

This issue

Minutes of the January 22-23, 2019, US Provincial Council meeting, p. 1

Summary of January 8-10, 2019 Provincial Conference, "Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry, Part II. p. 5

Summary of January 7 Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission Meeting, p. 12

Calendar, p. 14

Updates, p. 14

U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

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Minutes of the 887th Provincial Council Meeting January 22-23, 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 (SHSST president-rector) for discussion of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; Kathleen Dahlgren (province attorney) for legal concerns.

- 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 — Fr. Knoebel updated the council on several items regarding SHSST.
 1. Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS — Fr. Gómez' appointment as the next SHSST president-rector has been made public. An announcement was sent to SHSST's stakeholders and placed on the websites and Facebook pages of the seminary and the US Province. The news has been positively received. He offers strong continuity but also new possibilities. Fr. Knoebel has been asked by Fr. Gómez to assist SHSST during the next year with various issues, such as the follow-up to the Pope Francis Symposium.
 2. Promotion — The seminary continues to seek new avenues of promotion. A "Top Ten List" is one such tool, noting the top ten reasons to collaborate with SHSST including the Lux Center (the only center for Catholic-Jewish studies at a seminary in the United States), the summer Holy Land expedition, the English and Cultural Studies Programs, MA programs, and its priestly formation programs for both religious and diocesan seminarians.

SHSST staff are making plans to attend various national and local gatherings with bishops, religious and other Church leaders to promote the seminary and its various programs. For example, Fr. Knoebel, Dr. John Olesnavage (Vice President for Pastoral Formation) and Dr. Patrick Russell (Academic Dean) will attend the Leadership Roundtable in Washington, DC, at the end of January. There, they will have the opportunity to continue discussions with the Papal Nuncio regarding the continued promotion of the Pope Francis Symposium.

The seminary is looking at ways of more closely partnering with various bishops to ensure that it is meeting the specific needs of their dioceses. Sacred Heart also has plans to reach out to leaders of local religious communities (men and women) in the Milwaukee area to see if there are ways that SHSST can more specifically address their needs.

3. ESL becomes ECS — The ESL Program (English as a Second Language) recently underwent a name change to more accurately reflect its wider mission. It is now the "ECS Program," which stands for "English and Cultural Studies." Students don't just learn English, they learn about North American culture and the Church in the United States in the context of a seminary setting. It also expresses the fact that many students are learning English not as just a *second* language, but perhaps as a third, fourth or fifth

language (or more). English and Cultural Studies, along with the Hispanic Studies Program, are promoted to prospective students and sponsors as a part of SHSST's specialized programs for Language and Leadership for Intercultural Ministry.

4. Pope Francis Symposium — Liturgical Press has agreed to publish the talks presented at the October Pope Francis Symposium; the book is tentatively scheduled to be printed in late spring.
5. Dehon Lecture at SHSST — Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ, is the featured speaker at the SHSST Dehon Lecture on April 10. All SCJs are welcome to attend.
6. Indian MA students — Three students from the Indian District were scheduled to begin their on-site master's degree studies in January. However, two of the three were unable to get their student visas. Senator Tammy Baldwin's office is now looking into the matter.
7. 50th anniversary — The seminary plans to have a celebration on March 13 to honor the 50th anniversary of the current building. The actual anniversary date was in December, but it was during the semester break.
8. Diverse programs — SHSST is seeking ways to build its student body and meet the needs of the wider Church through a variety of programs. The newly named ECS program is one, but there are also specialized formation and sabbatical programs. For example, a conference is scheduled for May 13-16 about pastoral leadership in complex parish environments, such as the case of a single priest or leadership team serving several parishes. Also, the Cor Unum master's program is seeing great success.
9. Remodeling — Fr. Knoebel urged the council to consider doing classroom technology upgrades when Phase III remodeling is done.
10. New administrative hire — Fr. Knoebel noted the hiring of Emili Campanile as an administrative assistant for Admissions, Recruitment and External Affairs.
11. Agency visits — The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation visit will be October 13-16, and the visit of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) will take place November 4-7.
12. Enrollment — Among the various programs there are approximately 150 students at SHSST. The seminary is in dialogue with several dioceses about sending their seminarians to SHSST in the future. Fr. Knoebel tentatively estimates that student enrollment will be higher during the 2019-20 academic year than the current year.

