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

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### Minutes of the 892nd Provincial Council Meeting June 3, 2019, via conference call

PRESENT: Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Vien Nguyen and Br. Andy Gancarczyk, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Ed Kilianski sent his votes to Br. Presto via text. Fr. Quang Nguyen was excused for travel; Fr. Christianus Hendrik was excused for a funeral.

- I. Postulant Hung Pham — The council voted to approve Postulant Hung Pham for Entrance to the Novitiate.
2. Novice Hubert Senam Kodjovi Liassidji — The council voted to approve Novice Hubert Senam Kodjovi Liassidji for profession of First Vows.
3. Frater Duy Henry Bui Nguyen — The council voted to approve Frater Duy Henry Bui Nguyen's request to renew his vows.
4. Frater Paul Phong Hoang — The council voted to approve Frater Paul Phong Hoang for vow renewal.
5. Frater Long Nguyen — The council voted to approve Frater Long Nguyen to receive the Ministry of Acolyte.

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### Minutes of the 893rd Provincial Council Meeting July 9-10, 2019, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps and Fr. Christianus Hendrik, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. David Schimmel was present for discussion of the Former SCJ Reunion; Fr. Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS, was present for discussion of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; Br. Duane Lemke was present for discussion of Sacred Heart Monastery; Fr. Duy Nguyen was present for a discussion about formation. Fr. Vien Nguyen and Br. Andy Gancarczyk were absent due to travel.

- I. Extended prayer — Fr. Kilianski, councilors, Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto spent the first morning of the meeting in extended prayer and sharing. Part of the focus of their reflection was the recently released programmatic letter of the general administration.
- II. Administration
  - A. Minutes — The council voted to approve the minutes of the 892 meeting without correction.
  - B. Former SCJ Reunion — David Schimmel, director of Dehonian Associates, gave a summary of the June 10-11 reunion, which coincided with the Province Jubilees and the Province Assembly. Sixty-one people attended the event, including spouses/partners. The response from participants was very positive; several asked that such gatherings continue to be held in the future. Some suggested that it be held on a weekend instead of weekdays. The coun-

cil decided that the reunions should be held every three years. It was suggested that Mr. Schimmel develop an informal committee to assist him in preparing the next gathering.

Fourteen participants made free-will offerings to help cover the cost of the reunion; the total of donations was \$3,890. A printed membership directory of the *Espirit de Coeur* is now available; due to privacy concerns, there are no plans for an online version.

Several members of the *Espirit de Coeur* — those who attended the reunion and others — expressed interest in furthering their connection with the Dehonian charism and SCJ spirituality. Should there be a different category or designation for former SCJs who are interested in becoming Dehonian Associates? Could they be a part of collaborative efforts with the province?

The possibility of an online Dehonian Associates course was discussed by a previous council; at that time the council was not in favor of it, noting the importance of in-person interaction. However, there may be online options that could incorporate some in-person interaction, perhaps through Skype or other means. Online education is expanding. David Schimmel will look at possibilities for offering or perhaps expanding the Dehonian Associates program to make it more accessible to former members of the community.

The council is open to inviting members of the *Espirit de Coeur* and Dehonian Associates to the Mission Education Conference, though noted that the primary focus of the conference will continue to be employees of the province and its apostolates.

It was suggested that individual members of the *Espirit de Coeur* be invited to the anniversary celebrations of their SCJ classmates.

- C. Fr. Raúl Gomez-Ruiz, SDS — Fr. Gomez had his first visit with the council since beginning his term as SHSST president-rector on July 1. When possible, the president-rector meets with the council for information sharing. Prior to starting the position, Fr. Gomez shadowed Fr. Tom Knoebel, the outgoing president-rector, for six weeks; Fr. Knoebel will remain at SHSST in a part-time capacity. Fr. Gomez said that he articulated his vision for SHSST in his presentation at the Province Assembly [Addendum A]. With the council, he emphasized that while the diverse educational opportunities found at SHSST are important, it is vital that the school maintain its core mission: to educate men for the priesthood.

During the next year he would like to focus on formation to make sure that a strong formation curriculum is in place not just for resident students but for all seminarians. Sponsoring dioceses and communities (including the SCJs) have their own formation programs, but Fr. Gomez emphasized that the seminary — as a seminary — must ensure that all seminarians receive a baseline or standard in formation for priestly ministry. Fr. Gomez is beginning to meet with various SCJs at the seminary, including Fr. Duy Nguyen and Fr. Yvon Sheehy. He noted the importance of having the SCJs present and active at SHSST to ensure that the Dehonian charism is a part of the life of the seminary. He hopes that the SCJ formators will be active with the wider SHSST formation team. The needs and expectations of both the seminary and the SCJ program must be well communicated with each other to ensure a strong, collaborative relationship.

Fr. Kilianski noted the importance of preparing SCJ students not only for the priesthood, but for priesthood as a religious. Fr. Gomez said that this was also a concern of his own community (Salvatorians). Should a two-track program be developed, one for diocesan priesthood and one for religious? This might be something beneficial for other religious communities.

Councilors spoke with Fr. Gomez about the SHSST admissions process. If a person has already gone through an extensive admissions process with his sponsoring entity — including in-depth psychological testing — does he have to go through similar steps in the process for admission to SHSST? This is of particular concern to the province as the owner-operator of the seminary. There is an acknowledgement that SHSST is its own entity, but it is also an apostolate of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. However, other sponsoring entities may have similar concerns about sharing full psychological reports of applicants, as well as other personal information.

