

## This Issue

Minutes of the April 2-3,  
2019, US Provincial  
Council meeting, p. 1

Notes from the March 4  
meeting of the Justice,  
Peace and Reconciliation  
Commission, p. 6

Calendar, p. 7

Updates, p. 7

Necrology, p. 7

### Minutes of the 890th Provincial Council Meeting

April 2-3, 2019, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Vien Nguyen and Br. Andy Gancarczyk, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Tom Knoebel was present for discussions of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; Frs. Tom Cassidy and Bob Tucker were present for an update on the formation program.

- I. Extended prayer — Fr. Kilianski, councilors, Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto spent the first morning together in extended prayer and sharing.
- II. Administration
  - A. Fr. Stephen Huffstetter — Fr. Ed Kilianski and the Provincial Council publicly congratulated Fr. Stephen Huffstetter on his appointment as Vicar General of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Fr. Ed said that he is honored and proud that an SCJ from the US Province is serving the congregation in such a capacity.

- B. Admissions

1. Medical records — Fr. Q. Nguyen, in his role as vocation director, noted a few concerns regarding the medical requirements of the application process. Current policy states that a physician must sign an applicant's medical records. However, now common practice is that it is often a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner who attends to this. Will the signature of a PA or NP be adequate?

Also, Fr. Q. Nguyen raised questions about things such as verifying immunizations, and TB testing of applicants. The council urged Fr. Q. Nguyen to bring these questions to the Admissions Board. The council should not create the policies, it should instead review them. The Admissions Board is the body that creates and adapts the policies. To get a sense of what other congregations do, Fr. Q. Nguyen was to contact another religious order to review its medical policies for applicants. It was noted that if he deems it necessary, the provincial superior can grant an exception in the process. However, this should not be done routinely.

2. Re-admission of former candidate — A former candidate who had to leave the formation program due to immigration issues would like to be readmitted to formation. The immigration concerns have been resolved. Councilors discussed whether he needs to go through the entire admissions process, or if an abbreviated process is possible. It was decided that this is something that members of the Admissions Board need to answer, not the council. The unique situation of the potential candidate should be shared with the chairperson of the Admissions Board (Fr. Tony Russo). Fr. Russo should be asked to seek the opinion of the SCJs who served on the potential candidate's Admissions Board.

- C. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology —

1. SHSST updates — Fr. Tom Knoebel, president-rector of SHSST, updated the council on the seminary. He noted that over 300 people attended the March 31 presentation by Rabbi Abraham Skorka. A large group is also expected on April 10 for the Dehon Lecture with Sr. Norma Pimentel, M.J. Both events are wonderful opportunities to introduce SHSST to a wider public. Many who came to the Rabbi Skorka lecture had never been to SHSST before.

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In March, the seminary hosted a meeting of local religious superiors to dialogue on ways in which SHSST can be of service to them, to be more welcoming to the formation needs of religious. Twenty-two religious leaders took part. Fr. Knoebel said that notes from the meeting would be shared with Fr. Ed Kilianski.

Seminary administration and staff have begun to discuss security issues at large events. Two security people were hired for the Pope Francis Symposium. Security needs must be considered for all events open to the public.

In conjunction with Founder's Day, the SHSST and SHM community had a celebration to commemorate the newly renovated areas of Sacred Heart. Following the all-school Mass, Fr. Ed Kilianski blessed two of the renovated areas on the main floor. That same week, a meeting was held with Dn. David Nagel, representatives of SHSST and SHM, Mark Wenzel and Ray White (architect) to discuss possibilities for Phase III of the renovations. The start of the project is planned for May, 2020.

In autumn of this year, Liturgical Press anticipates releasing the book that contains the presentations from last October's Pope Francis Symposium. Pope Francis signed a forward to the book (Dr. Brian Lee and Fr. Knoebel prepared an initial draft for the pope to review; he made changes to the draft in Spanish). An excellent public relations tool for SHSST, the book will be sent to every bishop and provincial superior in the United States.

Fr. Knoebel spoke of the need for the seminary to reach out to more dioceses. Bishop Robert Coerver of the diocese of Lubbock hosted representatives from SHSST for a day to talk about the seminary and how it can better serve the needs of mid-American dioceses. Working with the bishop, SHSST staff hope to build a network of mid-American bishops to serve as a sounding board for the seminary. The goal is that with their input, SHSST could evolve to be seminary uniquely qualified to serve the needs of rural dioceses and be a training center for the mid-American Church.