B. Personnel

1. Fr. Tim Gray — He is expected to receive the results of his initial exams this week. Once he is fully diagnosed, he will receive treatment options for his cancer. He hopes to return to Our Lady of Guadalupe at the end of his treatment.
2. Fr. Francois Tsanga — Fr. Kilianski met with Fr. Tsanga during the Provincial Conference and it became clear that Fr. Tsanga would be more comfortable in a diocesan setting. His relationship with the US Province concludes as of February 1.
3. Fr. Duy Nguyen — Fr. Nguyen will complete his sabbatical and return to Our Lady of Guadalupe in February.
4. Staffing concerns — It is hoped that another SCJ will be available to join the OLG community by this summer. There are several international SCJs who might be available in the future, but immigration possibilities have become increasingly unpredictable. It had been hoped that by now two SCJs from Indonesia would be assisting in Lower Brule, SD. They have not yet been able to get visas.

- C. Releasing names — In recent months several dioceses and religious communities have publicly released the names of priests and religious who have had credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. The Provincial Council invited Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, to help Fr. Kilianski and councilors determine whether the US Province should do the same.

There is no mandate by either civil or church authorities to disclose such a list. However, in the future a district attorney could subpoena province personnel files for such information. Some dioceses and religious orders who have published names have done so out of a spirit of transparency and reconciliation.

One of the most significant challenges in publishing such a list is determining who should be on it. How is “credible” defined? The Jesuits, according to Ms. Dahlgren, defined their criteria well but many dioceses have not. Once terms are defined, generally a third party is engaged to review personnel files and determine who fits the definition of a person with a “credible” allegation. The third party can be a private investigator, a law firm, or a review board.

Often, disclosure is determined by one of several factors. These may include: 1) having had one or more established allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor that were investigated while the person was living or deceased; 2) a single claim made after death; or 3) the name was published on another website or listed in a civil lawsuit or bankruptcy court or in a grand jury report. Each entity can determine its own factors. For example, a section could be added for people who admitted to sexual misconduct.

Ms. Dahlgren suggested that the province wait until after the February 21-24 summit in Rome before making a decision regarding the release of names. The summit is between Pope Francis and representatives of bishops’ conferences from around the world; it will also include leaders of religious communities. It is hoped that following the conference there will be guidance from the bishops, CMSM and other Church leaders regarding definitions of “credible” and the listing of names.

- D. Provincial Conference — Members of the council evaluated the January 8-10 conference, “Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry, Part II.” Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, and Fr. Kurps were commended for their work in organizing and facilitating the conference for those 70-under in active ministry. Several councilors said that they had good discussions with members of their local communities at table. Fr. Andrzej Sudol’s input was appreciated; he is currently studying interculturality. It was noted that many of the international participants spoke; this is a good indicator that they felt welcome and respected. Did American-born SCJs have the same desire to speak to the wider group as their international brothers?

A significant moment for many was when those who were born outside of the United States were asked to stand. This was a strong visual sign of the interculturality of the US Province.

Councilors discussed the timing; is January a good time for a conference? Although there are challenges, including winter travel, early January is a good option for several reasons, including the fact that students are on break so they can take part in the conference. The province generally has an assembly in the summer; it would be a burden for many to schedule a conference shortly before or after it.

A significant focus of this year’s conference was interculturality. It was a continuation of the work begun at the 2018 conference and many of its themes will be further developed at the June 11-14 US Province Assembly. The next conference (Part III) is scheduled for January 7-9, 2020. The conference will continue to address community life and interculturality with a focus on future ministry in the province, especially, possibilities for new ministries.

- E. Province Assembly — The Province Assembly is scheduled for June 11-14, beginning with the Province Jubilee Celebration on June 10. Fr. Vien Nguyen, chairperson of the planning committee, will have more information to share at the next council meeting.
- F. Indian District — Fr. Kilianski shared a letter that he received from Fr. McQueen Winston Savio Mascarenhas, district superior of India. In it, Fr. McQueen spoke of collaborative possibilities between the district and the US Province. However, no definitive plans will be made until after Fr. General’s extended visit to the district in March. Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorníu and two general councilors will spend a month in the district to learn about it and help its members discern their next steps as a Dehonian entity.

Fr. Kilianski met with Fr. Michael Augustine when he was here with one of the district’s students for the MA program at SHSST. It is hoped that the province can welcome one or more Indian SCJs in the future. The US Province financially provides for much of the formation needs of the district.

III. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — A few mailings were delayed due to tariff issues, but overall the holiday campaigns performed well. The province is to get a credit from Innovairre for some of the costs of the delays. New software is being implemented and the office continues to look at way of reducing the cost of gift processing. The Donor Response and Planned Giving Departments have been combined. The South Dakota team will do its next on-site visit February 19-20.
- B. Budgets — The memo to budget preparers has been sent. February 4 is the deadline to inform the Provincial Council of capital projects that will be included in the next budget; so far, no significant projects have come forward.

C. Phase III of SHM/SHSST Remodeling — The preliminary estimate for Phase III of the remodeling of Sacred Heart Monastery / Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology is \$5 million. This is to include the addition of 28 remodeled student rooms and one suite for a total of 48 student rooms and 12 suites. This would offer more up-to-date rooms for seminarians but limit the number of students that could be accepted to the summer ECS (ESL) program. It was suggested that SCJs in the program possibly stay in guest rooms in the Sacred Heart Monastery Community and/or at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

Tentatively, the remodeling will begin in 2020. As with the previous remodeling project, funding may come in part from a reduction in the yearly grant from the province to SHSST (endowment funds could be used to meet the shortfall).

D. General Finance Commission — Dn. Nagel has been appointed to the General Finance Commission. Fr. Kilianski and the council congratulated and thanked him for his continued service to the congregation; he has been on the commission for several terms.

E. Investments — The next Investment Committee and Stakeholder meetings are scheduled for February 12.

IV. Conference call — The council will next meet by conference call on Tuesday, January 29, at 10:00 a.m.

V. Future agenda items — Agenda items for future meetings include: staffing of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston and various ministries in South Dakota; the creation of a new ministry, such as a campus ministry project; the June Province Assembly; provincial visitations (reports and follow-up); and possible follow-up to the February bishops summit in Rome.

MEETING SUMMARY

Summary of Provincial Conference “Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry, Part II”

January 8-10, 2019
Provincial Conference Center, Hales Corners, WI

Tuesday, January 8

- I. **Provincial Superior’s Welcome** — Fr. Ed Kilianski welcomed participants, noting that this year’s conference is a continuation of the work done the previous year. He shared several comments from the evaluations of that conference and noted that many felt that it was a very worthwhile experience. Themes of multiculturalism and interculturalism will continue to permeate conference discussions.
- II. **Morning prayer begins** — The conference opened with morning prayer; all sessions of the conference would take place in the context of prayer.
- III. **Personal check-in** — Participants took a few minutes to check-in with each other at table.
- IV. **Introduction** — Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, facilitator, gave an introduction to the conference. She encouraged participants to be mindfully present, to reflect on what they hear from others. Sr. Cathy noted that English is not the first language of many in the room and that SCJs must take that into consideration as they speak and as they listen. She encouraged participants to be mindful to what may be emerging from the conference; where is the Spirit leading Dehonians in the United States at this time?
- V. **Session 1 (The Classical Model of Recruitment)** — Fr. Jack Kurps read a passage from *Living Mission Interculturally* by Fr. Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp. “The classical model for recruitment was that of assimilation: after a suitable period of scrutiny or vetting, prospective members were admitted on the general and specific understanding that they were to learn to accommodate themselves to a preexisting and well-tried way of living... The challenge facing everyone now — not only new members but also the current membership — is to identify and respond to the specific demands of intercultural living.” [page 2; *Living Mission Interculturally*]

In small groups (self-seated table groupings), participants talked about the text.

- VI. **Session 2 (Skills and Virtues for Intercultural Living)** — Referencing the work of Fr. Gittins, Sr. Bertrand talked about various cultural groups, noting the differences between monocultural, bicultural, cross-cultural and intercultural groups. The end goal for a group that includes a variety of cultures is to live in a New Intercultural Community in which everyone is directly affected by the presence of cultural others. Members of the community maintain their core identity but at the same time are transformed and converted to a new way of living, a new culture.

In small groups, participants reflected on the following questions: 1) Which of these [community groups noted above] have you experienced? 2) How did those experiences feel?

