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### Minutes of the 886th Provincial Council Meeting December 18-19, 2018, 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 and Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS, for discussion of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, via video conference for discussion of the Provincial Conference; Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Yvon Sheehy for an update on the ESL program; and Fr. Bob Tucker for discussion of formation.

I. Extended prayer — Fr. Kilianski, councilors, Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto spent the first morning together in extended prayer and sharing.

II. Administration

A. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

1. Fr. Tom Knoebel — Fr. Knoebel updated the council on several items regarding SHSST.

a. Pope Francis Symposium — Fr. Knoebel noted that many of the presenters from the Pope Francis Symposium met in Rome in December to discuss how to continue the momentum of the gathering. The symposium was a significant moment on its own, but it has also enhanced the image of SHSST nationally and internationally. Dr. Peter Casarella, associate professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame (and a conference presenter) suggested that a consortium be developed including Notre Dame, Marquette University and SHSST to further the symposium's work. Many of the presenters have said that the symposium was one of the finest of its kind. The presenters found the experience to be both professional and welcoming.

A book with the texts of the symposium presentations is tentatively scheduled to be published in the summer of 2019, most likely by Liturgical Press. One of the presenters (Dr. Guzmán Carriquiry, Vice President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America) is going to speak to Pope Francis about writing a forward. Most likely the book will also include introductory notes from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Papal Nuncio.

During a recent visit to Rome Fr. Knoebel had the opportunity to briefly speak to the pope during an audience and noted the Symposium. Pope Francis said that he was aware of it.

b. Miscellaneous — The 50th anniversary of the building that houses SHSST and Sacred Heart Monastery was December 8. Because students had already left for the break the seminary did not significantly commemorate the event. Fr. Knoebel suggested that something be done to coincide with Founder's Day on March 14, perhaps at the March 15 all-school liturgy. There could be a blessing of the chapel, front door and other areas; SCJs would be invited to take part. A larger celebration could take place when the last of the renovations is complete. It could be a good public relations opportunity and perhaps useful for fundraising.

Fr. Knoebel noted that the province will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2023. A history of the province had been commissioned several years ago. For a variety of

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

P.O. Box 289  
Hales Corners, WI  
53130-0289  
[www.sacredheartusa.org](http://www.sacredheartusa.org)

414-425-6910

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reasons, it was not published. Fr. Knoebel suggested that a historian be hired to complete the project.

Fr. Knoebel spoke about the aging of the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee; the picture of the Church will look much different in ten years. New models of ministry may need to be considered.

He noted that with anticipated staff retirement at SHSST, there may be some administrative reconfigurations.

Looking at the future, he emphasized the importance of continuing the transition of the school away from its previous image as being a seminary for older students and to reach out more so to religious communities.

2. Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS — Fr. Kilianski has been in dialogue with Fr. Gómez about the possibility of succeeding Fr. Knoebel as SHSST president-rector. Fr. Gómez recently completed a six-year term as vicar general and general secretary of the Society of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians) in Rome. Prior to his appointment in Rome, he served for nearly 25 years in a variety of capacities at Sacred Heart.

Fr. Gómez was with the council to talk about the seminary in general, and his possible appointment as SHSST president-rector.

He said that he was pleased to see that the relationship between the seminary and the province seems to have grown in a positive manner since he last served at SHSST. There is a greater sense of Dehonian spirituality in the school. He sees SHSST on the verge of becoming something much more significant in the theological, academic community; as Fr. Knoebel said earlier, the Pope Francis Symposium did much to enhance the seminary's image around the world.

- a. Communication with Fr. General — Before leaving Rome, Fr. Gómez had the opportunity to visit with Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú, superior general. Fr. General spoke highly of the future of SHSST and said that he hopes that SHSST can become better linked with the congregation's other two major seminaries (Poland and Brazil). This could include faculty exchanges and common events, but also a greater sense of a shared mission. Fr. Suarez would like SHSST to sponsor a major seminar on "Sint Unum." What does Sint Unum mean in the life of SCJs, how is multiculturalism different in the United States compared to other countries?

Fr. General hopes that the momentum of the Pope Francis Symposium is not lost. It is a way to increase the academic profile of the seminary. He would like SHSST to further focus on its academic profile, eventually offering a doctoral program, ideally with a pontifical degree. Also, Fr. Suarez suggested that SHSST produce an academic journal to increase its visibility.

The ESL program, he believes, is vital. He echoed previous comments about moving SHSST away from its reputation as a second-career seminary. Dioceses and religious communities will send their younger students to SHSST if the seminary exhibits a strong academic standard and a faithfulness to the teachings of the Church.