This semester 12 seminarians and 12 MA students will graduate from SHSST. Kathleen Cepelka, superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, will be the graduation speaker.

2. Fr. Tom Knoebel — Many colleges and universities have a policy whereby the previous president or rector remains for a period of time to assist with the transition to a new institutional head. SHSST has suggested that Fr. Knoebel remain part-time in such a role. The council voted to approve the appointment of Fr. Tom Knoebel as Assistant to the Rector at SHSST for one year. This is a part-time, reserved position that serves only with the approval of the provincial superior and his council.

The salary will be half of what Fr. Knoebel received as rector. The council voted to contribute to cover half of the part-time salary. The other half will come from SHSST. Part of Fr. Knoebel's duties during the transition year will be to introduce Fr. Raúl Gomez-Ruiz, SDS, to the bishops, religious superiors, vocation directors and other Church leaders with whom Fr. Knoebel has been in contact.

3. Fr. Raúl Gomez-Ruiz, SDS — Fr. Gomez will soon complete his sabbatical. He will be present at this year's SHSST graduation and at the May council meeting. In June, he will introduce himself to SCJs at the Province assembly.

Noting that the residential section of the seminary will be under construction during Phase III remodeling, Fr. Gomez asked if he could stay in one of the suites in the Sacred Heart Monastery section until the remodeling is complete. It was suggested that he stay in the guest suite near the elevator. The council voted to allow Fr. Gomez to live in the guest suite at SHM until after the rector's suite is renovated.

#### D. Personnel

1. Br. Clay Diaz — Br. Diaz has been hospitalized for severe depression.
2. Frater Long Nguyen — Frater L. Nguyen will go to Guatemala this summer for an intensive Spanish language program. He will be at a Benedictine monastery.
3. Fr. Francois Tsanga — Fr. Kilianski received a call from the vicar of clergy in Galveston-Houston noting that Fr. Tsanga has been temporarily assigned to a parish in the archdiocese. He will be officially assigned once the archdiocese receives the letter of exlaustration from the superior general. Fr. Tsanga is no longer attached to the US Province.
4. Fr. Hendrik Ardianto — Fr. Ardianto recently arrived from the Indonesian Province. He is in ECS (English and Cultural Studies; formerly ESL) at SHSST until August. It is hoped that at that time he can be assigned to ministry in the US

Province, most likely in South Dakota. He told Fr. Kilianski that he is open to going anywhere that he is needed.

5. Fr. Rafael Querobin — Fr. Querobin, originally from Brazil, is in ECS/ESL in hopes of preparing for ministry in the United States. He would like to minister at a large parish. If he is able learn Spanish adequately it was suggested that he go to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston. As with all international SCJs, he would need to get a religious worker visa before beginning ministry.
  6. Okechukwu Landericus Oledibe (“Landry”) — Mr. Oledibe has left the formation program.
  7. Br. Diego Diaz — Br. Diaz received his religious worker visa and will soon return to Mississippi to join the community.
- E. Visitations — Fr. Kilianski talked about the visitations of Sacred Heart Novitiate and Sacred Heart Monastery. Sacred Heart Monastery has a unique challenge in that three communities live together as one: the formation community, the general SCJ community and the ECS/ESL community. There are challenges, but overall, he felt that it is going well, as is the transition of the formation program to SHM. For the SHM community as a whole he reminded members to work on communication, which is important in any community, but even more so when you have the distinct groups within the SHM community. Fr. Kilianski would like to ensure that the long-term international SCJs are included in community activities. Any SCJ who lives in the community for an extended period of time should be considered a part of the community.

At the novitiate, the novices are looking forward to their first profession. The two novices for the US Province are scheduled to profess their vows in the United States but Fr. General has asked that John Huan Nguyen return to Vietnam for his first profession. This will create a challenge for him in that he will miss the start of the semester at SHSST where he is to begin his theology studies.