Feedback (comments are paraphrased):

1. We reflected on how we are grounded by the experiences that we have had growing up and then later learned in community. Also, it is easy to assume that you know a person’s experience because of where he grew up, or even because of his name.
2. Gittins’ description of communities is good, but too “clean.” In reality, there is much more overlap. Sometimes a community may seem bi-cultural, another time it may be cross-cultural. I appreciate what he is trying to do, but Gittins works under the assumption that the process is a step-by-step process, moving from one level to the next and never going back. My experience of international communities is that the process of cross-cultural dynamics is a slow process.

3. Most people do better in international communities if they have had the experience of living outside of their own culture for an extended period of time.
4. It is good to look at the changes we have experienced in the province-wide community in regard to interculturality. In a short period of time we moved from having only American citizens on the council, to now not only considering international SCJs for leadership, but doing so without considering it to be out of the ordinary. Only one of the five current councilors was born in the United States.
5. One must be willing to take risks in order to live in a New Intercultural Community.
6. Understanding another culture, or a person from another culture, is much more than language. We need to have opportunities to share things about our culture with each other so that we don't live in stereotypes. One does not lose his identity by participating in things of another culture; he enhances who he is.
7. It is easier to live cross-culturally when a person chooses to go to another culture as opposed to someone who is forced to leave his or her own culture due to violence, natural disaster or other challenge. As a member of a religious community, I go to another culture, but I am also within my own culture, my culture as a Dehonian religious.
8. The perfect intercultural community does not exist. It is an ideal; we can only try to achieve it.
9. Even within the same culture of a nationality there are many cultures. We must have a respect for other cultures, even different cultures within our own country. International SCJs must be prepared for the fact that some people to whom they minister are not tolerant of other cultures.
10. Traveling outside of one's culture, even for a brief period of time, allows one to see the world differently; it helps a person to be more open to interculturality.
11. The ESL experience is very important in preparing people from other countries to minister in the United States. There is education not only on the language of the country, but on the culture of the country, the food, the church.

V. Close of morning prayer

VI. Lunch

VII. Prayer of Reparation

VIII. Session 3 — Participants viewed a video of Fr. Roger Schroeder, SVD, speaking on interculturality. In small groups, participants discussed the themes of transformation and interculturality. Comments (paraphrased):

1. Coming together is the first step that we take toward interculturality. We come from different countries, we share our stories and our experiences and in doing so, we create something new. I am from one country, but through the stories of people from other countries, I can become something new, something that is influenced by another culture. We might have preferences for certain people, certain cultures, but we must still try to accept all.
2. Ministries of the US Province have been found in some of the poorest areas of the United States. German SCJs came to the United States to raise funds and found people even poorer than themselves. We must learn about and become aware of the diversity of the people to whom we minister.
3. At our table we talked about McDonald's. No matter where it is located, one can find a hamburger at a McDonald's, but you can also find items from the host country. McDonald's seeks to be an intercultural organization. In some ways, this is what we seek. We want to maintain the essence of who we are as a religious congregation, but to that, add elements of the local culture and the cultures of those who live and minister among us.
4. Hospitality is an important part of living interculturality. Meals are an excellent way of offering hospitality and interculturality. Before we learn a language, we can still eat together.

5. As Dehonians we come from a common culture that can be the base of our intercultural community. We may eat different food, speak different languages, but we all have the same core values, the same spirituality. Our foundation is our charism, being in awe of the love of God.
6. Our Dehonian charism unites us, but it is important that we realize that each entity lives the charism in a way particular to its culture.

IX. Prayer for vocations

- X. Session 4 (From invitation to radical welcome)** — Sr. Bertrand introduced a chart from Fr. Gittens' book (page 179) that outlined the steps to what he terms "radical welcome." It showed the difference between a simple invitation to be a part of a monocultural community to a radical welcome to a community in which difference is dignified and valued with a common spirit and missionary commitment. Participants also reviewed a chart, based on Fr. Gittens' text, of "Skills and Virtues for Intercultural Living." These include a sense of self-awareness (the ability to assess the effects of one's behavior and attitude on others), respect for the human person and for human cultures, and humility.

In small groups, SCJs reflected on the question: "What do you see as the most necessary skills to develop communities of radical welcome?"