Fr. General would like SHSST to reach out to religious communities more so than it does now. As a seminary operated by religious it is uniquely qualified to prepare men for ordained ministry as religious priests. That does not take away from its mission to prepare diocesan seminarians; perhaps a two-tiered program could be developed, one for diocesan and one for religious seminarians.

Fr. Gómez said that most religious communities have similar formation goals that could be addressed by the seminary. However, religious communities would also need space to ensure that formation particular to the community would be possible. Is the province (congregation) willing to make the investment to be more welcoming to religious communities?

- b. Background — Fr. Gómez shared his background. As noted, he recently completed a six-year term as vicar general and secretary general for the Salvatorians. At SHSST he was the first director of the Hispanic Studies Program. From 2002-2005 he was SHSST Vice-Rector, and from 2005-2012 he was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of Intellectual Formation at SHSST. Fr. Gómez left Sacred Heart in 2012 to become director of Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation for the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. He left the ATS after being named to leadership in Rome.
- c. General discussion — Fr. Gomez, Fr. Knoebel and the council had a general discussion about SHSST. They spoke of Phase III of the renovation, which would focus on updating student rooms and offices outside of the SCJ wing,

as well as classrooms (ensuring that they are technologically up-to-date for both in-person and online coursework). It was noted that much of the initial structural and safety updates were done in previous phases, such as the sprinkler system and the installation of a new elevator.

Tentative remodeling plans call for fewer student rooms because each room would have more space than current rooms. However, fewer rooms may have an impact on how many ESL students can be accepted during the summer program.

No timeline has been established regarding Phase III of the SHSST/SHM remodeling and updating project. Fr. Kilianski noted the disruption of the recent renovation on the SHSST community, saying that it would be good to give SHSST a break before moving forward with more construction.

The importance of having adequate living space for more priests on campus was noted.

Frs. Gómez and Knoebel dialogued with the council about SHSST's long-range future. As had been mentioned already, it is important to move away from the image of being a second-career seminary. It is also worthwhile to look at developing a wide variety of programs to enhance SHSST's outreach to the Church. Possibilities suggested: sabbatical programs, transition programs for priests returning to active ministry after time away for discernment or other needs, Holy Land study tours, and remote (online) learning options.

Fr. Gómez said that he hopes to see more Dehonian spirituality incorporated into the seminary, noting that the social spirituality of Fr. Dehon dovetails well with that of Pope Francis. He hopes to see a stronger connection between the wider SHSST community and the SCJ formation program.

He said that Fr. Knoebel has been a valuable resource to SHSST and hopes that the seminary can continue to utilize his skills after he retires from his position as president-rector, perhaps working as a "rector-emeritus," continuing to promote the seminary with bishops and others.

Fr. Kilianski noted the increasing emphasis on internationality and interculturality at SHSST; Fr. Gómez' multicultural and multilingual background makes him well-prepared to lead the seminary at this time.

- d. Expectations and vision — The council and Fr. Gomez discussed expectations. Fr. Kilianski said that he would like to see the next president-rector continue the momentum that Fr. Knoebel had created at SHSST. There is a growing sense of the seminary being "Dehonian;" there is better communication between the seminary and provincial leadership; and there is simply a better relationship between SHSST and the province than may have been experienced in the past.

Fr. Gómez spoke about his own expectations and vision. He began by stating that SHSST must prepare priests to adapt to a changing Church. The Church grows and if one is to be faithful to it, one must also grow. This requires flexibility while remaining committed to the values of the Catholic Church and seminary education. Personally, he said that he considers himself to be progressive when it comes to the social teaching of the Church, but because of his studies, he senses that he is more traditional when it comes to liturgy. Eucharist is central, he said, it is where we encounter Christ. That must be kept in mind when celebrating the liturgy. But it is important to remember that Eucharist does not end in the chapel. The social teaching of the Church is based in the Eucharist.

- e. Approval of Fr. Gómez as SHSST president-rector — Fr. Gómez and Fr. Knoebel were thanked for their time with the council. After they left the room the council voted to offer Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz a five-year contract as SHSST president-rector beginning July 1, 2019. Fr. Kilianski had a meeting scheduled with Frs. Gómez and Knoebel on December 20 during which he would discuss the council's decision. If Fr. Gómez accepts the position, it was suggested that the news be shared with SCJs and the SHSST community as soon as possible.

- B. Provincial Conference — The council met via video conference with Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, to finalize details of the January 8-10 Provincial Conference, "Our Future Together in Community and Ministry II." It will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, with morning prayer at the Provincial Conference Center. The gathering will conclude with Mass mid-day at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake on Thursday, January 10. Presentations and discussions will focus on interculturality and community living, including community prayer, meals and communication, as well as wider issues such as the changing culture of the Church in North America. Many of the topics will be further developed at the June Assembly.

