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### Minutes of the 884th Provincial Council Meeting September 18-19, 2018, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Vien Nguyen and Br. Andy Gancarczyk, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary; Fr. Tony Russo for discussion of the Admissions Board; Frs. Bob Tucker and Tom Cassidy for discussion of the formation program. Excused: Fr. Christianus Hendrik, councilor, for a home visit to Indonesia.

I. New administration — This was the first meeting of the new administration; Fr. Vien Nguyen and Br. Andy Gancarczyk were welcomed to the council. Fr. Kilianski, councilors, Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto spent time the first morning in extended prayer and reflection, as well as visioning and surfacing ideas for the future. Comments from their discussion (paraphrased):

A. Hopes:

- I hope that the province can continue to live in a spirit of new life as opposed to one of diminishment. The influx of new members, both from the United States and from other entities, adds to that sense of life. I hope that we continue to develop our sense of welcoming to international SCJs, but also to those who come to the community for vocational discernment. Related to this, it was suggested that the vocation office consider holding Come and See experiences in places outside of Wisconsin so that potential candidates can see a variety of province ministries and experience the welcome of SCJs in those areas.
- I hope that our members can find fulfillment in their ministries, that they take care of their physical and spiritual health, and that we put a priority on nurturing our students in formation.
- I hope that we — SCJs — can continue to strengthen the bonds among each other. Good communication is easier when there is trust, and trust develops when there are good bonds between people.
- I hope that the call to leadership can be nurtured among the younger members of the province.
- I hope that we, as a province, can find something — a new ministry, a project, a focus — that helps to create enthusiasm. There has often been talk of creating a youth-oriented ministry. Could something be done with an international group of SCJs? It was noted that one of the challenges of having consolidated the province is that its ministries are not in places where there are a lot of vocations. If a new ministry is considered, especially a youth-oriented ministry, it might be good to look at a new area, such as southern California. Another new ministry option could be with immigrants; there is a significant need for counseling and other pastoral assistance to immigrants.

B. Concerns:

- The province expects a lot of province leadership; it is important to keep things in perspective when events become challenging.

C. Communication:

- Texts are a good way to quickly share information among councilors. In his first term Fr. Kilianski often sent texts to councilors to update them on developing issues.

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- The meeting highlights, sent by email soon after council meetings, seem to be a good way to quickly share news of a meeting with the membership. Councilors agreed that this should continue.

D. Confidentiality:

- It is essential that council discussions remain confidential. There will always be an effort to share as much as possible from the meeting through the highlights email and the minutes. Transparency is important, but so too is respect for privacy in certain areas, especially personnel concerns.

E. Future:

- The province will look different at the end of the term. Most likely, it will be smaller in number and more international.
- It is vital that the province prepare people to take on key roles in the province, both in external and internal ministries. Again, there must be an effort to create and/or discover an openness in young SCJs toward leadership.
- I'd like to see a greater sense of co-responsibility in the province.
- I hope that in the future there is greater emphasis on healthy community life and reflection on what it means to live a vow of poverty.

II. Administration

A. Appointments

1. Provincial Treasurer — The council voted to reappoint Dn. David Nagel as Province Treasurer. In doing so, they expressed their gratitude for his many years of service in this role and his willingness to continue.
2. Provincial Secretary — The council voted to reappoint Br. Frank Presto as Provincial Secretary, thanking him also for his continued service to the province.
3. Mission Procurator — The council voted to reappoint Dn. David Nagel as Mission Procurator.
4. Recording Secretary — The council voted to reappoint Mary Gorski as recording secretary.
5. Vice Provincial Superior — Although the Province Directory does not call for a “vice provincial superior,” province tradition has been that the first councilor elected serves as vice provincial. The council decided to continue with this tradition and voted to reappoint Fr. Quang Nguyen as Vice Provincial Superior.
6. Moderator — Fr. Kilianski will continue to moderate the council meetings as he did during his first term.

- B. Provincial Visitations 2018 — The theme for the 2019 Provincial Visitations will be “enculturation,” not just the enculturation of international SCJs to the US Province, but also enculturation of generations, ministerial traditions, and styles of community life. How can “newness” be welcomed and embraced while at the same time respecting the traditions (culture) of a particular ministry and/or community? How does an SCJ enculturate to community life after years of independent living? How is “enculturation” understood in the province? How can those within a community better understand and thus support each other?