Comments (paraphrased):

1. We must be open-minded.
2. Self-awareness is vital. We must be aware of who we are before we can get to know others. Sometimes clashes in community develop out of simple misunderstandings of who we are.
3. Flexibility is important. We must have the capacity to change our perspective or see things from a new perspective.
4. Trust is the cornerstone. We cannot share with one another if we do not trust one another. We cannot expect feedback from one another if we do not trust one another.
5. We must be able to listen to others and not only be concerned with sharing our experience and our wants.
6. Patience and tolerance are important.
7. We can be examples to others; as priests and religious we are in the public eye. We can model intercultural living.
8. Sacrifice is important and sometimes it can be done in small ways. We all know people who talk a lot about themselves, who share the same story over and over. We can be tempted to stop listening and think that the person is self-centered. But maybe we sometimes need to look at it another way. Maybe that person really needs to be listened to. Listen to him. It is a small sacrifice, but it is a way of being welcoming to another.
9. People talk about changing the world, but we need to look at how we can change ourselves sometimes too.

Self-awareness, flexibility and openness were the skills most frequently noted as necessary for becoming a community of radical welcome.

- XI. Mass** — Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec was the main celebrant of Tuesday's Eucharist.

Wednesday, January 9th

- I. **Morning prayer begins** — The day opened with morning prayer; all sessions of the conference would again take place in the context of prayer.
- II. **Session 1 (Conversation in local communities)** – Participants were assigned to a table according to community, or related community groupings. Sr. Bertrand introduced the first small group conversations. SCJs were asked to share with each other three

or four things that they wanted members of their community to know about them. From that, the discussion moved to the following question:

“What is it that you want to say to each other about the following elements of community life: prayer, community celebrations, community leisure, and communication?”

Sr. Bertrand asked participants to consider, in light of those discussions, what conversations still need to happen? How will local communities address the issues raised at table?

III. Prayer of Reparation

IV. Session 2 (Kelly Kornacki) – Kelly Kornacki, director of SHSST’s ECS program (formerly the ESL, the program was recently renamed to better reflect its focus) spoke about not only her own background with intercultural experiences, but the experiences of international students at SHSST. Some of her examples shared the humor in miscommunication, such as idioms. Other examples showed how a routine communication style in one culture can be misunderstood in a negative way in another.

Ms. Kornacki emphasized the importance of communication. Often, misunderstandings can be quickly defused if questions are asked. Trust and hospitality are vital in an international setting so that people feel comfortable expressing their confusion. “Radical hospitality” is the term she used when describing the atmosphere staff try to create with international students at SHSST. She urged SCJs to ask questions or have people repeat themselves if they don’t understand what they are saying. Misunderstandings are not just due to language but also cultural traditions.

Following her presentation, SCJs briefly talked about interculturality at their tables. Comments (including Ms. Kornacki’s answers to questions) to the larger group (paraphrased):

1. Language is not the only communication challenge; communication styles can also be confusing for international members.
2. Students who come to ECS on their own (the only person from his entity) have a particularly challenging time. An immersion experience is important, but sometimes it is nice to take a break and be with what is familiar.
3. Communication challenges can happen even before an international student arrives. One must ensure that written communication is very straightforward so that there is little room for misunderstanding when traveling to an unfamiliar country.
4. It is becoming more challenging for international students to get visas. It is important that those applying for visas are well-prepared for the process.
5. The primary difference between the summer ESL (ECS) program and the program that takes place during the school year are the number of students (more in the summer) and the amount of field trips. Both programs have the same number of classroom hours but due to the summer schedule (open Wednesdays) there is more time for cultural experiences outside of the classroom.
6. It can take several years to learn a language, especially cognitive language skills (the skills needed to write a homily, to counsel in another language). A person is not going to function well in ministry or studies after a seven-week summer course. Ideally, a person should have two years in language studies before transitioning into ministry.
7. It is important to remember that language is not culture. Two SCJs may speak Spanish, but if they come from different countries they may be very different culturally.

V. Prayer for Vocations

VI. Session IV (Church culture in the United States) — At table, participants were asked to discuss “What ‘marks’ or characterizes Church culture in the US at this time?” The following responses were typed on the screen in front of the room:

Divided – culture – along lines of bishops whom they back (or not back) as pope.

Always conscious and careful with boundaries. Background checks, updating. It is the way we protect people.

Expectation of lay involvement in parishes; growing awareness of role of women in Church.

Ambivalence in Church toward people of different cultures. Church afraid to take a prophetic stance to welcome immigrants.

Church trying to embrace all cultures.

Church vibrant in works of charity; justice.

Church struggling to break from “troubles.”

Church makes too many compromises regarding spirituality.

