

This issue

Minutes of the
January 21-22, 2020,
US Provincial Council
meeting, p. 1

Summary of Provincial
Conference, p. 5

Fr. Ed Kilianski's opening
comments at the
Provincial Conference, p.
16

Calendar, p. 18

Necrology, p. 18

U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

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Minutes of the 897th US Provincial Council Meeting January 21-22, 2020, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Vien Nguyen and Br. Andy Gancarczyk, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS, was present for discussion of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; Fr. Joseph-Thien Dinh and Fr. Duy Nguyen were present for a discussion about formation.

- I. Extended prayer — Fr. Kilianski, councilors, Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto spent the first morning of the meeting in extended prayer and sharing. Br. Gancarczyk organized the morning.
- II. Administration
 - A. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Raúl Gomez-Ruiz, SDS, SHSST president-rector, updated the Provincial Council on activities at the seminary.
 1. HLC / ATS responses — An ad hoc committee was created to formulate responses to the two agencies: HLC and ATS. That committee met on January 20. Fr. Gomez has reviewed the draft response prepared by Dr. Robert Gotcher. After a few minor adjustments, the response is to be sent to HLC this week. It will then be adapted to meet the needs of the ATS response which is due the following week.
 2. Ecclesiastical degrees — On February 18, a meeting will be held in Rome with the academic dean of the Gregorian University to discuss the possibility of SHSST granting pontifical degrees from the university. Those taking part include Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú (superior general), Fr. Charles Brown and Fr. Gomez. Fr. Brown initiated discussions with the Gregorian in November.
 3. Gathering of representatives from Dehonian university centers — Fr. Pedro Curto, secretary general, invited Fr. Gomez and Dr. Patrick Russell (SHSST chief academic officer) to take part in a conference hosted by the general administration February 20-22. It is a gathering of representatives from the major university centers of the congregation (including SHSST) to discuss ways of promoting and supporting these educational institutions, as well as seek ways of collaboration. The Centro Studi Dehoniani will be a part of the gathering.
 4. Dehon Study Center — The seminary is open to hosting the Dehon Study Center, most likely within the library wing, as had been suggested by the council. Discussions need to take place regarding logistics, including cataloguing.
 5. Grant from Erica P. John Fund — The seminary recently received a \$20,000 grant from the Erica P. John Fund to cover the expenses of last year's Collegial Gathering of Bishops at SHSST. A requirement of the grant is that a second such meeting be scheduled.
 6. SCJ formation program — In order to get a better understanding of the Dehonian charism and SCJ spirituality, as well as the general itinerary of the SCJ formation program, the SHSST Faculty Chairperson asked if an SCJ formator could make a presentation at the next Faculty Council meeting, scheduled for January 29. Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec contacted Fr. Duy Nguyen; he has tentatively agreed that either he or Fr. Joseph Dinh will give the presentation. It is hoped this can be an opportunity for

SHSST to be of better service to the SCJ formation program. Fr. Gomez asked Fr. Andrzej Sudol to give a similar presentation to the to the Executive Committee of the SHSST Board of Directors. This will take place on March 11. Again, the presentation is a way to help SHSST better serve and collaborate with the SCJs, as well as to ensure that SCJ spirituality is present in the seminary.

7. ECS Program — Fr. Yvon Sheehy is agreeable to having the non-SCJ ECS students attend the SHSST Mass when their vocation directors are visiting. At other times, he prefers that they continue to worship with the Sacred Heart Monastery community. The ECS program will be impacted by the Phase III remodeling. It is uncertain as to whether Clare Hall (St. Francis Seminary) will be available to the program for the summer. Other options being investigated include the rental of external housing units and the use of classroom space at St. Martin of Tours parish.

The council asked that Fr. Sheehy and Br. Duane Lemke be invited to the March council meeting so that they can have an information-sharing dialogue with them regarding ESC concerns, including temporary housing and classroom accommodations during the remodeling.