The provincial visitations will be held in a style similar to Fr. Kilianski’s first term.

- C. Mission appeal request — Fr. McQueen Winston Savio Mascarenhas, the District Superior of India, contacted Fr. Q. Nguyen about doing mission appeals in the United States. It was noted that the application process for international priests doing foreign mission appeals is different than domestic mission appeals. Perhaps Fr. Praveen, an Indian SCJ who is studying in the United States, could look into mission appeal possibilities for the Indian District. If so, he should begin by contacting the US Conference of Bishops. Financially, this would benefit the district more so than paying for the travel and housing expenses of someone to come from India specifically for mission appeals.
- D. South Dakota bill — Dn. Nagel shared information about the statute of limitations in South Dakota. An attorney who has done work for St. Joseph’s Indian School was instrumental in bringing the bill forward, and each year when there has been lobbying to change it, he has worked to maintain it. If the law is challenged next year, he does not plan to work for its continuance; he has several projects that are now taking his time in other directions. Dn. Nagel asked the council’s opinion

about whether someone should be hired to address possible challenges to the law next year.

There are several concerns. If the statute of limitations is repealed, the door may be opened to lawsuits brought forth about questionable actions regarding people who may now be deceased. Investigation of allegations going back 40, 50 years or more are very difficult to investigate. There is a strong desire by the congregation and by the staff of St. Joseph's to seriously address all allegations. Yet, there is a frustration in addressing lawsuits that are put together by out-of-state lawyers who seem to be motivated more by money than a sense of justice for those whom they serve.

From this perspective, work towards maintaining the statute of limitations seems prudent.

However, especially in light of the call to rescind the statute of limitations in places like Pennsylvania, would the public view negatively any efforts on the part of a church organization to maintain limitations? Would it seem like the "Church" is just trying to protect itself?

There have been efforts initiated by the province to create a coalition of Catholic organizations in South Dakota to work together to address this issue. However, neither diocese has expressed openness for such an effort.

For now, the council suggested that St. Joseph's Indian School enhance the public's awareness of what it is currently doing to ensure a safe environment for children. Also, it would be good to more prominently feature the hotline that St. Joseph's developed for people to report alleged abuse. No decision was made regarding lobbying efforts.

- E. Formation — Fr. Tom Cassidy and Fr. Bob Tucker joined the council for an informal dialogue on the start of the new school year. In particular, the council sought input on the transition of the formation program from Chicago to Sacred Heart Monastery.

Frs. Cassidy and Tucker both said that the SHSST administration and community at large have been very welcoming. The renovated monastery wing was very well done; students and SCJs are pleased with their rooms, though some wished that there was more storage. The dining area for evening meals is pleasant for the community. There has been discussion of creating some activities just for those in vows; councilors suggested that international SCJs living at SHM be included in such activities.

One of the challenges is blending the various communities in the building: the monastery community as a whole but then the formation community that is a part of it, the seminary, ESL, and the province itself. Fr. Tucker said that it is more complicated than when the formation community was in Chicago. That said, he thinks that the students are transitioning well and that there are significant benefits to having the program at SHM.

Fr. Kilianski said that during recent years the province has been trying to enhance the SCJ identity of SHSST; having the formation community there is an important piece of this effort. Councilors asked about the SHM community's involvement in SHSST prayer. Currently the SHM community joins the seminary community in Monday evening vespers and the Wednesday all-school Mass.

On Sundays, students in formation are urged to go to various parishes to get different Mass experiences. It was suggested that the students go as a group with at least one formator to a Sunday parish Mass. After, they can discuss the experience and raise issues about what they found to be good, what was challenging. The ESL students often do this together.

It was noted that some in the monastery community would like to have a superior put in place instead of an administrator. An administrator was named because of the significant transitions that the community was going through this year. The council will address leadership of the community at a later time.

The council was urged to plan for the future. Fr. Cassidy will only be in the formation community for a year and Fr. Tucker may need to reduce his duties because of health concerns in the future. Fr. Kilianski noted that some plans are taking shape; for example, Fr. Joseph Dinh will take part in the formation program in Rome starting in October.

Before concluding, Fr. Q. Nguyen thanked the formation community for its assistance in hosting and welcoming visitors at the Come and See weekend.

- F. Admissions Board — Fr. Tony Russo, chairperson of the Admissions Board, joined the council for discussion of a recent meeting of the board with representatives from the Vocation Office and the Formation Program.