Fear; a community focusing on self-defense instead of the joy of the Gospel.

Diversity of US culture, Church culture. How to bring the richness of diversity to parishes.

Some desire a return to former ways, pre-Vatican II.

Preoccupation with sexual scandal

Church continues to shrink; young leaving the Church.

Diverse parishes from conservative to liberal. Hard to prepare people for service in the Church among diversity.

Many activities in churches.

The poor show greater appreciation for what you do, are more welcoming.

Church experiencing materialism, reflection of society.

Individualism.

People want to love their priest, they appreciate the priest or brother. Need to GO OUT to the people.

The people of the Church are more vocal. People speak up.

Participants were then asked: “In light of what was surfaced regarding Church culture in the US, what does this demand of us in terms of ministry?” Responses (paraphrased):

1. The Church reflects society. People entering the seminary come from the challenges they face in society, including difficult family situations, poverty. Can we change society?
2. There are many cultures within the United States. How do we appreciate cultural diversity and also enculturate the faith?
3. We are influenced by media; society is influenced by media. Sometimes people fear speaking out because of how the message will be shared in media.
4. Coming from one culture, it is very different to experience the Church in another culture.
5. What does it mean to be liberal or conservative in the Church? Is it the same as being liberal or conservative in society at large?
6. We should empower the laity more so that priests have more time for pastoral ministry,
7. We should be a witness to society that intercultural communities can work. During a time of intense division, this is important for people to see.
8. Benefactors express anger at the Church’s response to sexual abuse, yet many continue to support the Church.
9. We spend a lot time discussing how to do things, and learning how to do things. We have many tools to serve others, but do we really go out and use them? Do we talk more than we act in serving people?

10. There is a lack of trust in the hierarchy of the Church; how do we minister in light of this?
11. One of the most important things that we can offer is hope. It allows people to see a future. We can't lose faith in our human capacity.

VII. Mass — Fr. David Szatkowski was the main celebrant.

Thursday, January 10th

- I. Morning prayer begins** — The day opened with morning prayer; as noted previously, all sessions of the conference took place in the context of prayer.
- II. Session 1 (table groupings remained the same as Wednesday; local communities)** – Sr. Bertrand invited participants to review the summary of last year's gathering. SCJs were reminded of the importance of not forgetting what has been said in the past. Comments (paraphrased):
 1. The novitiate community continues to extend its welcome to anyone who would like to visit.
 2. We have to get to know each other better before we can trust each other more fully. This is especially important because we are so scattered as a province; most of us do not regularly see each other.
 3. Trust allows us to be open to other's input, even challenging input. We all need to be challenged, but challenge isn't well accepted if it comes from someone you don't know or trust well. In turn, you aren't going to challenge someone whom you don't know or trust well.
 4. The discussion should just be about interculturality. Most of our communities are living interculturality, we are trying. Many of our challenges come from individual personalities. A welcoming and open personality overcomes cultural differences.
 5. Since last year our community has done more to spend time together, talk about our day with each other. There is more informal communication in the community.
 6. Our community would like to host a Come and See weekend.
 7. It is important for students to not just spend time in a ministry during the summer break but during other parts of the year as well. For example, men in formation who want to learn about St. Joseph's Indian School need to be there when it is fully operational, not just during the summer programs.
 8. These discussions have been valuable; because of them, our local community has set a time to meet to continue to discuss some of the topics raised here.
- III. Evaluation** — Participants were invited to evaluate the conference and give advice for future gatherings. Comments (paraphrased):
 1. Ms. Kornacki's presentation was very helpful; she had practical suggestions in regard to interculturality.
 2. It was helpful to look at interculturality from a community perspective and a ministerial perspective. Sometimes we can be very mindful of the culture in which we are ministering to the point of being intolerant of the differences found in the community in which we live. We need to integrate who we are with whom we serve.
 3. It has been good to get a better awareness of our province as an intercultural community. The fruit of interculturality is that we are more open.
 4. At the beginning of the conference all of those who were born outside of the United States were asked to stand. Half of the room stood. This was very significant; a strong visual message.