8. Vice President of Formation Programs — Dr. John Olesnavage, Vice President of Pastoral Formation and Human Formation, will be departing at the end of the semester. Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec, Vice President of Human and Spiritual Formation, will be on sabbatical during the next academic year. Fr. Gomez plans to combine the two vice president positions into one position: Vice President of Formation Programs. A significant candidate for the position is scheduled to visit SHSST next week.
- C. Student visas — There needs to be clarification on the student visa process. Br. Presto will contact Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, for clarification, including renewals. Also, it was suggested that when an international student comes to the United States that a copy be made of his visa and kept on file so that province administration and the formators know his status. If the visa requires that the student periodically return to the home country for renewals, that should be stated, including the timeline for such renewals.
- D. MA Program for the Indian District — Councilors asked if the province should be expecting more students from the Indian District for the MA program developed in conjunction with SHSST. It was thought that more students would be here for the spring semester. Fr. V. Nguyen said that two were applying for the fall semester.
- E. Formation
1. Visit with formators — Frs. Joseph-Thien Dinh and Duy Nguyen, formation directors, visited with the council. There are currently ten students in formation; they are a mix of undergraduate and theology students attending Cardinal Stritch University, Marquette University, and SHSST. The speaker schedule for the Wednesday formation gatherings and First Fridays are set for the rest of the semester; they include both SCJs and outside presenters. The formation program is now in the process of organizing summer ministry schedules for the students.

Two students will be doing their CPE training this summer: Frater Paul Hoang and Kenneth Anyanwu.

As noted earlier with Fr. Gomez, a member of the formation team will make a presentation at the next Faculty Council meeting about the US Province formation program. This is an opportunity for dialogue between SHSST and SCJ formators so that each has a better sense of the needs and concerns of the other. Councilors suggested that formators define terminology that is particular to the SCJ formation program and share sections of the ratio. The formators could speak to what it means to do formation as a Dehonian. It was noted that there are many new people on the SHSST staff who may not have a good familiarity with the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

2. Postulancy — In separate votes, the council voted to approve the following two men for postulancy: Kenneth Anyanwu and Celsus Robert.
3. Frater Henry Nguyen — Frater H. Nguyen is scheduled to go to Chile for both language studies and his cross-cultural pastoral year.
4. Ratio Formationis Provincialis — The council voted to accept and present the revised Ratio Formationis Provincialis to Fr. General and his council for final approval. Fr. Kurps implemented the changes suggested at the last council meeting. He will put it into a format suitable for the General Council's review and give it to Br. Presto to forward to the secretary general.

- F. Papal Rescript — The province received a Papal Rescript to allow Br. Andy Gancarczyk to serve as Local Superior of the Houston Community. He has been serving as administrator.
- G. Houston — Br. Gancarczyk was encouraged to make arrangements for priest assistance at Our Lady of Guadalupe during Fr. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas’ absence. The province can cover the travel costs of assisting priests. As a part of his ECS studies, Fr. Rafael Querobin will go to OLG as a volunteer.

Fr. Richard Johnston is currently looking for a rental near OLG at which he and Fr. Richard MacDonald can live. If an appropriate residence is found, all paperwork should be signed by Br. Gancarczyk as local superior. The council recommended that the monthly rental cost be no more than \$2,500, but preferably less.

- H. 2021 Provincial Conference — Councilors noted that due to the continued and growing intercultural nature of the province it is important to provide SCJs in active ministry the opportunity to spend informal time together, getting to know each other better. Good conversations took place during the conference. However, it would be beneficial to try a new style, something that focused on team-building or community-building in a light-hearted way. Perhaps the conference could take place somewhere other than Hales Corners.

The council set the dates for the next Provincial Conference: January 5-7, 2021.

The summary of 2020 Provincial Conference will be included in the next Cor Unum.

