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U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

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Minutes of the 891st Provincial Council Meeting May 14-15, 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 (May 14); Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Tom Knoebel and Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS, were present for discussions of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

I. Check-in — Councilors, Fr. Kilianski, Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto updated each other on themselves and their ministries. Items of note

- Dn. Nagel will take part in the May 18-22 General Finance Commission meeting in Rome, though he will leave early to be present at his brother-in-law's funeral.
- Fr. V. Nguyen completed his first year of teaching; this summer he will work on a project with three other SHSST Faculty members regarding parables in the Bible which is part of the work required of a grant which SHSST received.
- Fr. Stephen Huffstetter spent Holy Week with the community in Mississippi; he assisted with parish ministry during his visit. The Mississippi community will do a group trip to Branson, MO, in May.
- The South Dakota community recently had its last community meeting / shared Adoration prior to the summer break.
- An Admissions Board is scheduled for May 23-25 (participants arrive May 22 and depart May 26). Up to four men are expected to apply for candidacy.
- Several members of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML are struggling with health concerns.
- Br. Gancarczyk is in the process of assuming his new duties as Director of Religious Education at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston. One of the priorities is to recruit and prepare more catechists.

II. Administration

A. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Tom Knoebel, who is completing his term as SHSST president-rector, and Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, the newly appointed SHSST president-rector, met with the council. Fr. Gomez will be installed August 28, during the Opening Mass of the new academic year. He will become the first American-born Hispanic to lead a Roman Catholic seminary in the United States. The installation could be an opportunity to reach out and show off SHSST to major benefactors as well as to local religious superiors in the area.

The new president-rector will take an oath of fidelity. A member of the council asked if something similar could be asked of the SHSST faculty as an outward sign of the seminary's commitment to the Church and its teaching. This might be a good reassurance for potential sponsors and new seminarians.

Fr. Knoebel talked about the superior general's recent visit to SHSST; Fr. General seemed impressed by the work of the seminary. Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú agreed that it would be beneficial to have Fr. Stefan Tertünte, director of the Centro Studi Dehoniani in Rome, as one of the respondents at the Dehon Lecture on November 13. Dr. Austen Ivereigh, who took part in last year's Pope Francis Symposium, will be the featured speaker. Fr. Suarez suggested that Fr. Tertünte also do a presentation with the local community (focusing on the formation community) and with the overall seminary community. Fr. General spoke to Fr. Tertünte about this; Fr. Knoebel will soon follow-up with Fr. Tertünte to work out the details.

Fr. Suarez suggested that SHSST create a more formal relationship with the Centro Studi Dehoniani; members of the SHSST staff could periodically contribute to the *Studia Dehoniana*. The superior general also noted that there will be a theological conference in Rome in November; perhaps a representative from SHSST could take part. Fr. Knoebel will contact Fr. Jim Schroeder and David Schimmel to see if either of them plan to attend as a part of their work with Dehon Study Center in the US Province.

September 24-26, SHSST will co-host a gathering of bishops who have been invited by Bishop Coerver of Lubbock to discuss common pastoral concerns of bishops who lead smaller, primarily rural dioceses. Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, will take part in the meeting. Besides being a venue for bishops to share common issues, it is also an outreach to the bishops by SHSST to learn how the seminary can best serve their needs.

Fr. Knoebel updated the council on several other seminary efforts. Frs. Knoebel and Gómez will attend the installation of Bishop Donald Hying as the new bishop of Madison.

It was noted that the MA programs have been very well received; enrollment in them is strong.

Fr. Gómez would like to make arrangements to move into the guest suite at Sacred Heart Monastery; he hopes to be settled by the first week in June. Fr. Gómez will work with Br. Duane Lemke on this.

- B. Visit of the Superior General — Fr. Kilianski updated the council on the visit of Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú. He said that it was a good visit with information-sharing from each, and clarification on a variety of topics. Fr. General is open to collaboration between entities but also thinks that it is important that the newer entities utilize their men who have gone on for higher studies. This does not mean that such SCJs would never be allowed to serve outside of their home entities, but in some cases, they may be asked to give a period of service to the home entity before being considering for other assignments. Fr. Suarez is open to SCJs from other entities coming to the US Province on long-term assignments but wants to be mindful of evenly distributing such collaboration throughout the congregation.