5. When Bishop Virgino Bressanelli was here he said that the US Province had become a missionary territory. That really challenged me, but I now see that it is true. Our brothers from other countries have been challenged to bring the Word of God here.
6. This province is becoming more intercultural and I am proud of it. Not once did I hear the word “enculturation.” When I was a younger priest, if you planned to go to another country you planned to enculturate, to become more like the culture in which you would live and minister. Despite our problems, the US Province is a strong model of intercultural living for the congregation.
7. The importance of good communication, of not making assumptions, of asking questions when I am unsure of something – these are messages that I take from this gathering.
8. This process that the US Province is going through, its intercultural process, is very exciting. I am proud to be a part of it. How do we do this as Dehonians?
9. How do we enhance our sense of hospitality so that it extends beyond special occasions?
10. We need to work on supporting each other.
11. Sint Unum is intercultural, multicultural.

IV. June Assembly — Fr. Vien Nguyen, chairperson of the planning committee for the June assembly, reminded participants that many of the themes discussed at the provincial conference will continue to be addressed at the June assembly. Fr. Anthony Gittins, author of *Living Mission Interculturally*, will speak to SCJs. Members were invited to give input regarding the assembly. They can speak to any member of the planning committee: Fr. Guy Blair, Br. Diego Diaz, Frater Phong Paul Hoang, Fr. Andrzej Sudol, Fr. Bob Tucker and Fr. Vien Nguyen.

V. Conclusion — Fr. Ed Kilianski thanked participants for their time and for their work at the conference. He thanked all of those who helped with the conference, especially Sr. Cathy Bertrand, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Joseph Quang Tran and Br. Diego Diaz (music ministry), and prayer leaders. He also thanked the many international SCJs for their willingness to leave their homelands and join SCJs in the United States in community and ministry.

VI. Closing Mass — Fr. Vien Nguyen was the main celebrant of the closing Mass. During Mass, Dn. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas made his promises and Profession of Faith in preparation for his ordination to the priesthood.

Notes from Justice Peace & Reconciliation Commission Meeting January 7, 2019

Provincialate Offices

Present: Fr. John Czyzynski, Fr. Wayne Jenkins, Mark Peters, Fr. Bob Bossie, Fr. Guy Blair, Dn. Juancho Castaneda Rojas, Fr. Ed Zemlik (afternoon)

1. Juancho led us in prayer for a productive meeting and reflection on servant leadership. After personal sharing, Mark gave a report on his activities since the last meeting, including with Seventh Generation Interfaith (board membership, new member recruitment, and shareholder filings with TJX and Macy's as well as a dialogue with Wisconsin Energy Corp.); the DACA coalition in Milwaukee that raised \$17,000 for DACA students at area Catholic colleges to re-apply for the program (the US Province was a top contributor with a \$1000 gift); and immigration education at St. Martin of Tours Parish. Discussion ensued about the importance of socially responsible investing for religious communities and the need for more parish education on immigration and social justice in general. **The Commission and Director stand ready to assist the Province membership or any province ministries in such efforts.** We expressed appreciation for Fr. Terry Langley and Fr. Joseph Quang Tran for working with us at St. Martin's.

Mark reported that the weekly newsletter experiment he ran in December did not generate any feedback pro or con, so for now he is going back to publishing monthly with updates up to once a week if needed. He has tried to cut the length of the newsletter further by placing more content on the JPR website, with links in each newsletter.

Mark shared the disappointing results of the Public Charge comment campaign in the Province. Despite this being the biggest push of a year filled with big pushes by the USCCB and other immigrant and refugee advocacy groups, we were able to muster less than half a dozen comments despite several mailings that tried to make the process as easy as possible. Did some try but found the process too confusing? Not that we heard. Are people just feeling overwhelmed by the constant state of emergency on this issue the past two years? Very likely, but this is exactly what the Administration hopes will happen, that people will give up and allow these new, highly counter-productive policies to become the "new normal." (Mark wrote a reflection in that week's JPR News on the importance of advocacy.)

Lastly, Mark is still a member of the North American Migration Commission, and attended their most recent meeting in Toronto, where among other things a discussion of the responsibilities of the NAMC and the JPRC for this issue was re-opened. Previously an informal understanding had developed that the NAMC would bear primary responsibility for education and awareness-raising of SCJs in the U.S. and Canada, and for direct engagement with local communities about how they can respond, while the JPRC would focus specifically on the United States and coordinating advocacy efforts. But Fr. Ed Kilianski communicated to Mark that he felt all major initiatives, including something like the Public Charge campaign, should go through the NAMC. However, that group had not seen their charge in that way. Fr. Jack Kurps will facilitate a strategic planning session for the NAMC that may address this issue, among others. Meanwhile, we will continue to lift up advocacy opportunities when they arise as best we are able.