1. Proposals — The council voted on the following proposals that were brought forth from the meeting:
  - a. Preliminary Board Membership — The council voted to remove the requirement for a psychological consultant on the preliminary board. The purpose of the preliminary board is to ensure that all documentation is in place for a potential candidate to be brought forward to the Admissions Board. A psychological consultant is not necessary for this step.
  - b. Age — It was proposed that for an applicant over 45 years of age to be considered he would need “the expressed permission of the Provincial himself.” The council voted not to approve this change in wording. It was agreed that it is the duty of the Admissions Board to determine if a man is fit for candidacy. The Provincial Superior should not be a part of the process unless there is an appeal.
  - c. Converts to the Catholic Church — The council voted to approve the following clarification to the Admissions Policy regarding those who have converted to Catholicism: They should be in full communion with the Church “normally for at least two years.” “Normally” is the operative word.
2. Admissions Board members — The council voted to appoint the following to the Admissions Board: Fr. Guy Blair, Br. Frank Presto, Fr. David Szatkowski and Dn. David Nagel. The council expressed its gratitude to Fr. Jan de Jong and Fr. Richard MacDonald, who are completing their terms on the board.
- G. Provincial Conference 2019 — “Our Future Together in Community in Ministry, Part II” will take place January 8-10, 2019. This is a continuation of the 2018 gathering for SCJs under 70 in active ministry. Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, will again serve as facilitator. A letter of invitation from Fr. Ed Kilianski will be sent within the next month. As with the provincial visitations, “enculturation” will be a significant topic of the conference.

Several topics were brought forth at the 2018 conference, but follow-up is needed. For example, there is a desire to look at new ways of doing ministry, and new ministry itself, but how does that happen?

Sr. Bertrand will be asked to join the council by phone conference at its October meeting to discuss ways in which participants and leadership can prepare for the conference, as well as how the conference itself can be best structured.

Fr. Kurps will take charge of organizing prayer and liturgy for the conference; Mass will be at the Good Shepherd Chapel at SHML. Evening meals will be at SHML.

Councilors suggested that an outside speaker with an expertise in enculturation give a presentation. Fr. Andrzej Sudol, through his recent studies, might have suggestions of people to contact.

Perhaps Kelly Kornacki, director of the ESL program, could speak about some of the challenges her students have faced in regard to enculturation. It was emphasized that if she is invited, it is not to speak specifically of the ESL program, but of enculturation issues that she encounters through it. What are her concerns when an SCJ leaves ESL for ministry? What suggestions might she offer to make the transition to ministry in the United States as smooth as possible?

- H. Immigration concerns — Br. Presto updated the council on the increased challenges the province is experiencing in obtaining visas for students and international SCJs. There is a need to specify why SHSST’s ESL program is unique for those in ministry. One of the reasons that some applicants have been denied a student visa for ESL is the argument that a person could learn English in his own country. Two Indonesians who were to come to the United States have been denied visas and cannot reapply for five years. The US Province hopes to welcome more international SCJs as students and in ministry. This topic will be brought back to the October council meeting.
- I. Senior Life Commission: The council voted to appoint Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Greg Speck to the Senior Life Commission. Fr. Schroeder will be asked to attend the October council meeting to have an informal dialogue about the commission and its focus. How can it best serve the province?
- J. US Catholic Climate Declaration — The council agreed that the province would sign the US Catholic Climate Declaration, which expresses the US Catholic community’s call to action in regard to climate change. The document has already been signed by over 700 Catholic institutions, including 43 archdioceses and dioceses.

- K. Meeting Calendar — The council set the following meeting dates:

September 25, 10:30 a.m. — Conference Call

October 23-24, 2018

December 18-19, 2018

January 22-23, 2019

February 26-27, 2019

April 2-3, 2019

May 14-15, 2019 (budgets)

July 9-10, 2019

The council will also take time during the June 10-14 Provincial Assembly for a brief meeting.

- L. Jubilee celebrations — The council reviewed province policy regarding jubilee celebrations and decided to continue the current practice of celebrating jubilees of vows at the province level. Jubilees of ordained ministry are to be hosted at the local level by local parishes or local communities. For those who are not in parishes, celebrations can take place at SHML for 50, 60, and 70+ year anniversaries of ordained ministry.