Fr. Gomez agreed that it is a challenge; there needs to be respect for privacy and the authority of a sponsoring entity, but the seminary also has to have pertinent information about a person to assist in his education and formation. Fr. Gomez will investigate the psychological requirement to determine whether a summary report is suitable or if an SHSST applicant needs to submit a full psychological report. As a seminary, the full report may be a part of the PPF requirement. If the full report is

a requirement, all candidates must be informed of this as a part of their application process and sign a release form allowing the report to be shared with appropriate SHSST personnel.

Councilors asked if students' grades are sent to the SCJ formators. Fr. Kilianski would like to ensure that members of the formation team see the grades of their students. Students will be asked to sign a release to allow this to happen.

Fr. Gomez asked about plans for Phase III of the renovation; Dn. Nagel said that new plans had been developed which would be discussed later in the council meeting. Fr. Gomez said that the seminary planned to pursue technology grants to offset the costs of classroom upgrades.

Fr. Gomez also asked for clarification on several employment issues. He is to work with the province attorney and the SHSST human resource personnel regarding these questions.

- D. Local administrations — Consultations for leadership are to be done for the following communities: Houston (Fr. Jack Kurps will do the consultation), Mississippi (Fr. Quang Nguyen will do the consultation) and the Sacred Heart Community at SHML (Fr. Ed Kilianski will do the consultation). The council appointed Br. Andy Gancarczyk as temporary administrator of the Houston community until the consultation. Fr. Q. Nguyen will continue to serve as superior of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML and Fr. Thi Pham will continue as superior of the Mississippi community until the consultations of each are complete.
- E. Admissions Board — The terms of Fr. Tony Russo and Fr. Jim Brackin expire this year; both have chosen not to seek renewal. The Provincial Council voted individually to appoint Br. Ray Kozuch and Fr. Yvon Sheehy to the board. The council also voted to appoint Fr. David Szatkowski as chairperson of the board; he succeeds Fr. Russo, who was thanked for his years of service, as was Fr. Brackin for his term on the board. The council noted the importance of having more SCJs trained as interviewers, especially younger members. Those who have already been trained may benefit from an updated workshop. Councilors expressed their hope that trained interviewers will make a significant effort to be available for the process when needed. Interviewing is a time commitment, but it is an important one that should not be declined unless there is a significant conflict.
- F. Sacred Heart Monastery — Br. Duane Lemke, local superior of SHM, met with the Provincial Council to review the past year. This was the first year that the formation community was a part of the monastery community. One of the challenges of SHM is that there are three communities within one: 1) the formation community, 2) the ECS (formerly ESL) community, and 3) the permanent monastery community (those in final vows who are not a part of the formation program or ECS). As with any community, communication is key for everything from meals to prayer. It was suggested that he and the formators schedule regular meetings with each other to ensure good communication. Scheduling issues are particularly important to share. For example, a change in prayer times due to school schedules has an impact on the entire SHM community, not just the people in formation.

More meetings of the entire community, along with groups within the community, are to be scheduled during the next academic year. Br. Lemke suggested that there be a regularly scheduled community meeting night, with perhaps the first Monday of the month being a meeting of the entire SHM community and at other times, meetings of groups within the community.

Councilors brought up the topic of meals within the community. The SHM dining room was designed to be a place for the community to have meals together. Although guests are welcome, for the most part, the evening meal should be a community event. There was also discussion about food expense, both food purchased for the community and meals out. The province already pays for the community to receive food service from Sodexo. Yet a significant amount is also spent on food for the community. The community is encouraged to continue its dialogue with the food service to ensure that it is able to meet the needs of the community. Br. Lemke said that he has already had good conversations with food service staff and will continue the dialogue. Councilors asked that the SHM community be mindful of how much is being spent on meals out. It is very costly for the full community to go to a restaurant. Mindful that the community includes the formation program, it is important that it sets a good example as to what is appropriate in light of the vow of poverty. This doesn't mean that members should never go to a restaurant, but such meals should be the exception. Perhaps birthday celebrations could be done in the community dining room, or if there is a meal out for an SCJ, perhaps only those in vows would be invited. Each stage of formation brings a new level of privilege; candidates do not have the same privileges as those in vows.

Regarding holiday meals, when the formation community was in Chicago it was the tradition that its members would join the Sacred Heart Community at SHML for events such as Thanksgiving. It is an important time of sharing between the gen-

erations and it is hoped that this tradition can be renewed.

Br. Lemke said that he would put the topic of community meals on the agenda of one of the first two community meetings of the new academic year.

The council and Br. Lemke spoke about the relationship of the Novitiate Community with SHM; the Novitiate is a filial house of the monastery. Br. Lemke said that the two communities need to work on communication with each other, especially in regard to formation issues.

Br. Lemke said that he and the new president-rector, Fr. Gomez, were to have a meeting later in the week; Br. Lemke and Fr. Knoebel, the previous president-rector, met approximately every other week during the school year.

Regarding the proposed Phase III renovations, Br. Lemke asked that the final plans be mindful of the need for office space for the SHM superior and the formation staff. Both have space in the area of the building that would be affected by Phase III.