- F. Sacred Heart Monastery leadership — The council voted to postulate Br. Duane Lemke as superior of the Sacred Heart Monastery community. Because he is not a priest, the appointment of Br. Lemke as superior must be approved by the general administration and forwarded to the Holy See. The council also voted to name Fr. Yvon Sheehy as first councilor, the two formators as house council, and Fr. Ed Zemlik as local treasurer.
- G. Dehon House — The council discussed options for Dehon House. Following the death of Fr. Bill Pitcavage, Br. Matt Miles will move to a different living situation. Due to its integration into the SHSST campus it was agreed that it is not practical to sell the property. However, several other possibilities were suggested. It could house several students during the Phase III remodeling project, and later, it could be offered to rent to a religious community which would use SHSST as a formation base. There has already been a preliminary inquiry about such an arrangement. There have also been conversations with a women’s religious community in Indonesia regarding the possibility of several sisters coming for ministry in South Dakota. They could reside at the house while enrolled in ECS/ESL.

Dn. Nagel said that appropriate maintenance has been done on the house and that it would not take much work to prepare it for another residential use. One challenge is that it does not have central air conditioning. However, window units can be used, or perhaps a number of wall units.

- H. Provincial Assembly — Fr. V. Nguyen, chairperson of the organizing committee, said that approximately 40 people have committed to the June 10-14 assembly. Another 45-50 people from the reunion of former SCJs will be present the first morning of the assembly.

The organizing committee suggested a theme centered on interculturality. The following phrase was endorsed by the council: “Interculturality; together in Christ.” However, the council said that it is up to the organizing committee to make the final wording decision.

Fr. V. Nguyen said that a letter would soon be going out regarding specifics, such as travel and lodging. Among the activities being planned is a remembrance of the deceased. The committee envisioned a procession to the mausoleum; councilors said it is important to be mindful of SCJs with mobility issues and make accommodations if necessary.

- I. Meeting of North American administrations — The Canadian council invited the US council to Toronto for a meeting in April. Because of schedule conflicts, the US council was not able to accommodate the dates suggested. Instead, it was thought that the councils could meet briefly during the June assembly.

Fr. Kilianski will write to Fr. Gustave Lulendo, regional superior of Canada, and suggest that the councils have a meal together in the family dining room at SHML on Wednesday evening, June 12, followed by a meeting of approximately an hour. Informal updates and sharing can take place during the dinner. The Canadians will be invited to submit agenda topics for the meeting. Fr. Kilianski envisions the meeting as a time to brainstorm on topics that the administrations could address more thoroughly during a full meeting in fall. Also, it would be appropriate to schedule the fall meeting when the group is together in June.

- J. 2020 Provincial Conference — “Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry, Part III, will take place January 7-9, 2020, in Hales Corners. The focus of the 2020 conference will be ministry, building on the work done in the previous two conferences. Those in active ministry (and novices and students) will look at current ministries, but also at the development of a new ministry. It is hoped that the US Province and Canadian Region will be able to continue to partner with SCJs of other entities to build the Dehonian presence in North America. Fr. Kilianski anticipates having a better sense of international possibilities following his conversations with the general superior in May.
- K. New ministry — At a previous meeting, councilors brainstormed on possibilities for a new province ministry. They focused on campus ministry both as a recruiting tool, but also as a way of being present to young adults and sharing with them the Dehonian charism. As long as there is a community of three to four SCJs, any area of the country could be considered for the ministry. Some of the SCJs who have indicated an interest in youth ministry include Fr. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas, Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. C. Hendrik, Frater Henry Nguyen and Br. Diego Diaz.

The ministry could be a traditional campus ministry focused on one school, or one geographic area. Or, it could be a mobile ministry offering retreats for college students and other young adults around the country. The latter option would make the ministry available to a wider group of SCJs. For example, an SCJ could be assigned full-time to a parish, but be available a few times a year for retreat work with young adults. A team of SCJs could work together to plan for such retreats and come together as needed.

Another option for such a team would be to work with young adults who come to Mississippi to volunteer. A team could set up a process for the volunteers, often college students, to reflect on their experience.

One of the challenges that the US Province has in creating a new ministry is personnel. To allow for new ministry, the province will either need to reconfigure its current ministries or expand its collaboration with other entities. It is hoped that the collaborative model can be enhanced.

Fr. Kilianski will follow-up on a task from the last meeting. He will write a letter to one of the organizing bodies for campus ministers to learn what steps need to be taken to get involved in such ministry.

