**

1. We hope to create new models of co-responsibility through communication, clarification, consultation and collaboration between province administration and the membership of the province.
2. We hope to have a province culture in our local communities of eating “whole food.” [Eating in a healthy manner.]
3. In response to Fr. Dehon’s call to “Go to the People!” we hope to explore new ways of welcoming young people for conversation about their spiritual lives. This could be a source of vocations. Possibilities include opening a coffee shop or bookstore near a college campus.

**D. ADMINISTRATION:**

1. We hope that through continued annual gatherings of this group that we are able to a) build relationships and a common history and b) develop skills for the future of the province and the congregation through workshops and other formative experiences.

**E. PARISH (TABLE 1):**

1. We hope that each member of the province will feel valued and respected so that with other community members he can go out to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.

**F. PARISH (TABLE 2):**

1. We hope that there is follow-up to the yellow sheets (“What if?”) completed by the tables. This could be done in several ways. Participants at this conference could choose a sheet that they would like to be a part of implementing, sharing the tasks of implementation with others also interested in that particular sheet. Or, each table could be given a sheet to implement. The main concern is that follow-up not just be assigned to a committee but instead be the responsibility of all present.

2. OR, we hope that local communities can take responsibility for implementing the yellow sheets.
3. We hope that there can be an annual one-month exchange of personnel.

**IV. Third table discussions** — The participants moved from ministry groupings to **local community groups**. The discussion question was: **“Regarding community and ministry we have decided that or commit to...”**

**Comments (paraphrased):**

- The South Dakota community suggested having an exchange program in which an SCJ from one area of the province would come to live and work in another area. This would allow the community to get to know the person and the person to get to know another part of the province.
- The Mississippi community would like to take two to three days in a place other than Nesbit to spend time together to enhance relationships for community life and ministry.
- We would like to have more spontaneous gatherings.
- SHML would like to have more community meetings and outings.
- St. Joseph’s Community (4<sup>th</sup> Floor) would like to have more regular meetings outside of the discussion of topics of significant concern.
- Members of its community would like to discuss the type of food served at SHML.
- The Texas community would like to reaffirm the value of informal time together; the excuse “pastoral obligations” is too easily used to miss such time.
- The novitiate community would like to welcome more people from the province to visit.
- More sharing is needed in local communities. We need to get to know each other.
- Could we do a “Dehonian Way of the Cross” as a way of building community?
- The transition of the formation program from Chicago to Milwaukee needs to be ritualized.

**Thursday, February 1**

**I. Morning Prayer**

**II. International SCJs** — Three international SCJs (Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas and Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec) shared their experiences of coming to the US Province. Highlights:

**A. FR. HENDRIK** — He first came to the United States in 2008 on a three-month visa for ESL studies to prepare to be a missionary in the Philippines. But Fr. Tom Cassidy, provincial superior at the time, asked him to consider serving in South Dakota, to be a missionary to the rural parishes on the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Indian Reservations.

He joined the Lower Brule Pastoral Team in 2010. “When I got there, I didn’t know what to do, what to expect,” he said. “But now, I am committed to this province; I am willing to die for this province.”

What he asks of his fellow SCJs in return is patience and trust. “I have been in South Dakota for eight years and sometimes I feel like I am only an eight-year-old boy in how I express myself. It is still not always easy to speak in English. Have patience with me.”

**B. FRATER CASTAÑEDA ROJAS** — He spoke of his experience of coming from Colombia as an ESL student in 2006. One of the biggest challenges that he and other international SCJs and students have when they arrive is the frustration of not being

able to express themselves.

“I am a Colombian in the US Province bringing to it my experiences and what I have learned,” he said. “It is important for us all to be open to our differences — multicultural, generational — differences make us great as a province. We are better for our differences and our many cultures.”

He said that it is important for anyone new to the province to have more opportunities to learn about the province. Expectations need to be outlined. There must be trust and good communication.

- C. FR. MORAWIEC** — He first came to the US Province in 1993 for ESL. Coming here was a little easier for him than others because he had family in Chicago. It was when he was in India that he had the experience of being in a totally unknown environment.