- I. Young adult ministry — Councilors were happy to see a significant number of SCJs and students indicate interest in young adult ministry, though it was noted that many cannot be made immediately available. However, some could begin the ministry and others rotate in as possible. The committee to discuss young adult ministry will meet in February. It is led by Br. Diego Diaz.
- J. Provincial visitations — The topic of this year’s provincial visitation is “Our Ministry Together.” Fr. Kilianski shared with councilors the prayer booklet to be used during the visitations. Due to his upcoming surgery, Fr. Kilianski is not immediately able to travel. Fr. Kurps was delegated to do the visitation of Texas and Fr. Q. Nguyen was delegated to do the visitation of South Dakota. Fr. Kilianski hopes to be able to do the rest of the visitations himself and visit all of the communities during the year. Prior to his January 29 surgery, Fr. Kilianski will send a letter to the province membership about the visitations.
- K. 2021 Province Election Assembly — The council hopes to soon identify a facilitator for the 2021 Province Election Assembly so that the dates can be set at the March council meeting.
- L. 2020 Province Assembly — Fr. Q. Nguyen is organizing the assembly planning committee; so far, it includes Fr. Byron Haaland and Frater Paul Hoang. The theme will focus on availability and adaptability. It will include moments for enrichment, but also moments of relaxed fun. Most likely, as in the past, it will include brief updates from people such as the province attorney, communications director and director of healthcare. The province jubilees will be on Monday evening, June 8. The assembly will run from June 9-12.

- M. Calendar — The Provincial Council set its meeting dates through the end of the year. They are:

- March 3-4
- May 5-6
- June 11 (evening)
- August 12-13
- September 15 and 17 (the Dehon Lecture, featuring Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez, will be on September 16; Fr. General will meet with the council on September 17)
- November 10-11
- December 15-16.

The council will also meet by conference call at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28.

III. Personnel

- A. Fr. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas — Through the intervention of Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia's office, Fr. Castañeda Rojas received a new meeting with US officials regarding his immigration status. This is to take place in early February. One of the challenges is what appears to be miscommunication about a visit to New Mexico. The US government states that Fr. Castañeda Rojas was in the state, but he said that he has not visited New Mexico. The Province Treasurer's office has no record of travel expenses for him in the state. If Fr. Castañeda Rojas is not able to move his case forward, a parishioner at Our Lady of Guadalupe said that Senator John Cornyn's office is also willing to assist. Next steps will be considered following the February meeting. If, by the March council meeting, Fr. Castañeda Rojas is still unable to return to the United States, he will be assigned to the Ecuador District where he will prepare to assist with the new mission in Colombia.
- B. Fr. Frank Wittouck — Fr. Wittouck will move to Wisconsin early in the summer.
- C. Fr. Bob Bossie — Fr. Bossie petitioned Fr. Kilianski for permission to have Fr. Bossie's brother, Paul, interred with him at the community mausoleum. Mr. Bossie took private vows of poverty, chastity and obedience over 50 years ago and has been a close companion to Fr. Bossie for many years. The council approved the request and suggested that each receive a vault. Fr. Kilianski will inform Fr. Bossie of the council's decision. It was noted that this is a special situation but that there is precedent for non-SCJs to be interred in the community mausoleum.
- D. Br. Clay Diaz — His physical health is improving.
- E. Fr. Bob Naglich — Although he had a brief return to the hospital, Fr. Naglich continues to recover from organ transplant surgery at St. Camillus.

IV. Finance

- A. Phase III of SHSST / SHM renovation — Dn. David Nagel noted that the project committee met on January 13 to develop a timeline for Phase III. Among the tasks is determining temporary living and classroom space while the work is taking place. This will primarily affect the summer ECS program.
- B. Investment Procedures Audit — The firm of Clifton, Larson and Allen has been hired to conduct the annual audit of the investment procedures. They will also do an audit of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. Oakbrook is the management company for SHML and it is audited every other year.
- C. Investments — The Growth Pool had a 21.96% return in 2019; this is the highest return that the pool has experienced since 2009. The outlook for the next year is closer to usual returns, generally 7-8%.
- D. Dehon House — Updates and maintenance of Dehon House should be completed within the next few weeks. New electrical panels have been installed, a staircase rail was renovated, and other minor work was done. There are six bedrooms. The house could be available for overflow housing during the Phase III project.
- E. Miscellaneous — Dn. Nagel will be on vacation February 7-15. The budget preparation memo was sent at the beginning of the year; the deadline for reporting capital projects is February 7; budgets are due on April 3. The Province Development Office is performing well.