L. Formation

1. Dialogue with formators — Fr. Tom Cassidy and Fr. Bob Tucker joined the council to dialogue about the formation program. Both were thanked for their availability and contribution to the province. It was noted that Fr. Tom came out of retirement to assist during the first year of the transition of the program from Chicago to Sacred Heart Monastery. Fr. Bob has especially been appreciated by many in the program for his one-on-one guidance, and his preaching.

Fr. Tucker said that the transition of the formation program from Chicago to SHSST has been fairly smooth. For some students, there was an adjustment to a new school. As Fr. Kilianski mentioned during a review of the SHM visitation, there is the challenge of three groups living together in one community. This is different than in Chicago where the full focus of the community was formation. However, the SHM community seems to be working well together and the diversity in the group has been beneficial for all.

Councilors asked Frs. Cassidy and Tucker about the integration of the province program with the wider SHSST program. During the next year it would be good to look at more ways of being a part of the seminary community, such as at the all-school Wednesday liturgy. Most likely because of miscommunication, members of the SCJ program do not take active roles in the liturgy. Dehonian students are present, but because they do not participate in the seminary’s tradition of dressing up on Wednesdays, they give the appearance of being separate from the wider student body. There should be integration of both SCJ formators and students in the wider SHSST community.

Fr. Kilianski emphasized the need to have community meetings with the professed students, and with the candidates. Both need group dialogue and formation particular to their stage in the formation process.

The new formators will meet with the council before the start of the new academic year and continue to dialogue with the council throughout the year as does the current formation team.

2. Ministry of Lector — The council voted to approve Fraters Henry Nguyen and Paul Phong Hoang for the Ministry of Lector. Frater Huan Duy Pham received approval from Fr. Francis Vu Tran in Vietnam. All three will receive the ministry together.

M. Power of Attorney for Healthcare — Br. Presto shared the list of SCJs who have POA papers in their files. He was asked to check with Mary Balistreri to ensure that they have the same documentation.

N. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston —

Fr. Tim Gray is going back to OLG in mid-April. Br. Gancarczyk will take over the Director of Religious Education (DRE) duties at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston. The province will subsidize the parish so that it can hire a part-time business manager to free Br. Gancarczyk for his new responsibilities.

### III. Finance

A. HR Directors Meeting — On March 5, human resource directors from province ministries met in Hales Corners to review the employee medical plan. New benefit providers were chosen in an attempt to save money and improve services. Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, met with the directors to review legal concerns in regard to HR.

B. Sacred Heart Monastery / Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, Phase III — On March 15 a meeting was held with Dn. David Nagel, representatives of SHSST and SHM, Mark Wenzel and Ray White (architect) to discuss possibilities for Phase III. It is hoped that much of the work, which will update classrooms and general student and staff accommodations, can be done during the summer of 2020 so that the second floor can be ready in time for classes. Some of the concerns that need to be addressed: 1) where will seminarians and ECS/ESL students live during the remodeling, 2) how can space be made for more student rooms, 3) how financially feasible is it to have private bathrooms for each student room, 4) how can classrooms be updated with the latest academic technology? All plans are in the preliminary stages.

C. Budgets — The Province Finance Commission will meet April 24 to review the province budgets. The council will review their recommendations on May 14.

D. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel will take part in the General Finance Commission meeting in Rome, May 18-22.

E. Financial advisors — The province's financial advisors, James T. Ryan and Courtney Moore, were named "Best in State Wealth Advisors" and made Barron's "Top 1,200 Financial Advisors" list for 2019.

F. Land parcel in Franklin, WI — A home builder has offered to purchase five acres of land from the province. It is part of a parcel that is leased out by the province for farming. Because of its wetlands status it cannot easily be developed. The builder would like to use the land as a buffer zone behind several houses that he plans to build; he would create a walking path on it. The council is open to selling this small parcel of land. Dn. Nagel will pursue discussions with the builder.

G. Donation to Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer — The council approved a request from Br. Diego Diaz to donate \$2,800 to assist the Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer in facilitating the International Women's Encounters. These gatherings assist women in Argentina and Uruguay who are often the victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The project seeks to address psychological and spiritual issues of the women, empowering them to leave their challenging circumstances.