G. Formation — Fr. Duy Nguyen also met with the council. He and Fr. Joseph Dinh will serve as the formation team within the monastery community. The council dialogued with Fr. D. Nguyen about a variety of formation issues, answering questions and mapping out initial expectations for the new academic year. Councilors echoed what Br. Lemke had noted during his visit: good communication between the various groups within the Sacred Heart Monastery community is vital. Fr. D. Nguyen had several questions about the formation ratio, which is in process, as well as various SHSST protocols. He has already met with several members of the SHSST staff. Both Fr. D. Nguyen and Fr. Dinh will meet with the council at its August 13-14 meeting (Fr. Joseph was not present at this meeting because he is completing the formators course in Rome).

The council emphasized the need for meetings with the formation community, including individual groups (candidates, temporarily professed) and one-on-one meetings between formators and students. It is also important that a formation curriculum be outlined; formation topics for each stage in formation need to be identified. A first-year candidate should cover a certain base of topics that are built on in his second year. Formal presentations on Fr. Dehon, Dehonian spirituality, ministries, and what it means to be part of an international congregation all need to be covered. For those preparing for ordained ministry, there needs to be formation on what it means to be a religious priest, in particular, a Dehonian priest, as opposed to a diocesan priest.

Most importantly, students need regular formation in what it means to live the vowed life, what it means to live simply. Men in formation should spend time together not only in meetings and prayer but also in recreation. Perhaps one evening a week could be designated for a social activity together as a community. Fr. D. Nguyen plans to have the formators sit with those in formation during most evening meals. It is important for the formators to have casual time with the students to get a better sense of how they are doing.

The SCJ formation team is expected to interact with SHSST formation personnel. It is also important that formation community be a part of the life of the SHSST community, in particular, the Wednesday midday Eucharist. Students and formators should be involved in the Wednesday Mass. The SCJ presence — not just in the pews — is an important way to share the Dehonian charism. Also, the SCJ formation program should respect the SHSST tradition of wearing more formal attire on Wednesdays.

The council acknowledged that the formation community needs its own time for prayer within the SCJ community, but there should be an effort at more collaborative moments with the wider seminary population. Also, the importance of Sunday liturgy needs to be emphasized. The formation team needs to ensure that the students are getting out and experiencing Sunday liturgies in various settings. While the students are always welcome at SHML, it is good for them to experience parish liturgies.

Students should meet with a spiritual director starting in candidacy.

Fr. Q. Nguyen, vocation director, reminded Fr. D. Nguyen of the importance of the community's assistance with Come and See weekends. The welcome that a potential candidate feels during his visit is vital.

The summer program was discussed. There should be an expectation that all students in formation be involved in a summer program, either in a province ministry or in an educational experience such as CPE or language studies. If the newly devel-

oping formation ratio does not clearly state this, it needs to be added. Fr. Kurps will talk to Fr. David Szatkowski about this; Fr. Szatkowski is chairperson of the ad hoc committee on the ratio revision.

The summer experience should be geared to the level the student is at in his formation; if he is to be ordained within the next year he should have a summer experience that would allow him to build his skills for ordained ministry. The council asked that formators prepare for the program early in the academic year. Local communities might be able to adjust their ministries to create a better program experience for students if they know when the students are coming and what the specific expectations are. What type of formation will take place during the summer program and how will the student be supervised? Formators should plan to visit their students on-site and casually keep in touch with them via phone calls or texts throughout the experience. Dialogue between the formation team and local communities needs to begin early.

Besides the formation ratio, councilors noted the need for a program handbook for the formation team. Br. Presto said that he has one that Fr. D. Nguyen can review.

Fr. D. Nguyen asked if the formation team is made aware of psychological issues that a student may be working on, especially when the student is seeing a professional counselor. Councilors thought that it is appropriate that the formation director have at least some knowledge about such issues to assist him in formation but that he does not necessarily need to have full psychological reports. This would be done on a case-by-case basis with the understanding that any information shared can only be done so if a release is signed by the student. Formators also have the option of suggesting that a student see a counselor if they think it would be beneficial to the student.

Formation reports — one mid-year and one at the end — are expected for each student. Fr. D. Nguyen asked about international students. The formation team needs to be in dialogue about this with the superior of the international student's home entity. It is important that the superior of the entity be made aware of concerns or challenges that his student may have experienced.

New candidates for the formation community will move in at Sacred Heart Monastery on August 19; most of the continuing candidates and temporarily professed students will arrive in time to attend the First Professions. Among those returning is Celsus Robert, who left the program to attend to immigration concerns.

Fr. D. Nguyen asked about the student visa process; he was informed that SHSST handles this.

Fr. D. Nguyen was thanked for his availability in taking on this vital province ministry.

- H. Provincial Assembly — The majority of comments on the evaluation sheets for the June Province Assembly were positive. Some SCJs thought that the schedule was too filled or too tight, but overall, SCJs seemed to appreciate the topics presented. Many enjoyed the overlapped time with the reunion participants. As in the past, the most frequently cited “negative” of the assembly was the chairs. Folded chairs are rarely comfortable for extended periods of time; perhaps more short breaks are needed.

The council plans to choose the dates of the 2020 assembly by early fall.