There are to be at least two group configurations for the small group discussions. Initially, participants will be invited to self-seat themselves. Some of the discussions will take place in community groups.

Noting that many speak English as a second language, those who speak publicly, including presiders, readers and prayer leaders, will be reminded to speak slowly and clearly so that they can be well understood by all.

Fr. Kurps will connect with Kelly Kornacki (ESL Director) about her presentation. It is hoped that she can give insight into welcoming international SCJs to the United States. What is helpful and what does the province need to be aware of in helping people new to the country make a healthy transition?

Sr. Bertrand asked the council what it hoped to accomplish at the end of the conference. In general, councilors said that they hoped that this can be another step on the path to learning, as a community, how to intentionally live, pray and work together better, recognizing each other's diversity but also shared Dehonian values. As with the 2018 gathering, this conference is not an end, but a continuance, a work in progress.

Fr. Kilianski will open and close the conference. There may be a slight time conflict with the main dining room at SHML; there is a lunch for lay residents that day. Br. Presto will check into this.

- C. Provincial Assembly — The Canadian Region accepted the invitation to join members of the US Province at the June 11-14, 2019, assembly. As always, the Canadian SCJs are welcome at the US Province Jubilee Celebration to be held the night before (June 10). The Assembly Planning Committee includes: Fr. Vien Nguyen (chairperson), Fr. Guy Blair, Br. Diego Diaz, Frater Phong Paul Hoang, Fr. Andrzej Sudol and Fr. Bob Tucker.

Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz will be asked to introduce himself to the province at the assembly. Fr. V. Nguyen will contact Fr. Gómez to schedule it.

- D. Province stationery — Fr. Kilianski suggested that the province update its stationery so that it could be more easily used by a variety of people doing electronic communication. He asked Mary Gorski to prepare three possibilities. Councilors voted to accept a template that is based on the logo and color of the US Province website ([www.dehoniansusa.org](http://www.dehoniansusa.org)).
- E. Releasing names of offenders — Several dioceses and two religious orders have publicly released the names of priests and religious with an established allegation of sexual abuse of a minor. There has been increased pressure on dioceses and religious orders to do so. The council discussed whether the US Province should do the same. While there is a desire for transparency and healing, the decision to release such a list has significant ramifications for the individuals named and for the province.

One of the challenges in making public such a list is determining who should be on it. The SCJs are a small religious community. While allegations have been made there are very few credible allegations against living SCJs. There is also the question of former SCJs — if a former SCJ had a credible allegation against him while he was a member of the community should his name be listed? If names are made public, is it done by geographic region or by the province as a whole?

Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, will be asked to join the council at its January meeting to discuss this further.

- F. ESL Residential Program — Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Br. Duane Lemke discussed the ESL Residential Program with the council; it was an informal meeting for information sharing. Both were thanked by Fr. Kilianski for their work not only for the province but for the congregation. Br. Lemke said that the program is generally going well; perhaps one of the more significant issues is scheduling. There are several communities and programs going on in the same house (ESL, formation, and those in other ministries); scheduling prayer and other community moments can be a challenge. Every third week the professed SCJs meet for discussion and shared prayer.

Communication between the SHM community and SHSST has been good.

Fr. Sheehy and Br. Lemke were asked about how travel arrangements are made for international students: who gives permission for travel, who pays for it, who makes arrangements? A system needs to be put in place to ensure that necessary permissions and arrangements are accounted for. How can international students most efficiently pay for things such as rental cars and plane tickets? When should a student have access to a credit card? The Provincial Treasurer's Office issues debit cards when needed, but these cannot be used in some situations (such as car rentals).

There were discussions regarding room space. If there is not enough space for students in the summer ESL program following the Phase III remodeling is there room for overflow of SCJ ESL students in the monastery section? How is the new SHM space being used? Are some rooms being used for storage that could otherwise be made available as guest or resident space?

It was noted that Fr. Edgard Biankeu, an SCJ from Cameroon, received his student visa and was to return to SHM the week of the council meeting. Details regarding his studies and living situation need to be finalized.

#### G. Membership —

1. Fr. Bob Naglich — Fr. Naglich had complications from a recent hernia surgery and remains in the hospital.
2. Fr. Tim Gray — Fr. Gray will leave Houston in early January and live with the Sacred Heart Community at SHML while being treated for bladder cancer.