### III. Membership

- A. Br. Diego Diaz — Br. Diaz has been in the ESL program for over a year and has been a great asset to the province, assisting with liturgies and other events. The council voted to endorse Br. Diego's request to transfer from the Argentine Province to the US Province. The administrations of both provinces have been in communication regarding the transfer; the Argentine council is to discuss the request at its October meeting. Br. Diego is assigned to the Mississippi community as of January, 2019.
- B. Senior members — Mary Balistreri, Director of Province Healthcare Services, visits seniors living on their own each year and advises Fr. Kilianski on their status.

### IV. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — There is a meeting scheduled September 24-25 at the office with the fundraising team from St. Joseph's Indian School. October 15-19 managers from the Province Development Office will visit St. Joseph's to learn about its fundraising operation. The province office is expected to migrate to use of the software that St. Joseph's uses; St. Joseph's may also take over caging and data entry for the province office. The development office's audit is complete; the financial picture looks better than years past.
- B. Investments — The Investment Committee met on August 18 to review investment returns for the second quarter; the return rate was 2.72% year-to-date and 1.02% for the second quarter. Representatives for the Support and Maintenance and the Employee Retirement Trusts met in the afternoon. The next Investment Committee meeting is scheduled for November 15.
- C. SCJ Medical Plan — The contract for the SCJ Medical Plan is being negotiated; it renews on October 1. A category has been added to cover students not able to get insurance through school plans.
- D. SHM renovation — The owner's representative is working with contractors to complete the last details of the Sacred Heart Monastery renovation.
- E. Corporate meeting — During the annual corporate meeting of the Board of Directors of the US Province of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart the following items were addressed:
1. Officers — The following officers were elected:

President: Fr. Edward Kilianski, SCJ  
Vice-President: Fr. Quang Nguyen, SCJ  
Treasurer: Dn. David Nagel, SCJ  
Secretary: Br. Frank Presto, SCJ

2. Audit — Schenck Business Solutions was hired to do the annual audit.

3. Corporate resolution — The following resolution was endorsed:

Be It Resolved, that the Priests of the Sacred Heart, a Wisconsin religious corporation, hereby authorizes Dn. David Nagel, SCJ, Corporate Treasurer, to execute any and all documents on behalf of the corporation in connection with corporate financial matters, including but not limited to, applications, authorizations, agreements, purchases, account transaction and stock transactions.

F. Offer to purchase land — The Province Treasurer received an unsolicited offer to buy property currently owned by the province in Franklin. It is leased for farming. The offer of \$2.45 million was significantly lower than what the expected appraised value would be (\$3.1 to \$3.2 million). The province attorney recommended rejecting the offer.

The council voted to reject to offer to purchase land owned by the province on west Forest Home Ave.

G. Reimbursements — Br. Gancarczyk asked about reimbursements to the Houston community for various costs, including approximately \$11,000 to remodel rooms for SCJ residential use. Fr. Kilianski agreed that the province should pay the \$11,000 and that Br. Gancarczyk make the arrangements with Dn. Nagel.

Regarding the proposed remodeling project of the OLG rectory (discussed at the previous council meeting), the council will not consider contributing to the project unless the archdiocese is a part of it.

## CALENDAR

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|-----------------------|--|
| October 1-4:          | Canadian Regional Assembly, Kingston, ON   |
| October 1 - June 30:  | Formators Course, Rome   |
| October 8-11:         | Pope Francis Symposium, SHSST  |
| October 23-24:        | Provincial Council Meeting   |
| December 18-19:       | Provincial Council Meeting   |
| January 7-9, 2019:    | SHSST's 2nd Annual Preaching Conference  |
| January 8-10, 2019:   | Provincial Conference ("Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry, Part 2," Second Provincial Conference of those in active ministry) |
| January 22-23, 2019:  | Provincial Council Meeting   |
| February 26-27, 2019: | Provincial Council Meeting   |
| April 2-3, 2019:      | Provincial Council Meeting   |
| May 14-15, 2019:      | Provincial Council Meeting   |
| June 10, 2019:        | Province Jubilee Celebration (vows)  |
| June 11-14, 2019:     | Provincial Assembly  |
| July 9-10, 2019:      | Provincial Council Meeting   |

## NECROLOGY

+Fr. Leonard Tadyszak, SCJ, a member of the US Province, died September 16. He was born in 1922, professed in 1944 and ordained in 1951.