Regarding formation, the ratio indicates that early formation should be done in the home entity. In the future, it may be more appropriate to wait until after a person has professed vows before he can be considered for long-term international study.

Fr. Suarez expressed his support for the US Province, noting that it is important that the congregation continue its presence in the United States. Overall, he seemed to enjoy his brief visit (April 29 – May 3). He conferred the Ministry of Lector to Fraters Henry Nguyen, Phong Paul Hoang and Huan Duy Pham during Adoration at Sacred Heart Monastery; Fr. General also visited with the Sacred Heart Novitiate community.

- C. Our Lady of Guadalupe — Fr. Duy Nguyen will be leaving OLG in June to begin formation ministry; an administrator of the parish needs to be named.
- D. Campus ministry — There is a desire in the province to create a new ministry; several have suggested campus ministry because of the need for the ministry, but also as a way of sharing the Dehonian charism with young adults. Fr. Kilianski talked about information that he found on the USCCB website regarding national campus ministry organizations. Although there are workshops and study programs to prepare a person for campus ministry, there is no certification needed to do such work.

At some universities and colleges, campus ministry is facilitated by a nearby parish. Perhaps this would be a good option for the province?

- E. Province Assembly — Approximately 65 SCJs and students have registered for the June assembly, including several members of the Canadian Region. Tuesday morning will be a combined session with participants taking part in the Former SCJ

Reunion; discussions will center on the Dehonian charism and its impact. Tom Tucker, a former SCJ, will facilitate the discussion; he is working with David Schimmel, Director of Dehonian Associates, to organize the morning.

An opening rite for the assembly will take place in the afternoon that will focus on the interculturality of SCJs in North America. Br. Duane Lemke has created a piece of art that will be the centerpiece of the assembly.

The North American Migration Committee will lead a session, and as noted previously, Fr. Anthony Gittins, CSSp, author of the book *Living Mission Interculturality*, will lead several sessions on intercultural living and ministry. There will be a memorial for the deceased SCJs of North America, and several other sessions, as well as an evening of Mariachi music.

- F. Formation ratio — Br. Presto informed the council that a draft of the revised provincial formation ratio is just about ready for review. Frs. Q. Nguyen and Kurps requested paper copies; the rest of the council and Fr. Kilianski will receive digital files for review.
- G. New formators — Fr. Duy Nguyen and Fr. Joseph Dinh will move to Sacred Heart Monastery this summer to prepare for their ministry in formation. Fr. Dinh will be coming from Rome, where he took part in the extended formator preparation program, and Fr. D. Nguyen will be leaving his ministry as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The council is grateful to Frs. Bob Tucker and Tom Cassidy for their service with the formation program.

It is important that the council meet with the new formators this summer to dialogue on province formation in general and discuss expectations. Items to note include the need for regular dialogue between the formators and the students, communication between the formation community and the rest of SHM, and the need to express expectations to the students and to follow-up when those expectations are not met. It was suggested that new students be linked with a “big brother” in formation to help them navigate the first weeks in the formation program.

- H. Fr. Johnny Klingler Social Action Award — The council voted to endorse the JPR Commission’s recommendation that the Fr. Johnny Klingler Social Action Award for 2019 be given to Barbara Graham, head of Catholic Charities Legal Services in Milwaukee. It was noted that the award does not need to come to the Provincial Council for approval; the JPR Commission can choose the recipient on its own.
- I. CPOSH Board Appointment — The council voted to approve the nomination of Francis Whitebird to the Board of Directors of CPOSH South Dakota. Br. Presto will inform the CPOSH Board of the approval.
- J. Senior Life Commission — The commission shared the minutes of its April 24 meeting with the council; councilors asked that they be included in the next *Cor Unum*. Councilors discussed several issues brought during their review of the minutes. For the well-being of SCJs, information about an individual’s medical concerns needs to be available in case of emergency. If an SCJ has an emergency health situation, it is vital that knowledge of his medical concerns be made available to health care professionals. A possibility: have a sealed envelope in the Province Healthcare Director’s office with an SCJ’s medical history that would only be opened in case of emergency. Or, such an envelope could be in the office of the local superior.