- I. New ministry — During previous meetings the council has talked about the need to pursue a new ministry, most likely a ministry for youth or young adults. One idea is campus ministry. Fr. Kilianski will contact the SCJs who have expressed interest in serving in this ministry and encourage them to get together to talk about possibilities. One of the first tasks is to define the age group they would like to serve. “Youth” has different meanings; councilors suggest that the province focus on ministry to older teens and young adults.
- J. Programmatic letter — The council reviewed the general administration's programmatic letter during its extended prayer and reflection on Tuesday morning. At their next meeting (August 13-14), members of the Provincial Council will review their own vision and goals for their administration.
- K. Power of Attorney for Health Care — The council reviewed the list of those who have and have not filed a POA. A significant number of SCJs still have not done so. Fr. Kilianski will write individual letters to each who has not filed a form and strongly encourage him to do so as soon as possible.
- L. International SCJs — The council was informed that the processing time for applications for permanent residency (“green

card”) has significantly increased. For example, the wait time for an international SCJ who recently applied for his is 15.5 to 49.5 months. Once the process has begun the applicant is not allowed to leave the country, with the possible exception of an emergency. The fees for various applications have also significantly increased.

### III. Personnel

- A. Fr. Francois Tsanga — Fr. Kilianski shared a memo that he had been cc’d on from the archdiocese of Galveston-Houston regarding Fr. Tsanga. After ministering with the US Province for several years, Fr. Tsanga sought to incardinate into the archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Fr. Tsanga is a member of the Cameroon Province. Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú, superior general, has not granted Fr. Tsanga exlaustration. Instead, he has asked him to return to Cameroon. The archdiocese ended Fr. Tsanga’s faculties as of July 10 to allow him time to address his situation with his religious superiors.
- B. Frater Long Nguyen — Frater L. Nguyen is in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, studying Spanish until early August. He has sent Fr. Kilianski brief texts, indicating that he is enjoying his time there as well as his language study.
- C. Fr. Wojciech Adamczyk — The Provincial Council voted to approve Fr. Wojciech’s request to join the US Province; Fr. Wieslaw Swiech, provincial superior of Poland, endorsed the request. It has been forwarded to the superior general for his review.
- D. Fr. Joseph-Thien Dinh — Fr. Kilianski shared a recent email from Fr. Dinh. Fr. Dinh is currently in the Holy Land, completing the formators course sponsored by the general administration. Fr. Dinh returns to the United States at the end of July, and after travels for family commitments, will settle into his duties at Sacred Heart Monastery in mid-August. He and Fr. Duy Nguyen will be with the council at its August 13-14 meeting.
- E. Fr. Robert Naglich — Fr. Naglich suffers from kidney failure; he now receives dialysis three times a week.

### IV. Finance

- A. Farmland property — A developer asked to purchase 5.6 acres of the province’s farmland in Franklin. His offer is on the low end of the estimated value. After consulting with the province attorney, Dn. Nagel decided that it is not in the best interests of the province to divide the property at this time.
- B. Phase III remodeling — Two options have been developed for the third phase of remodeling the building that houses both Sacred Heart Monastery and Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. The initial option called for all student rooms in Building B to be done in the style of those in Phase II (Sacred Heart Monastery wing), along with four faculty suites and a rector’s apartment. The recreation room would be moved to the basement to allow for more rooms, but there would still be significantly fewer rooms than what is available now. The estimated cost of the initial proposal was approximately \$8 million.

The second proposal calls for building student rooms similar to Phase II on the third and fourth floors between the lobby and the staircase five. Four faculty suites and a rector’s apartment would also be built. The difference in the second proposal is that existing student rooms on the third floor between staircases five and six would be refurbished but not fully remodeled. They would continue to share common bathrooms and showers that would be renovated. The recreation room would remain on the fourth floor. This would allow for full-time students and on-site faculty to have renovated rooms while still maintaining enough housing space for the summer ECS program and other overflow needs during the year.

The second proposal, with fewer plumbing concerns immediately above the classrooms, would be less disruptive to the school.

Besides the bedrooms and suites, the second plan also calls for the updating of three classrooms and the upgrading of fire safety equipment.

The estimated cost of the second option is approximately \$4 million. The council is in favor of the direction of the second proposal. Dn. Nagel will look at several funding possibilities and bring the proposal back to the council when funding options are in place.

- C. Province Development Office — The database conversion is underway. The new mail processing system is expected to be faster and provide thank you letters to donors more quickly. People from St. Joseph’s Indian School were at the office for several days, starting on July 8, to help facilitate the conversion. Two staff from the Hales Corners office will go to St.

Joseph's to continue the learning process. Contracts with the previous mail processor, Innovairrie, ended on July 1. The new system is expected to be much more cost effective.

- D. General Finance Commission, General Treasurer — The commission will hold its next meeting in Mississippi the week of November 18. Fr. Jack Kurps will facilitate an introduction to the ministries of Sacred Heart Southern Missions and serve as the primary contact for the commission's visit. Fr. Luca Zottoli, general treasurer, and his assistant, Aldo Ivaldi, will be in California, September 15-18, to meet with the province's investment consultant, Garrett Stinson. The visit is a part of several that the general treasurer is making in North and South America during the late summer and early fall.
- E. Driving tests — John Kuxhause is setting up driving tests for Milwaukee-area SCJs aged 75 and above. It is province policy that after age 75, SCJs are tested yearly. Arrangements need to be made for SCJs over 75 who live outside of the Milwaukee area.
- V. Next meeting — The Provincial Council's next meeting will be in Hales Corners, August 13-14. It is timed to coincide with the Entrance to Novitiate and First Professions ceremonies.