He returned to the US Province in 2011 with the intention of joining it in community and ministry. Fr. Morawiec said that he felt very welcome, was well assisted by members of the province and the administration, and the ESL program was very helpful.

For him, the challenge of coming to a new province to work did not hit him until he began to prepare for his first assignment (Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston). He then realized that he didn't have a good sense of the province's expectations for him. He didn't know the province's communities and ministries very well. This is something that new-comers to the province — international SCJs as well as candidates — need to learn early on. There should be a good introduction to the province as soon as possible.

He also said that those new to the country are sometimes embarrassed to admit that they don't know how to do things that native-born Americans take for granted; even filling a car with gas at a self-serve station is unfamiliar to many from outside the United States.

- II. Experience of international SCJs in community** — Two members of the Provincial Council — Fr. Jack Kurps and Fr. Duy Nguyen — individually shared their thoughts and experiences of international SCJs in community and ministry. Highlights from their comments:

- A. FR. NGUYEN** — It was eye-opening to hear the comments of the international SCJs. There has to be better communication from the community to the person new to the community, but the new person must also take responsibility for sharing his challenges, sharing what he is feeling and with what he may be struggling. Perhaps this is more difficult for men, but the community can't address issues if they don't know what they are. There must be a willingness in the local community to engage one another and let each other know that we are not alone.
- B. FR. KURPS** — The community has a sense of its ministries, expectations, how the Church basically works in the local area. Sometimes, it is easy to take for granted that the new person knows this as well. However, while beliefs are the same, the way that pastoral care is done may be radically different from one area of the world, or even one area of the province, than another.

People coming from other cultures need to be given time to learn about the US Province, including where and how the province ministers. They should receive experience in several areas of the province before receiving an assignment so that they better know how the Church functions in the United States. A mindful process should be developed for this.

The province — individually, locally and as a province — needs to learn how to better communicate with each other, not just international SCJs.

- C. General Comments** — Following the reflections of Fr. Kurps and Fr. Nguyen, the floor was open for general comments. Many echoed the need to develop a process to help introduce international SCJs to the province and American culture. Communication needs to be better at the community level, including an enhancement of trust among SCJs so that they can share issues of concern with each other.

It is also important that SCJs share their personal stories with each other.

- III. Closing** — The conference closed with Mass; Fr. Ed Kilianski was the main celebrant.

# Evaluations from the January 30 – February 1, 2018 Provincial Conference: “Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry”

1. The experience was good because I was able to hear other voices and felt that my voice was heard.

It was very helpful to listen to the opinions and stories from other members, not just from the local community. I can see a clear intention to grow as an international congregation in a more caring way.

2. I like the topics we discussed. These really broadened my perspective of thinking and doing my mission in the US Province.

The process really helped me understand better why the US Province needs more SCJs from other entities / other provinces. In the context of the US Province there is a need to meet the pastoral needs of the US Church.

3. Hearing the stories of the challenges, difficulties and new experiences from those from other entities and cultures was eye-opening. It helps to understand better where they are coming from.

It would be nice if, those who have not spoken, especially from other countries, could share what their experiences are, what they need to be more adjusted, and what local communities can do better or differently to help them transition.

Perhaps ideas on how we can be engaged.

4. A great opportunity to get to know the members living and working in different fields and areas.

As their stories were shared I understood more about their backgrounds, ministries and their visions and dreams for the future of the US Province.

The realization of the great values enriched by the diversity of cultures.

Awareness of the challenges but full of hope promised by the loving God.

Expectations for more conferences and sharing.

5. I was not certain of the goal of the gathering. It started very slow; gathering with my age group was not helpful.

The second and third days were much better sharing.

As always, what will be the follow-up? Could a half day of the election assembly be used for follow-up?

6. This meeting for me is the biggest step, the biggest starting point for our future “intercultural” province.

So may we be one, unity in diversity, to be an example of living in diversity for our congregation.

7. What was helpful?

- Love for commitment for local community.
- Importance of telling story in order to know someone.
- The need to express expectations and to know what is expected of me.
- Recognize that while we have challenges there are many things that we do well.