The council endorsed the list of future agenda items presented by the Senior Life Commission. These include: 1) spiritual pastoral care of seniors, 2) senior SCJs living alone, 3) lack of medical information on individuals, 4) travel restriction guidelines, 5) driving restrictions, 6) terms of commission members, and 7) topics for a possible superiors’ meeting.

The council welcomes the commission’s discussion of all the issues noted above. In regard to seniors living alone, it was noted that Province Healthcare Director visits each senior living on his own. She advises the Provincial Superior on each man’s well-being. Concerning travel, there was a general discussion by councilors on whether there should be limitations on senior travel. Because a retired person has a flexible schedule, if he chooses, he can travel quite extensively. This isn’t necessarily negative, but should there be limits on what is appropriate? The council suggests that the Senior Life Commission discuss this when it addresses travel restriction guidelines.

- K. Local Superiors Meeting — At a future meeting the council would like to discuss whether it should schedule a superiors’ meeting during the next year. The last meeting was open to superiors in both the US Province and Canadian Region.
- L. Reporter’s call — Mary Gorski informed the council that a voicemail was forwarded to her from a reporter from the *Argus Leader* in Sioux Falls, SD. He is doing a story on Native Americans abused at boarding school in the state and sought information regarding St. Joseph’s Indian School. Mary Gorski is collaborating with St. Joseph’s staff and the province attorney on a response.

M. Visitations — Due to his travel limitations, several councilors were delegated by Fr. Kilianski to do this year’s provincial visitations. Fr. Kilianski thanked the councilors for their service and reminded them to send follow-up letters to the communities.

1. Mississippi — Fr. Q. Nguyen did the visitation of the Mississippi community. He followed Fr. Kilianski’s format but was unable to do the closing as planned because Fr. Greg Schill was at a funeral. The community seems to be doing well as a group and individually. Br. Diego Diaz had not fully moved in yet; Fr. Kilianski met with him when he was still at Sacred Heart Monastery.
2. Houston — Fr. Hendrik did the visitation of the Houston community, which includes SCJs living in other areas of Texas. Fr. Hendrik said that he enjoyed the opportunity to do the visitation but misjudged the size of Texas. He was not able to meet individually with Br. Frank Snider or Fr. Richard Johnston. He was in contact with both by email. During the visit, Fr. Hendrik found the community to be in a good space. However, he notes that the style of the community seems to revolve around one SCJ serving as an “anchor.” When Fr. Kilianski was there, he was the anchor. Right now, Fr. Duy Nguyen is the anchor, but he will soon be leaving for his new assignment in formation. A new model of community needs to be developed when Fr. D. Nguyen leaves.

Fr. Hendrik suggests that the community continue to work on communication. It is important that members of the community share concerns but also their needs so that they can live and minister together well.

3. South Dakota — Fr. Kurps will do the South Dakota visitation at the end of May.

N. Formation summer assignments — The council briefly talked about the summer assignments of students in formation. There needs to be clearer communication between the formation program and the local communities regarding the assignments. The students are encouraged and welcomed to be in summer ministry; the specifics simply need to be better defined. This is something to discuss with the new formators.