## Addendum A

### Presentation of Fr. Raúl Gómez, SDS, SHSST president-rector, at the 2019 US Province Assembly: “Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology: Your Seminary”

Good morning. Thank you so much Fr. Ed for the invitation to address you, the SCJs here, and your alumni this morning as you begin your provincial assembly. I am also very grateful to Fr. Ed and the Provincial Council for the great trust and confidence which he and they have placed in me as I begin my service as the new President-Rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. Although I do not officially begin until the first of July, I have spent the last month and a half actively involved in seminary related meetings and events. This has given me the chance to listen actively and ask needed questions to get as broad a picture as possible of what my role and service entails.

As noted, I have a long history with Sacred Heart. I was hired in 1988 to establish the Hispanic Studies Program, one of the first of its kind in a seminary. Over the course of 24 years I had the privilege of working with Frs. Jerry Clifford, Jim Brackin, Tom Cassidy, and Jan de Jong among other SCJs. I also served as a professor of Systematic Theology, Vice Rector and then Vice President of Academic Affairs before leaving to take a job with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in 2012. It was short lived, however, since I was elected as Vicar General of the Salvatorians in Rome for a six-year term which ended this past December. At that time, Fr. Ed invited me to interview for the position of President-Rector of Sacred Heart. But actually, the first time I interviewed for the position of President-Rector was 8 years ago (fall of 2011) just before I left for ATS.

I said then that I was convinced that Sacred Heart was moving toward greatness. Since returning, it is obvious that Sacred Heart is not the same seminary I left in 2012, nor am I the same person. Upon returning to Sacred Heart I see just how far the seminary has advanced and is truly on the verge of greatness. I believe this is due not only to the dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment of the SCJs but also of the administrators, staff, faculty, and board of directors who have endured some difficult times recently. I am especially pleased by the dynamism brought to Sacred Heart by Fr. Tom Knoebel and the improved relationship to the SCJ Provincial, his council, and the Province.

Fr. Tom has inspired the Seminary community, and I suspect the SCJs as well, with his vision linked to Jeremiah 29:11-12: namely, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for your harm to give you a future with hope...” “A future with hope.” I sense this hope coursing through the life of the seminary, especially as they wonder who I am and what my leadership will be like.

Well, while Fr. Tom has been a visionary, I am a dreamer. At a gathering of youth in North Macedonia earlier this year, Pope Francis decried the lack of dreaming among the youth of today. So, he admonished them to dream, and to dream big! I take my inspiration from his words as well as from the prophet Joel 3:1: “it shall come to pass I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”

I am now in my mid-60s, an old man to some, but certainly with dreams. When I began teaching at Sacred Heart, I was in my mid-30s. Even then I envisioned a bright and glorious future for Sacred Heart. Today I dream of Sacred Heart as a place of excellent priestly and religious formation. I dream of a full house of diocesan and religious seminarians and with programs full of students, where bishops and religious superiors will want to send their seminarians and where men and women, lay and religious will want to study. That is because I dream it will be a place full of prestige that enjoys national and international fame for its superb theological, spiritual, pastoral, and human formation, and as a holy place where the world meets to encounter and extend the reign of God.

Yes, I am a dreamer, but I also have my feet on the ground. For dreams can only be achieved if we take care of those things that will help us move forward to attain them. And it is clear that one of those things is the continued support and dedication of the SCJs to the future of the seminary. A sign of this is the investment you are making in renovating the building. Thank you for your generosity and vision, for...

Sacred Heart is your seminary. It is an important apostolate of the US Province as well as your world-wide community as one of only three major Dehonian seminaries in the world. Along with your other apostolates, I'm sure that the alumni here would agree that Sacred Heart adds to the prestige of your presence and charism in the US making it visible here and around the world. Because of this it is imperative that the SCJ charism and Dehonian spirituality be an integral part of the life and purpose of the seminary. What's more, it's my ardent hope that I'll be succeeded by an SCJ when my term ends, and this requires a large investment including the right attitude, commitment, preparation, and knowledge of what is required of a major seminary to function and succeed in the US.

Also, it is important that Sacred Heart have a connection to the other two SCJ major seminaries so that the Dehonian spirit grows at Sacred Heart. At the same time, it is very important that SCJs recognize that the administration, staff, faculty and board of directors of Sacred Heart are your partners: the spirit of Fr. Dehon and his charism are at work here. Like all charisms it was a gift to

Fr. Dehon, and so to you, as an instrument of God's life and salvation at the service of Church and society. Consequently, I believe because of that Sacred Heart, with its administration, staff, faculty, and board of directors add to the richness of the expression of his charism in the US and beyond. And we offer you our dedication and collaboration in this regard.

Furthermore, as a result of my six years in Rome it has become very clear to me that the future of religious congregations involves greater collaboration and sharing of resources in order to move into the future and bring our unique perspective to bear on the life of the Church. I see the motto used recently at the international SCJ formation gathering, "With Open Heart and Open Mind," as well as my appointment, as a sign of this.