8. It was good; change of tables was helpful to conversations.

It was helpful to have time and space for the local communities to meet and discuss things.

I suggest that we do this again, pick up on some of the “What if...” suggestions, and develop a process to welcome members from other entities.

9. It was helpful to see things with fresh eyes!

Suggestions:

- Conversations take place on the local level before the provincial and council assign someone.
- Slowly introduce new members to our province.

10. I often begin such encounters with apprehension — even anxiety. By the second day such feelings diminished. The engagement with those “peers” at table conversations was honest and gave rise to other concerns in, i.e. community, our province at large. Always great to hear the experience of those outside of the (North) American environment. It is nurturing in a sense. It seemed, however, that the theme of “future” was lost.

What was helpful: the stories. Mutual respect.

Suggestions: none in particular. Thanks Sr. Cathy!

11. I did not find this experience focused on what was originally posted as its objective — to plan for our future. The first two days seemed to be more concerned with living community life, which we have discussed at every province gathering. I would like to have seen an open conversation with the Provincial Council about our future direction in ministry. The last day was productive with some valuable sharing. It would have been more helpful to share this experience on the first day. I enjoyed the experience to meet with SCJs and the social opportunities were very helpful.

12. I found that my experience at this conference was very helpful and fulfilling. I truly learned a lot about multiculturalism. I hope and pray that we can continue with these types of conferences.

13. My experience at this gathering was helpful. First, I have to make a lot of effort to improve myself and also how to come together as community to work for the good of the Church.

14. Start at 9:00 a.m. and have the lunch break from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This values informal relationships.

Chose a vocabulary: “Invitation” or “Mandatory.” Do not insult our intelligence.

It will be a stretch to consider this consultation and then announce a decision with significant impact.

15. I think it was a good experience to call to mind in a real way issues facing the province. It also brought to light the positive things going on in the province.

There is a need to build a common story among this group in order to build a future for the province. Continued dialogue is essential to building that reality.

16. What has been helpful is hearing other members who come from different entities speak about the struggles and difficulties as well as their desire of how to better incorporate into the US Province.

I do realize that this meeting is only the beginning. It is the process and it will take some doing from all members. My hope is that each member will look within oneself to do something that will enable change to take place.

17. This experience was inspiring.

What was helpful was that members were able to talk with one another.

The timing of the meeting was not good. I have school to tend to on top of this meeting.

18. I know that the province is intentionally making a choice to become intercultural. What was good was hearing stories of others, their struggles. Also talking in the local communities about what was positive, what is bad; and to be able to speak and to share to all about my experience of interculturality.

19. I take this as an openness to more diversity of SCJs from around the world to work in ministry and internal ministry in our province. It is time to put aside labels for different cultural groups.

We still need the "Four Cs" from top to bottom.

Suggest that we begin at 9:00 a.m. and that the afternoon not begin until 2:00 p.m.

20. What do I take from this:

- Hope in the future for intercultural living, for new members from other provinces.
- Direction in what's going on within each community, where to go, what to improve from here.
- Commitment to community:
  - new candidate partner with frater or old candidate.
  - Wikipedia page
  - Youth; Toronto retreat
  - More recreational activities for social

21. The experience provided a safe and open space to discuss ideas that haven't been at the top of our minds and serve as a reminder of what the US Province is about.

We need to continue effort of conversations that need to be brought up and spoken about. Also in formation, not only in local communities, as the basis of foundation needs to be put down, such as now to talk and deal with one another.

The splitting into different peer groups allowed one another to witness that each other has some concerns.

22. This time together has helped me to make more real the motto: "Sint Unum."

We are many parts, from many backgrounds, etc. It is the Spirit that draws us together and makes us one. This is our witness and ministry in the Church and world. Thank you.

23. We had to come here to decide that we have to talk more in community? Strange, but helped me a lot.

Interpretation is always a good thing.

Thank you.

24. Every time we stay together prayer and reflecting it helps me to increase my dedication and commitment to our province.

It was good to hear clearly expressed the will to continue our mission, to look for the future and to find a way to get more SCJs to join the province.