III. Finance

- A. Province Development Office — New donor software testing began in May; changes to the database system are to be in place by July 1. These and other changes will allow many of the services that are outsourced to Innovairre to be done less expensively by St. Joseph’s Indian School. Dn. Nagel noted that the office recently received two \$500,000 estate gifts.
- B. Procedural Audit for Growth and Charitable Gift Annuity Pools — Schenck Business Solutions did the procedural audit of the Growth and CGA pools for 2018. The audit reported that all procedures are in proper order. Councilors received copies of the report.
- C. Land purchase proposal — As noted at the previous council meeting, a home builder has offered to purchase five acres of land from the province to create a buffer zone behind several houses that he plans to build. It is part of a parcel that is leased out by the province for farming. The land was initially appraised at \$2,500 an acre but an appraiser more recently consulted suggested \$4,500 an acre. Dn. Nagel will have further discussions with the builder.
- D. Phase III of Sacred Heart Monastery / Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology remodeling — The province is looking at various funding options for Phase III of the SHM/SHSST remodeling project. Most likely funding will come from a variety of sources including the Ministry Fund, a temporary reduction in the province grant to SHSST (as was done during a previous phase), and perhaps a loan from St. Joseph’s Indian School. Phase III will include updating the student rooms and classrooms as well as asbestos removal. Plans have not yet been finalized. Cost estimates vary depending on options. For instance, it was suggested that each student room have its own bathroom instead of shared bathrooms as is the case with the SCJ student rooms. Individual bathrooms would be beneficial for student recruitment, but they do add significantly to the final cost.

It is hoped that remodeling can begin in the summer of 2020 but a significant amount of work might take place while school is in session. There are several possibilities for relocating classes and students. St. Martin of Tours school is to close at the end of this year; its classrooms could be rented while those at SHSST are being renovated.

Fr. Kilianski suggested that plans for the project be finalized by autumn, 2019, if possible, to allow time to organize funding and relocation needs.

E. Budgets — The Province Finance Commission reviewed and recommended for approval all of the following budgets:

1. Province Development Office — As noted earlier, the office is making several changes that will allow St. Joseph's Indian School to do much of the work that is currently outsourced. This is expected to be a significant cost savings. In the next year the office will focus on renewals as opposed to acquiring new names. Similar to other fundraising offices, gift annuities are down. Ordo usage is also down; most likely this will be the last year that it is offered. The information is readily available on the internet and other sources.

The council voted to approve the budget of the Province Development office for a total of \$13,945,891, and voted to approve capital expenditures of \$96,000 that include the replacement of the current office minivan, exterior painting, parking lot repair and driveway sealing.

2. Sacred Heart Southern Missions — The SHSM budget anticipates a 7.1% increase in fundraising; planned giving is projected to be up by 22.3% in FY20. The subsidy to the province remains the same at \$800,000. It was noted that the parishes are financially self-sufficient but that subsidized tuition is a significant expense, especially at Holy Family School. The council voted to approve the SHSM budget for a total of \$25,765,280. The council also voted to approve capital expenditures of \$421,000 which include \$65,000 for a parking lot at Holy Family School and \$170,000 to purchase a building in Tunica for Social Services.
3. SHSM Housing Corporation — The budget is similar to the previous year; SHSM provides \$205,000 toward the corporation. The council voted to approve the SHSM Housing Corporation budget for a total of \$448,680.
4. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — There is a 31% increase in revenue due to the province returning to the previous grant level after reducing it to help cover remodeling expenses of Phase II. Overall, the seminary shows a 3% reduction in expenses. It was noted that the school has increased its education options through various MA programs and an expanded ESL/ECS program. This not only offers a wider variety of educational options, but also a wider source for students. The council voted to approve the SHSST budget for a total of \$6,127,295.
5. St. Joseph's Indian School — The organizational structure of the school has changed slightly. Mike Tyrell has taken on some of Donna Dean's responsibilities following her retirement. Jennifer Renner-Meyer is now Director of Child Services. The school no longer receives federal assistance for food service. Support to the province is budgeted at \$4.7 million. The council voted to approve the budget for St. Joseph's Indian School for a total of \$99,913,322 (income is estimated at \$102.1 million, resulting in an anticipated \$2.2 million surplus).