#### H. Formation

1. Transition — Fr. Bob Tucker joined the council for a brief dialogue about the formation program at SHM. He said that the transition from Chicago has generally gone well and that there is a good spirit in the community. Fr. Kilianski thanked him for the work that he does in formation.
  2. Dn. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas — The council voted to approve Dn. Castañeda's request for ordination to the priesthood (order of presbyterate). At a previous meeting, the council voted to allow him to have the ordination in his home country of Colombia. Bishop Fidel Leon Cadavid of the Diocese of Sonson Rionegro, Antioquia, has agreed to be the ordaining bishop. The ordination is tentatively scheduled for February 16.
  3. Candidate Hung Pham — The council voted to approve Candidate Hung Pham's request to begin postulancy in preparation for the novitiate. A postulancy ceremony will most likely take place in late January.
- I. Internal abuse — Recently, an SCJ accused another of being physically abusive to him. Should a protocol be put in place to deal with such situations? The council said that for now, the province should follow the Gospel of Matthew (Matt 18:15-17), first going to the brother who has wronged the SCJ, and if that doesn't resolve the situation, go to the local superior. If resolution still isn't found, then go to the provincial superior to address the situation.
- J. Indian District — The council reviewed a letter from the superior of the Indian District regarding a variety of personnel and student exchanges. The discussions will be put on hold until after the superior general's upcoming visit to India.
- K. Fr. Rafael Querobin — Fr. Querobin, an SCJ from the Brazil - Sao Paulo Province and an alumnus of the ESL program, will return to the United States in February for continued language study with the hope of future ministry in the US Province. It was noted that it is important that all international SCJs be given a sufficient introduction not only to the US Province but to American culture before moving into a full-time ministerial assignment.
- L. Polish Province — Last year the Polish Province requested a significant donation to help renovate the Mission House, a building which is to have office space, residential space for visiting missionaries and lay people preparing for the missions, as well as residential space for the community. The US Province declined to give a donation last year because of its own expenses moving the formation program out of Chicago.

This year the Polish Province requests \$20,000 for renovations and furnishings in the office space. The council voted to give the \$20,000; however, it will be sent through the General Treasurer's Office as is protocol.

- M. Provincial visitations — Fr. Kilianski shared with the council a booklet that he put together for the 2019 visitations. The theme is "Interculturality." He asked councilors to review the booklets and get back to him with suggested changes or corrections. He will print and distribute final copies of the booklets to councilors when they are here for the January Provincial Conference.

#### III. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — St. Joseph's team was with the Development Office November 7-8 for a quarterly meeting. It was noted that the holiday mailing was delayed due to tariff issues; the office's products were not affected by the tariffs,

but other items in the shipping container in which they arrived were and thus there was a delay in receiving the shipment. November and December donation totals look good, but October was slow. Dn. Nagel said that it is a volatile time for direct mail.

- B. Remodeling of Sacred Heart Monastery/Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Dn. Nagel, Br. Presto, Mark Wenzel and the province's owner's representative, Bill Weidner, met with representatives from Hunzinger Construction to resolve concerns. The credit and invoicing process is expected to be completed soon.

As noted earlier, initial planning has begun on Phase III of the remodeling of SHM/SHSST. Several options are being considered. Timing of the project is critical so that it causes the least amount of disruption to the seminary. A timeline has not yet been developed. While the updating of the seminary facility is important for future planning and viability, funding and scheduling issues must be addressed before further steps can be taken.

- C. Driving tests — In spring there will be driving tests for SCJs 75 and older. The Province Treasurer's Office will organize this.
- D. Budgets — The annual budget memo will be sent on January 4 by the Provincial Treasurer's Office. February 4 is the deadline for informing the Provincial Council of capital projects to be included in the FY19 budget. Budgets will be due to the Treasurer's Office on April 12. The Finance Commission will review the budgets on April 24 and the council will meet to approve them May 14-15.
- E. Investment Committee — The committee met November 15 to review the returns for the last quarter. There continues to be high volatility in the markets. Gains made earlier in the year have been countered by significant drops in the market.

- IV. Conference call — The council will next meet by conference call on Thursday, December 27, at 10:00 a.m.

## CALENDAR

January 7, 2019:	Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission 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 16, 2019:	Installation of new Canadian administration (Fr. Gustave N'dotoni Lulendo, regional superior; Frs. Richard Woodbury, John van den Hengel and Yohanes Yuliwan Maslim, regional council)
January 22-23, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting
February 26-27, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting
April 2-3, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting
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)
June 11-14, 2019:	Provincial Assembly
July 9-10, 2019:	Provincial Council Meeting

## UPDATES

### **Br. Brian Tompkins**

New email address: britomscj@gmail.com

### **Fr. John Czyzynski**

New email: czyscj@gmail.com

## NECROLOGY

**+Fr. Marcel Ouillon, SCJ**, of the Franco-European Province, died November 29. He was born in 1937, professed in 1955 and ordained in 1964.

**+S. Justin Mpanzore Nduipi**, a member of the Congolese Province, died November 23. He was born in 1985 and made his first profession in 2015.

**+Br. Pietro Morandini**, a member of the North Italian Province, died November 12. He was born in 1929 and professed in 1950.