25. I give the sharing a “10” and the facilitator a “10.” I suggest that we work with somebody or game dynamics.
26. It is a good beginning that needs to continue. It was helpful to learn more about ourselves, especially from outside of the US, the newcomers.

We need to develop a program or process of enculturation.

27. What was helpful? We had a good opportunity to meet together: listening, sharing, enjoying being together, especially because I am a newcomer. It is good to know that we still have many brothers who are working all over the US. It was good to see the youthfulness of our province through this conference.

My desire is to have more meetings if it's necessary.

My hope is that the US Province will grow and continue to develop as a multicultural province and intercultural entity.

Once again, thanks everybody!

28. The good will of everyone is very evident. Despite our difficulties, we show we are much more than “problems” to be solved. It was uplifting to be part of our conversations.

Since we are really doing our best, whatever happens in the future and “to our future” is in the Hands of God.

Thank you to Sr. Barbara [sic] and the leaders who put the conference together for our benefit. I greatly appreciated everyone and everything.

29. What was helpful: I found the table conversations, dialogues, personal interactions very helpful and clarifying. Good facilitation by Sr. Cathy; I have gratitude for her presence.

Suggestions or improvements: Perhaps more break time interspersed throughout the tight schedule would have been appreciated. Also, more breakout sessions with a dyad or triad group could have been offered. Additionally, more Q/A time with the Provincial Council should have been allowed.

30. It was helpful to be together, to share the stories, to begin to understand the experience of others.

31. I enjoyed meeting and talking with the men of the province. I think that our “situation” in the province is currently a good one. I liked what a member of the youngest table said on the first day: “At our table guys are happy with their community living and with their ministry.” That sentiment expresses, I believe, how many in the province view their current situation.

Things are not as bad or as distressing as some seem to think.

32. What was helpful was hearing stories from others, their blessings and their struggles. Over all it was a good time.

What needs to improve:

- More time to share our stories.
- More sessions with the Provincial Council and Provincial Superior.
- Later start in the morning.
- Later start in the afternoon.
- Non-Provincial Council presidors. Ask people who are rarely asked to preside.

Bravo to the committee that prepared the conference.

33. I enjoyed the gathering. Hearing about the many intercultural experiences and beginning to talk about expectations was helpful.

Suggestion: perhaps we could begin to look at and form actions around our "What if" statements as an under 70 group.

34. What was helpful: now I can speak openly with my international brothers without fear of misunderstanding or hurting their pride or feelings.

Hope for the future: better community living, one that can be caring and energizing.

## CALENDAR

April 7:	Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas receives the ministry of acolyte
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 16:	Frater Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas is ordained to the diaconate
June 18-22:	US Province Election Assembly, Hales Corners
July 15-21:	General Conference, Philippines
July 23-24:	Major Superiors Meeting, Philippines
August 5-12:	Retreat for those in formation, Racine
August 14-15:	Provincial Council Meeting
September 17-20:	Canadian Regional Assembly
September 19:	Celebration of Jubilees in Canada
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. Greg Murray** is now a member of the Montréal community. His contact information:  
2830 Boul. Gouin est  
Montréal, QC H28 1Y7 Canada  
514-388-5759, X119

**Fr. Joe Dean** has a new email address:  
Jrdscj66@gmail.com

**Fr. Vien Nguyen** is now living with the St. Joseph's Community at SHML:  
7330 S. Lovers Lane Road, Apt. 410  
Franklin, WI 53132-1849  
His email and mobile phone remain the same (both are in the directory)

## NECROLOGY

+**Br. Ben Humpfer**, a member of the US Province, died December 31. He was born in 1944 and ordained in 1966.

+**Fr. Steve Wiese**, a member of the US Province, died January 13. He was born in 1934, professed in 1955 and ordained in 1963.

+**Fr. Johannes van Meer**, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died on January 23. He was born in 1937, professed in 1956 and ordained in 1961.

+ **Fr. Mario Marroni**, a member of the South Italian Province, died February 28. He was born in 1932, professed in 1950 and ordained in 1959.

+ **Fr. Leonard Elder**, a member of the US Province, died March 6. He was born in 1941, professed in 1967 and ordained in 1996.