The council also voted to approve capital expenditures of \$3,365,284, and voted to approve \$2.8 for the construction of a new Family Violence Safe Shelter which replace the current structure operated by the Sacred Heart Center in Eagle Butte, SD. The new space will allow the Sacred Heart Center to care for up to 10 families at a time. The project is supported by the Cheyenne River Reservation Tribe. It was noted that because of the cost (over \$2.5 million), the General Council will need to give final approval.

6. Sacred Heart Center — As noted under the St. Joseph's Indian School budget, the Sacred Heart Center plans to build a new Family Violence Safe Shelter funded with a grant from St. Joseph's Indian School. The council voted to approve the Sacred Heart Center budget for a total of \$2,312,075.
7. Lower Brule Ministries — There are two full-time and three part-time employees who work with three SCJs in Lower Brule Ministries. The council voted to approve the budget for Lower Brule Ministries for a total of \$499,822.
8. Native Hope — Native Hope is currently operating as a separate entity but will be brought back under the St. Joseph's Indian School structure during the next fiscal year. The council voted to approve the budget for Native Hope for a total of \$1,497,828.
9. Houston community — There are six members of the Houston community including three active and three retired SCJs. The budget includes a subsidy from the province of \$45,000 to support the parish business manager's salary. The council voted to approve the Houston budget for a total of \$286,438.60.
10. Raymondville — The budget covers the expenses of Fr. Richard MacDonald and remains the same as the previous year. The council voted to approve the Raymondville budget for a total of \$37,300.

11. Sacred Heart Monastery Community — The budget is still being developed as the community gets a better sense of its expenses now that the formation program is included in it. The council voted to approve the SHM budget for a total of \$849,330. This represents a savings of almost \$300,000 over the combined budgets of the formation and SHM communities last year.
12. St. Francis Residence — There are three members of the community. Mark Wenzel supervises maintenance needs at the property. The council voted to approve the budget for the St. Francis Residence for a total of \$134,680.
13. St. Joseph's Community at SHML (4th Floor) — The budget includes six members; there are two full-time employees. One new car is budgeted for next year. The council voted to approve St. Joseph's budget for a total of \$428,950.
14. Dehon House — Following the death of Fr. Bill Pitcavage, future plans for the house are unclear. The council voted to approve the Dehon House budget for a total of \$71,268 (the same as the previous year).
15. South Dakota Community — The budget includes two SCJs in Lower Brule and three in Chamberlain (two of whom are retired). Travel expenses were budgeted for a trip to Europe for Fr. Mark Mastin. It was noted that he needs to seek permission from the provincial superior for travel outside of the country. The council voted to approve the South Dakota budget for a total of \$236,522.
16. St. Michael's Community (Nesbit, MS) — The budget is for five active members. The council voted to approve the budget for the St. Michael Community for a total of \$344,920.
17. Sacred Heart Community at SHML — There are 25 members in residence at SHML and one at St. Camillus. The province grant is up \$60,664 from the previous year, but it was noted that most members of the community are either retired or in province ministries for which they do not receive direct remuneration. The replacement of two cars is in the budget; program cars will be purchased.

Fr. Q. Nguyen, SHML superior, noted that fewer priests receive stipends for celebrating Mass than in the past; this is another reason for reduced income in the community. The reasons vary: some are not able to regularly concelebrate due to health concerns, others prefer not to take stipends, especially when celebrating Mass outside of the community.

The council voted to approve the budget for the Sacred Heart Community at SHML for a total of \$1,809,150.