So, what do I envision for Sacred Heart? I see a place where God's reign, God's kingdom, is flourishing. This is linked to the Dehonian value expressed in the motto *Adveniat Regnum Tuum*. It has already taken root at Sacred Heart; now it is our duty to contribute to its growth and development. This is done by all involved, not by one person alone.

Therefore, I envision that everyone associated with Sacred Heart is responsible for its success in accomplishing what Christ is asking of the seminary and what the Holy Spirit is guiding it to be. I certainly do not have all the answers, nor is my vision perfectly clear. Therefore, if I am to make any difference at all it is because I am able to cooperate with God's work in me and in others: I am incomplete without them and they are incomplete without me.

Even so I have a strong sense of what God wants for Sacred Heart regarding our life in the heart of Christ as seen in the four areas of formation, in terms of the life of the seminary and in terms of relations with the SCJs and other sponsors both diocesan and religious. I have a strong sense also of what God wants of Sacred Heart in terms of service to the Church and to the world, and in terms of why I have been chosen to be rector at this time. I am only the third Hispanic rector of a major seminary in the US and only the first native-born, thanks to you.

Basically, I envision Sacred Heart offering a new model of seminary and theological study that will help the Church move toward a future with fewer priests and more collaborative ministry among diocesans, religious, and laity. For that reason, Sacred Heart is more than an SCJ seminary: it belongs to something larger, God's purpose.

With this in mind, the foundation of all that we do is clearly our relationship with Jesus Christ: it has to be the center of everything to which we aspire, everything we do, and for everything which we hope. There has to be a dialogue, a connection, between what we study in the classroom or what we do in our offices, and what we pray in the chapel. I see this captured in your expression *In Corde Jesu*.

Therefore, I envision our graduates and those who participate in our programs as people who not only have a healthy relationship with Christ but who also are in touch with their humanity in a healthy way, who are capable of understanding and responding to the human condition with compassion and with the heart of Christ. I see them as persons who are able to love others because they themselves have been loved. I see them as persons who are able to treat others as they wish to be treated. I see them as persons who are able to create unity in diversity as expressed in the SCJ motto *Cor Unum*.

In sum, I envision our graduates and those who participate in our programs as persons who have received the appropriate type of formation whether they are diocesan, religious or lay so that they can live, move and have their being in Christ. And so help conform the world to the heart of Christ.

What kinds of programs do I envision? I have noted a great bubbling up of ideas and initiatives that have developed at Sacred Heart during the time I have been away. This ferment is wonderful, and I hope that it will continue. At the same time, we need to always assess what Sacred Heart is truly capable of doing at a given time due to real limits and the need to be well focused on what Christ is asking of us at this time in order to move toward the future.

For Sacred Heart to be able to respond to the changing needs of the Church and the people around us, I envision Sacred Heart continuing to develop the excellent MDiv and academic programs offered while upholding appropriate academic standards. But also, Sacred Heart needs to continue incorporating various ways of learning and teaching (conferences, workshops, lectures, seminars, cohorts, mentoring, study tours, etc.). It should also be creative in this regard. Furthermore, Sacred Heart needs to continue seeing priestly formation, whether diocesan or religious, as situated at the heart of the purpose of Sacred Heart.

Because of this Sacred Heart needs to devise a formation program appropriate for diocesan and religious candidates for priestly ministry. Too often both diocesan and religious formation programs do more to infantilize those who go through them than to help them become fully what they are being called to be as priests and/or religious. Our experience with older vocations should give us insights into how to overcome this as well as to minimize the tendency towards clericalism.

In terms of academics, I envision the continued development of the *Cor Unum* MA program, with its well-rounded cohort model of learning beyond the purely academic. I especially applaud its goal of graduates prepared to heal a fractured world. And Sacred Heart should continue to offer the *Lumen Cordis* MA in theology for those who want or need something slightly different. Also, the new distance-learning MA, *Adveniat Regnum Tuum* program with SCJ seminarians in India provides Sacred Heart another avenue for serving the world-wide Church and establishes it in a unique position among seminaries. Hopefully this can be expanded to other SCJ units and other religious communities.

In addition to continuing the two Dehon Lectures and the yearly Lux Lecture, I see Sacred Heart needs to offer periodic symposia on timely topics, such as the recent one on Pope Francis and the philosophical and theological foundations of his magisterium. We also have to make sure to open these events to the general public so that Sacred Heart is of greater service to the wider community and Church. This includes opening Sacred Heart to outside religious groups to use spaces for their particular needs as appropriate including offering sabbatical programs, retreats, and speakers among other things. The most recent lecture was given by Sr. Norma Pimental and was an excellent example of collaboration between the SCJs and the seminary for the cause of social justice and added prestige to you and to Sacred Heart.

I applaud the great initiative of expanding the ESL program from more than just learning English into the “English and Cultural Studies Program” (ECSP). And I hope to see the bridge program, which is part of this initiative, promoted and developed more. Together with the BA/MDIV program with Cardinal Stritch University it offers an appealing alternative to the traditional way of progressing through the usual educational system still in force.

And of course, I see that the Hispanic Studies program needs to continue and also adapt to the changing reality of the Hispanic presence in the US Church and beyond. In this program we truly have the possibility of fostering bridges of understanding and mutual respect for those who are often excluded from the power structures within the Church and society. I am especially pleased to see how far Fr. Jim Walters has developed a new way of teaching pastoral Spanish and I look forward to the publication of his book.