2. The rest of the morning and most of the afternoon was given over to discussion of an article in Atlantic magazine entitled "The Real Roots of American Rage." We chose the article in large part because of the polarization we are seeing in the U.S. over Donald Trump especially, but also because we see the US Province as reflective of the country in general: some despise Trump, others support him or at least think those who despise him have "Trump Derangement Syndrome," and most dread conversations with anyone from the "other side."
 - a. The article begins with a 1980's study of a small town in Massachusetts chosen because it was "placid." But a survey showed that most residents experienced anger many times each day, often showed it in various ways, and perhaps most surprisingly found doing so to be cathartic, empowering and ultimately worthwhile. This led us to share with each other our own experiences of being angry or the subject of others' anger. Several members also shared their perceptions of how religious in community often tend to avoid confronting issues that may cause anger out of a desire for harmony, and often even self-segregate with others whose political leanings they feel comfortable with.

- b. In the end, we felt the article was useful and worth sharing with the Province, but unsure of how to do it. We began the afternoon with individual reflection on how we discern that God is calling the JPRC to respond to growing polarization. The overlap and agreement was remarkable. We agreed our first charge is to witness to the truth of the Gospel and its development in Catholic social teaching, no matter whether the reaction is positive or negative, but also to work for reconciliation, which is part of our name, Dehonian identity, and mission. Bob spoke of this as “creating a ground for dialogue and conversion,” while Ed Z and Wayne mentioned our political impasse and the challenge to find “common ground.” We also agreed that our job is both to work with those who share our values, and to seek understanding and dialogue with those who disagree with either those values or our methods.
 - c. Bob also mentioned the idea of “being the change you want to see in the world,” while Juancho said that while others came at this first from the social angle, his immediate reaction is to “look in the mirror” and ask how we can go out to preach reconciliation when we don’t necessarily have it together ourselves. He also spoke of the importance of realizing that each of us has a “right to be angry.” This dovetailed with the article, which stressed that there are two types of anger: ordinary anger, which is human and natural and can be healthy to express in appropriate ways, but which if not heard and confronted can lead to “moral indignation,” in which justice is no longer enough but the desire for revenge takes over and one wants his or her enemies to suffer and be punished.
 - d. Another point of the article is that “ordinary anger can be sharpened, manipulated, and misdirected,” which is happening today. The author believes that “we may be further down a path toward widespread violence than we realize. Guy made the observation that “both parties have issued a call to anger – not to justice, peace and reconciliation. He and John talked about the “two uses of anger” (above) and how we can mobilize the first without adding to the second. John recalled hearing once that “anger is a God-given power to strike out against injustice,” and that in Ephesians 4:26 Paul writes “be angry and do not sin.”
 - e. We talked only briefly about how to use the article, including doing a similar survey among SCJs or a few focus groups, or use in a small group process that could be shared with those who might be interested. Because the article was long, we agreed that Mark would develop a summary of it for possible sharing, and that we would discuss this further at our next phone-in meeting on Friday, Jan. 18. We further agreed those meetings, which we experimented with holding every week for 15 minutes, will from now on be held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays from 10:45 – 11:15.
3. We concluded with quick updates on the Ratio Committee and their willingness to consider incorporating in the Ratio up to a week-long “immersion process” in the greater Milwaukee area, which John and Mark will work on; the hiring of Fr. Raul Gomez as SHSST Rector, with whom we hope to meet this summer; and the Klingler Award nominations, which have been slow to come in. Mark will check as to whether we can open nominations to SCJ employees or other laity with ties to the Province, and Commission members were encouraged to ask SCJs they talk to for suggestions. All we require is a paragraph or two detailing the reasons why the nominee meets the award criteria: “to recognize individuals or groups who exemplify the Dehonian charism of dedication to “ministry to the lowly and the humble, the workers and the poor” (Rule of Life #31).”
 4. We will set our next regular meeting for early spring to look at our budget and follow up on the areas above. We agreed to read a substantive article for discussion for all future meetings. John will take prayer next. The meeting concluded with prayer.

CALENDAR

February 16, 2019:	Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas ordination to priesthood (Colombia)
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
January 7-9, 2020	Provincial Assembly, "Our Future Together in Community and Ministry, Part III"

UPDATES

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