18. Sacred Heart Community at Pinellas Park — There are eight retired members, one active member, one full-time employee and one part-time employee. The budget is down \$9,230 from last year. The council voted to approve the budget for the Sacred Heart Community at Pinellas Park for a total of \$444,195.
19. Sacred Heart Novitiate — The budget is down \$14,800 from the previous year. The council voted to approve the Sacred Heart Novitiate budget for a total of \$254,784.
20. Senior Life Director (Commission) — The budget primarily covers travel expenses for the members of the commission to attend meetings. The council voted to approve the Senior Life Director (Commission) budget for a total of \$8,950 (the same as the previous fiscal year).
21. Province Archives — The budget is down \$11,500 from the previous year. Fr. Wayne Jenkins is retiring but still working part-time with Fr. Ed Zemlik. The council voted to approve the Province Archives budget for a total of \$15,100.
22. Province Communications — Printing costs have been reduced because the *SCJ News* has gone from a six-issue-a-year publication to quarterly; more emphasis is on digital communication. The council voted to approve the Province Communications budget for a total of \$165,750.
23. Dehonian Associates — This budget includes \$15,000 for Schools in Collaboration and \$40,000 for this year's Mission Education gathering. The council voted to approve the Dehonian Associates budget for a total of \$148,506.
24. Dehon Study Center — The budget primarily covers printing and translation costs. The council voted to approve the Dehon Study Center budget for a total of \$6,500.

25. ESL/ECS (English and Cultural Studies) — The budget anticipates approximately 55 students in the summer program. It was noted that the costs of the ESL/ECS program often get mixed in with the costs of the Sacred Heart Monastery Community. It is difficult to determine what is actually spent on the program. The council voted to approve the ESL/ECS budget for a total of \$635,750.
 26. Foreign Missions — This budget includes province grants to the Indonesian Province, the South African Province, The Congolese Province, the Indian District, the Vietnam District (including the educational and living expenses of Fr. Francis Vu Tran), the Philippine Region, the Generalate and the General Aid Fund. It was noted that the US Province financially supports most of the formation expenses for the Indian District (\$320,000). The council voted to approve the Foreign Missions budget.
 27. Formation — There is no Province Formation Director at this time. The budget is for minor expenses, such as workshops, in which formation personnel may participant. The council voted to approve the Formation budget for a total of \$4,150.
 28. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — There is a reduction of \$10,176 due to the elimination of the grant to St. Martin of Tours school (the school is closing at the end of the academic year). The council voted to approve the JPR budget for a total of \$164,027.
 29. Province Vocations Office — The budget is the same as the previous year. Councilors noted that \$15,000 had been budgeted for postage but that none had been spent. Fr. Q. Nguyen said that the office eliminated the poster campaign but does plan to do some type of mailed campaign. It was suggested that line item identification be reviewed prior to next year's budget; several expenses are mislabeled in order to adapt the budget to a previous format. Councilors said that is one of the most important budgets in the province; the vocation director should ensure that he is making necessary investments to enhance recruitment. The council voted to approve the Province Vocation Office budget for a total of \$228,944.
 30. North American Migration Committee — The expenses of the committee are shared by the Canadian Region and US Province. It covers travel, printing and speakers' fees. The council voted to approve the NORAM Migration Committee budget for a total of \$30,000.
 31. SHSST/SHM Major Maintenance Fund — Projects for FY20 include the replacement of outside light poles, tuck pointing, maintenance of the parking lots and driveway as well as the garage apron and stairway stoops. The council voted to approve the SHSST/SHM Major Maintenance budget for a total of \$146,000.
 32. Fr. Guy Blair — Fr. Blair is based in San Antonio where he ministers to the deaf and hearing impaired. The council voted to approve Fr. Blair's budget for a total of \$46,260.
 33. Chicago community — There are four SCJs living in Chicago, three of whom are graduate students of other entities. Most of the expenses in the budget are for Fr. Bob Bossie, who is retired. It was suggested that a new budget format be developed to more accurately reflect the reality of the Chicago SCJs; this is the first year that the formation community has not been located in the city. The council voted to approve the Chicago budget for a total of \$111,500.
 34. San Antonio — This budget is for Br. Frank Snider, who teaches in San Antonio. The council voted to approve the San Antonio budget for a total of \$65,000. This is down \$38,000 from last year due to Fr. Nick Brown's move to the Sacred Heart Community at SHML.
 35. Province budget — The province budget includes all of the budgets previously reviewed. The budget projects a surplus of \$1,666,074. The council voted to approve the US Province budget for a total of \$10,906,254.
- E. Thank you — Fr. Kilianski expressed his thanks and gratitude to Dn. Nagel and his staff, as well as members of the Province Finance Commission and all budget preparers for their work. It was noted that the budget process is significantly more efficient than in years past and more accurately reflects the expenses of the province and its ministries.
- F. Venezuela — The US Province donated \$10,000 to the Venezuelan Region via the Spanish Province, which has organized efforts to assist SCJs (and the people to whom they minister) in the Region. Half of the funds are earmarked for a youth program.