H. Indonesian schools — Noting the strong support of the Indonesian Province in continuing the SCJ presence in the United States, the council agreed to donate \$100,000 toward the development of the Yos Sudarso Catholic Junior and Senior High School. Besides being a Dehonian presence in a significant urban area, it is the only Catholic high school in the city of Metro (Lampung, Indonesia). Dn. David will work with the General Treasurer's office in distributing the funds. Fr. Kilianski will write to Fr. Widodo about the donation toward the schools. Dn. Nagel will contact the general treasurer to determine how the money should be distributed.

IV. Conference Call — The council will meet by conference call on Monday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m. Fr. Hendrik is unable to be pres-

# Notes from Justice Peace & Reconciliation Commission Meeting March 4, 2019

## Provincialate Offices

**Present:** Fr. Bob Bossie, Fr. John Czyzynski, Fr. Wayne Jenkins, Mark Peters, Fr. Ed Zemlik and Fr. Guy Blair (via phone).

John led us in prayer about not “merely praying” for an end to war, starvation, prejudice and other ills but using the gifts God has given us to work for it ourselves. After check-ins, Mark gave a report covering the progress of the immigration program at St. Martin of Tours, the last meeting and upcoming activities of the North American Migration Committee, and his work with Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investing. He has also been invited to serve on the Benedict Center for Criminal Justice Board. He noted that the season for social justice-oriented conferences is upon us and that we have money in our budget to help with costs of SCJs who might want to attend.

Time was spent discussing what is happening in Venezuela and our concern with the impact of US sanctions on people there who are already impoverished and hungry, as well as the administration’s attempts to influence the political process there in light of our past record in Latin America. We will attempt to get in touch with the Province of Spain and SCJs in Venezuela to hear their perspective.

We have four excellent nominations for the Klingler Award this year, and will make our recommendation to the Provincial Council in April. The Council has approved the idea of accepting nominations from lay people who are PoSH employees or closely associated with the Province, such as parishioners at SCJ-administered parishes. Mark will put out one last call for nominations before the March 29 deadline. He will also check with Fr. Vien and Fr. Ed about presenting the award at the June Assembly.

Mark shared the Voces de la Frontera-led campaign for “Drivers Licenses for All” that the local DACA coalition has agreed to support. Members agreed we could reach out to SCJs here in Franklin to show the video that’s been created, get signatures on a petition, and see if there is interest in lobbying our state officials.

We reviewed our budget for this year and foresee no big changes next year. We will work up our 2019/20 budget on our next bi-monthly phone call and approve it before the April 12 deadline.

We continued in the afternoon with a clarification of Commission members’ terms (Wayne’s comes up this year, Ed, John and Juancho’s in 2020, and Bob and Guy’s in 2021), a report from John and Mark about our Immersion program proposal that was sent to the SCJ Formators, and continued discussion of the article we read last time on the healthy and unhealthy uses of anger. We see the significance of the article in light of what’s going on in our society and many of our own communities, families, etc. Mark will share the article and Richard Rohr’s journal that focused on the topic with David Schimmel.

We concluded with discussion about people’s beliefs and attitudes about “politics” and faith. The terms must be defined: promotion of parties or particular candidates is not appropriate, but connecting our faith and social teaching to real-life political issues is not optional. Many people associate social justice activists with “leftism” or socialism; Fr. Dehon experienced the same accusations but “he persisted.”

We will set our next regular meeting soon, Mark will send out some dates. Wayne will lead prayer next time. We concluded with spontaneous prayers of thanksgiving and petition.

## CALENDAR

April 24, 2019:	Senior Life Commission Meeting
May 14-15, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting
June 9-10, 2019:	Dehonian Esprit de Coeurs reunion (former SCJs and SCJ seminarians)
June 10, 2019:	Province Jubilee Celebration (vows) at 4:30 p.m.
June 11-14, 2019:	Provincial Assembly
July 9-10, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting
October 13-15:	Mission Education (South Dakota)
January 7-9, 2020	Provincial Assembly, "Our Future Together in Community and Ministry, Part III"

## UPDATES

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## NECROLOGY

+**Fr. William Pitcavage**, a member of the US Province, died March 22. He was born in 1969, made his first profession in 1971 and was ordained in 1976.

+**Br. Giovanni Battista** Tapparo, a member of the North Italian Province, died on March 27. He was born in 1932 and professed in 1951.

+ **Fr. Fortunato Zambetti**, also from the North Italian Province, died on March 29. He was born in 1936, professed in 1954 and ordained in 1964.