The Lux Center for Jewish/Catholic Dialogue also is an important element in the effort to build bridges and foster greater respect among peoples. I thank you for your grant to this program since it and the Hispanic Studies program are also important signs of the SCJ value of promoting social justice. In these programs this value is most evident, and they are a good launching pad for the values of Social Justice to have greater influence within Sacred Heart.

As I close, I see that Sacred Heart can be a space where the concerns of the Church and society can meet and thus contribute to the furtherance of the reign of God in the world. Truly Sacred Heart under the leadership of Fr. Tom Knoebel has claimed a future with hope. I see my role as helping it to fulfill this hope by dreaming big dreams that are being fulfilled and so making Sacred Heart more and more a place where all will see the face of God in us and his life vibrant and strong coursing through all those associated with the seminary. I am convinced that it is He who is moving among us, gently, leading, drawing us on into all that is new and good and lovely. For I believe that all He has in mind for us is good, that He desires life and not death for Sacred Heart. This is why he loves Sacred Heart so much and has helped it to continue forward. The signs of this are already evident. Sacred Heart is truly capable of helping conform the world to the heart of Christ. May we be apt instruments of His life and His salvation. And may Sacred Heart continue to make you proud to be a part of it, for Sacred Heart is your seminary.

## Summary of the Meeting of the Administrations of the Canada Region and the US Province

June 12, 2019 • Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Edward Kilianski (provincial superior, United States), Fr. Gustave Lulendo (regional superior, Canada), Br. Andrzej Gancarczyk, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Yohanes Yuliwan Maslim, Dn. David Nagel, Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Vien Nguyen, Br. Frank Presto, Fr. John van den Hengel, Fr. Richard Woodbury, and Mary Gorski (minutes).

- I. Meal— The two administrations joined in a meal at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake before holding an informal meeting.
- II. Information sharing — Members of the two administrations updated each other on themselves, their ministries and communities. Highlights include:

- A. Fr. Kilianski expressed his gratitude for the members of the Canadian Region who were able to take part in the US Assembly.
- B. Work has begun on the English translation of the critical biography of Fr. Leo John Dehon written by Dr. David Neuhold; Fr. van den Hengel is leading this project. He has also been asked to prepare a paper for the Sacred Heart Conference to be held November 8-9 in Rome; the paper's focus is on the theology regarding the Sacred Heart devotion.
- C. Dn. Nagel recently took part in the meeting of the General Finance Commission, the first meeting of the commission since the start of the new general administration. Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniu, general superior, met with commission, encouraging members to make time for reflection during their meetings. Fr. Luca Zottili, general treasurer, will visit North America in fall. In September, he will make several stops in Canada before meeting with the province financial advisor (Garret Stinson) in the United States. He returns to the United States the week of November 18 for the General Finance Commission meeting in Mississippi.

The remodeling of the SCJ section of Sacred Heart Monastery / Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology is complete. The province and SHSST are working on plans for the next phase of the project, including the renovation and updating of general student rooms and classrooms. The challenge is balancing the desire to incorporate as many innovations and comforts as possible while maintaining the affordability of the project. It is hoped that work can begin in spring, 2020.

- D. Fr. Q. Nguyen noted that three candidates were recently accepted; they will enter the formation program in the fall semester. One will start with theology at SHSST, the second will be in the combined Cardinal Stritch – SHSST program, and the third will start his undergraduate studies at Marquette University. The Admissions Board and Vocation Department were to have a combined meeting the next day to discuss various admissions topics.

The Canadian Region has established a Vocation Committee. The committee hopes to collaborate with US vocation personnel; Fr. Q. Nguyen was encouraged by Fr. Lulendo to come to Canada to meet with the representatives from the committee. Recently, the committee developed a Facebook page for vocations: [www.facebook.com/DehonianWay](http://www.facebook.com/DehonianWay).

- E. Fr. Lulendo recently returned from a home visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo. While there, he was able to attend the funeral of Fr. Zénon Sendeke. Former provincial superior of the Congolese Province, Fr. Sendeke, 64, died after suffering a stroke. In January, Fr. Lulendo was installed as regional superior of Canada. For now, he continues to serve as local superior in Montréal and serve in the three parishes for which the community has responsibility.
- F. Fr. V. Nguyen was the chairperson of the Assembly Planning Committee; in recent weeks he was quite busy preparing for the gathering, though noted that the committee members were good to work with and very creative. Fr. V. Nguyen will soon be going to Israel as the spiritual director of SHSST's annual archeological visit to the Holy Land. Approximately 15 students will take part. He also has several writing commitments, including book reviews for the Society of Biblical Literature.
- G. Fr. Yuliwan, originally from Indonesia, became a member of the Canadian Region last year and now serves on the council. He is a part of the newly formed Canadian Vocation Committee and looks forward to collaborative vocation efforts with the US Province. The Toronto community hosted several Vietnamese students during the past academic year; Fr. Yuliwan will serve as formation director for one of the students who will stay on to continue his studies.

If the region accepts candidates through its vocation efforts, there may be a need to collaborate with the US Province regarding formation.

A lay Dehonian group of approximately six people continues to meet in Toronto. Two years ago, SCJs gave a series of presentations based on the Spiritual Path developed for the Dehonian Family.