- G. Chilean Province — Fr. Johnny Li of the Chilean Province wrote to Fr. Kilianski for assistance in raising funds to purchase a house for the province's formation program. The estimated cost is between \$4.3–5.3 million. The Chilean Province seeks a direct contribution from the US Province, and assistance with setting up mission appeals by a Chilean SCJ at parishes in the United States. Councilors talked about the strict guidelines set by the USCCB regarding mission appeals and the limited funds that are raised by them. Fr. V. Nguyen offered to investigate possibilities of organizations in the United States to which the Chilean Province might apply for a grant. Fr. Kilianski will inform Fr. Li of this. The council is open to contributing toward the project but noted that funds are limited at this time in part due to the renovation costs at SHM/SHSST. If a donation is made, it will go through the General Treasurer's Office.
- H. Milwaukee Jewish Conference — The US Province is making a \$2,000 donation to the Milwaukee Jewish Conference for its efforts in fostering interfaith dialogue. Fr. Wayne Jenkins has been active with the organization for many years.
- IV. Calendar — The council will next meet by conference call on Tuesday, May 21, at 10:30 a.m. (Central). Future meeting dates: July 9-10, August 13-14, October 22-23, December 17-18 and January 21-22. The council will have a conference call on Monday, June 3 at 10:00 a.m. to review advancements in formation.

Also, on the evening of Wednesday, June 12 (during the Province Assembly), the administrations of the US Province and Canadian Region will gather for a meal and informal meeting in the family dining room at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

Senior Life Commission Meeting 4-24-2019

Present: Byron Haaland, Ray Kozuch, Duane Lemke, Jim Schroeder, Greg Speck, Vincent Suparman, Brian Tompkins. Mary Balistreri, Province Director of Healthcare.

Absent: David Nagel — budget meeting

Vocation Central, Provincialate, 9:30-12:00

Agenda:

- 1. Check-in and Updates:** Many issues of health, moving, transitions, work, etc., but the most common issue was the death of Bill Pitcavage.
- 2. Orientation:** Greg had reviewed previous minutes and requested no further orientation.
- 3. Budget:** No comments on or changes in the budget that we approved online.
- 4. Spiritual Pastoral Care of Seniors:** A daily blog by Richard Rohr from March 20, 2019, entitled “Growing in Christ,” was circulated online to prime the discussion. We give great pastoral care or ministry to seniors, in the broad sense of caring for them, yet there seems to be little or no direct pastoral care offered in the strict sense of attending to their spiritual and prayer lives. Although Rohr wrote about a first half and second half of life, the “third-age” was mentioned for our retired SCJs. Some studies speak of the “young-old” of 65-74, the “old” of 74-84, and the “old-old” of 85+, so we might speak of five ages in a person’s life. In earlier life we seek to acquire and control, but in later life we begin to let go, give over, and simplify. We spoke of how important it is to have seniors give the milk of wisdom to younger members, perhaps even to include some in the gatherings of SCJs still assigned to ministry, or in gatherings of the whole province. We need to examine what we are passing on to the next generations. If we look at Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, we cannot be self-actualized without attention to our spiritual needs in the last stages of our life. Since we have more men in the “old” and “old-old” categories, how can we offer them spiritual care in conferences, talks, spiritual direction, etc.—helping men connect our SCJ spirituality of oblation with aging. It seems we neglect systematic spiritual pastoral care after initial formation. Some members shared missed opportunities to do that with family members because of a hesitancy to offer such help.

Action: No conclusions were reached, and no action recommended, but we all agreed to continue considering this issue at our next meeting.