Ministry continues to the Indonesian community (UKI). Fr. Yuliwan expressed his gratitude for the work of Fr. Albertus Joni at a recent youth retreat with the community.

Toronto SCJs have a strong commitment to community life and supporting each other in ministry. It is a very multicultural, multi-lingual community, as is much of the region.

- H. Br. Gancarczyk, originally from Poland, comes to the US Province after serving for several years as a missionary in Uruguay. He is local administrator of the Houston community and recently became director of religious education for Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is his first term on the US Provincial Council.
- I. Fr. Kurps noted that Br. Diego Diaz recently joined the Mississippi community and that he has been active in a variety of SHSM ministries. His Spanish language skills are especially helpful with the growing Hispanic population in northern Mississippi.

There have been a few personnel changes in Mississippi. Sacred Heart Southern Missions recently hired a new program director who has brought a lot of energy to the position. Long-time Holy Family school principal, Clara Isom, retires at the end of June.

The new volunteer house is completed; the old one is currently being remodeled. Each building can house approximately 30 people. It is hoped that the SHSM volunteer program can be expanded. Fr. Yuliwan suggested that the Indonesian youth group from Toronto come to serve in the SHSM program. Fr. Kurps said that they would be very welcome to take part.

- J. Fr. Woodbury spoke about the Séminaire du Sacré Coeur in Quebec. The new principal has been well received and after some years of declining enrollment, the school expects to see an increase from 51 students this past year to 70 for the start of the fall semester. A new chaplain has been very effective; he is making tentative plans to take students on a trip to visit Fr. Frans van der Hoff in Mexico next spring to learn about his ministry there. During the same week as the assembly, students from Quebec took part in the Sacred Heart Schools in Collaboration program at St. Joseph's Indian School.

As for himself, Fr. Woodbury continues to serve a cluster of seven parishes along with another priest. Some of the communities are quite small; the diocese is reviewing new possibilities for the future. Each parish has been asked to come up with a recommendation for the future which will be presented to the bishop. It is anticipated that the group of seven parishes will be combined into three.

- K. The South Dakota community is hosting two SCJ students for summer ministry. Fr. Bernie Rosinski is working with them in regard to doing theological reflections on their ministry; Fr. Hendrik has been active in helping to guide their program.

The areas where SCJs minister in South Dakota have been significantly affected by flooding.

- L. Mississippi is also hosting two formation students; much of their ministry is with Sacred Heart Southern Missions. During further information sharing about SHSM, Fr. Kurps noted that SHSM serves summer meals to many children who depend on school lunch programs.
- M. Br. Presto noted that he had been home recently due to the death of his mother. In regard to his work as provincial secretary, he spoke about the increasing challenges of getting visas and related documentation approved for international students and religious. The Canadian Region is experiencing difficulties as well. Only one of the three scheduled Vietnamese students was able to get a visa to study English in Ottawa this summer.

### III. Fall meeting

- A. Date — The next full meeting of the North American administrations will be in Toronto on December 6, 2019. Participants are asked to arrive the night before (December 5) and plan to meet for a full day on December 6, ending with a shared meal.

B. Agenda items — The following topics were suggested for the December meeting:

1. Rule of Life — Fr. van den Hengel and Fr. Jim Schroeder are working on an update to the Constitutions; in particular, they are reviewing translated text and ensuring that approved changes have been incorporated. The two councils need to discuss how the next edition of the Rule will be finalized, produced and disseminated.
2. Shared project — The North American Migration Committee is an excellent collaborative effort of the two North American entities. Are there other possibilities for collaboration, for shared projects? As noted previously, it is hoped that there can be more collaboration regarding vocations. Perhaps there could be a shared youth project?
3. North American retreats — Previously, it was suggested that there be a North American retreat every two years. Plans will need to be put in place for future retreats.
4. North American Theological Commission — The next theological seminar will be in Cameroon in 2020. The councils should be updated on the work of the NORAM Theological Commission in its preparation for the seminar.
5. Welcoming international SCJs and candidates — Increasingly, the Canadian Region and US Province welcome international confreres for community, ministry and studies (this was one of the main topics of the assembly). It would be good to have a discussion of the lived experience of internationality in each entity; the discussion would touch on everything from the challenge of the immigration process, to the responsibilities and expectations of all involved, and the welcoming process of international SCJs in North America. Are there areas where the two entities can collaborate — or establish similar protocols — such as with the formation needs of international students?

## CALENDAR

- August 13-14, 2019: Provincial Council meeting  
August 14, 2019: Entrance to the Novitiate (Sacred Heart Novitiate)  
August 15, 2019: First Professions (Sacred Heart Monastery / Sacred Heart Seminary and School fo Theology)  
October 13-15, 2019: Mission Education (South Dakota)  
October 22-23, 2019: Provincial Council meeting  
November 8-9, 2019: International Conference on Sacred Heart Devotion (Rome)  
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

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Also, please note that **Br. John Hung Dinh (VIE)** and **Br. Vincent Thoan Do (VIE)**, who were with the Toronto community during the past year, have returned to Vietnam.

## NECROLOGY

+**Fr. Antonio Camaioni**, a member of the South Italian Province, died on June 4. He was born in 1958, professed in 1979 and ordained in 1985.

+**Fr. Natalino Costalunga**, a member of the North Italian Province, died on June 8. He was born in 1942, professed in 1959 and ordained in 1969.