- 5. Seniors Living Alone:** Several had asked that we revisit this topic. We reviewed the notes on our last discussion a year ago. Since then, Nick Brown moved to SHML, and Frank Snider is on a year-to-year basis.

Mary Balistreri reminded everyone that she serves at the direction of the Provincial. She visited and evaluated all four still living alone in Texas. She found that all of them are getting the medical care, medications, and other assistance they need. In her professional opinion they are all capable of continuing to live as they are. She has no personal opinion on this.

It was agreed that our last recommendations were good, but there are no SCJs close to those in Texas to observe what is happening. This needs improvement. The Provincial has a pastoral responsibility toward these men, yet exercises it through a local superior.

The issue of a fallacy in finances was raised: the retirement stipends of men living alone go mostly to outside parties, not to an SCJ community, so each one does cost more to maintain than an SCJ senior in community.

The issue of stacking a ministry community with senior SCJs was raised: When the bulk of an SCJ community is seniors, it may make that assignment less appealing to younger SCJs, and make the ministry positions there hard to fill.

Action: There was solid agreement recommending that our previous recommendation be improved. In 3.C. of the previous text, we recommended, “That each man maintain regular contact with his community.” To that item we want to add, “and that his local superior connect with his at least quarterly and then report to the Provincial about him. Each man must physically visit his community at least quarterly, and the local superior will report that to the Provincial.”

We also want to further discuss this issue at our next meeting.

6. Payment of healthcare bills for those refusing any information to the Province: This Agenda item was raised at the meeting. Regular insurance companies refuse payment unless they receive basic information, such as diagnosis, recommended treatment (including medications) and justification for it, and dates and frequency of treatments. Since the Province functions as a third-party payer after Medicare, it is suggested that the Province can and should insist on the same type of basic information before it will pay healthcare bills. Furthermore, it was suggested that this approach be used for all SCJs.

7. Powers of Attorney (POAs): This item was raised at the meeting. Some SCJs have no POAs, or the documents are outdated, or the documents are not valid because they are missing signatures and dates; and some have non-SCJs as their POAs. The Province has had some extreme difficulties dealing with POAs who are not SCJs.

Action: We recommend that the Provincial and Council require that all members of the Province have SCJs as their POAs. Our recommendation for Senior SCJs Living Alone, in 3.E. should be changed to “two SCJ Power of Attorney agents.” We recommend that the Provincial have Mary Balistreri review all POAs and then contact those SCJs who need new ones, or valid ones. Any difficulties should be referred to the man’s local superior, and to the Provincial if need be.

8. Next meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2019, 9:30-12:00.

9. Future Agenda Items:

- A. Spiritual pastoral care of seniors
- B. Senior SCJs Living Alone
- C. Lack of information for medical payments
- D. Travel restriction guidelines
- E. Driving restrictions
- F. Terms of Commission Members
- G. Anything for the Superiors’ Meeting?

CALENDAR

June 3, 2019:	Provincial Council meeting via conference call at 10:00 a.m.
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
June 12, 2019:	North American Councils dinner and meeting
July 9-10, 2019:	Provincial Council meeting
August 13-14, 2019:	Provincial Council meeting
October 13-15, 2019:	Mission Education (South Dakota)
October 22-23, 2019:	Provincial Council meeting
December 17-18, 2019:	Provincial Council meeting
January 7-9, 2020:	Provincial Assembly, "Our Future Together in Community and Ministry, Part III"
January 21-22, 2020:	Provincial Council meeting

UPDATES

Br. Meghanand Chakravarthy Bandanadham (MA student from India)
Updated phone number: 262-221-2798

NECROLOGY

+Fr. Otto Seidel, a member of the BRM Province (Brazil), died May 17. He was born in 1934, professed in 1955 and ordained in 1960.

+Fr. Camille Braun, a member of the Franco-European Province, died May 2. He was born in 1932, professed in 1953 and ordained in 1959.

+Fr. Zénon Sendeke, a member of the Congolese Province, died April 28. He was born in 1955, professed in 1978 and ordained in 1984.