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

January 7-9, 2019
Provincial Conference Center, Hales Corners, WI

Tuesday, January 7

- I. Provincial Superior’s Welcome — Fr. Ed Kilianski welcomed SCJs to the third in a series of yearly provincial conferences for those under 70 in active ministry, as well as novices and students. He said that “it has been my hope and the hope of the Provincial Council that each conference can be another step on the path to learning, as a community, how to intentionally live, pray and work together better, recognizing each other’s diversity but also our shared Dehonian values.” His full text is attached as Addendum A.
- II. Facilitator’s opening remarks — Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, has facilitated all three of the provincial conferences. She noted the focus of this conference will be “ministry.” It is an opportunity to not only look at possibilities for a new ministry, but to become more familiar with and discuss current ministries. She encouraged participants to bring an open heart, mind and will to the conference so that together they can discern what they are being asked to do in this period of history. How can the SCJs make a positive difference? Where is it that individuals and the province most desire to serve?
- III. Prayer — The conference opened with morning prayer; outside of the introductory comments, all sessions of the conference would take place in the context of prayer.
- IV. First small group discussion — Participants were assigned to tables for small group discussions. They would remain at the same table throughout the conference. In the first discussion SCJs were asked to share with their tablemates the ministries in which they had been involved and talk about what they found to be life-giving and what they found to be challenging.
- V. Second small group discussion — At table, SCJs were asked to discuss the following questions:
 1. What are three characteristics that make a ministry Dehonian?
 2. What three values need to be most evident in Dehonian ministry both now and in the future?

Responses:

Table 1:

- Our common Dehonian spirituality.
- To live in community.
- We pray together.

Table 2:

- Corporate availability to needs of Church and society.
 - Flexibility of time and place; read the signs of the times.
- Corporate oblation
 - Offer love, inclusion, hospitality to segments of society (culture, classes) that the rest of the Church avoids.
- Personal unassuming oblation.
 - Not to have one’s mind made up; offer love to people, mercy, kindness in ways not required.

Table 3:

- To help people experience the love of God and respond.
- Marginalized / social justice.
- Inclusive / collaborative / shared authority.

Table 4:

- Option for the poor / marginalized.
- Availability / being present.
- Servant of love and reconciliation.
- Spirit of hospitality.

Table 5:

- Presence with people / community.
- Empowerment: helping people to change.
- Humility: acknowledging our giftedness and the giftedness of the people around us.

Table 6:

- Hospitality
- Faith (Adoration, Eucharist, etc.)
- Openness to the Spirit.
- Availability (Ecce Venio)
- Working together (Sint Unum).

Table 7:

- Hospitality
- Reconciliation
- Availability (Sint Unum)

Table 8:

- Enabling the powerless.
- Servants of reconciliation and prophets of love.
- Oblation (self-giving for building the kingdom) and honesty.

VI. Ministry surveys — Prior to the conference, various province ministries (internal and external) were asked to fill out a survey in which they gave a description of the ministry, expressed its vision, noted the number of employees and SCJs involved in it, and expanded on the following questions: 1) What else would you want to share about this ministry that would be helpful to the group, and 2) As you look to the future, what observations, realities, concerns, possibilities would you like to note at this time?

The completed surveys were divided into three categories for review in small groups: 1) parishes, 2) education and social works, and 3) internal ministries. After the review of each category, SCJs reflected on a series of questions. The questions and table responses are as follows:

A. Parishes — at table, SCJs were asked to discuss the following questions:

1. What distinguishes a Dehonian parish from any other parish?
2. How can we make our parish ministries more Dehonian?
3. What are three highlights from your conversation that you want to share with the whole group?

Group responses:

Table 1:

- Our call to prioritize the people of God through our AVAILABILITY.
- Being present.

Table 2:

- Distinguishing characteristics of a Dehonian parish include availability, reparation, approachability, community, collaboration, humility, informality. They should follow Pope Francis' call to "smell like the sheep." Special place in our parishes, focused on specific ministry.
- For a parish ministry to be more Dehonian it is not ordination-centered, there must be collaboration. For example, some dioceses have a number of lay ministers as parish administrators, LEMs to facilitate parish council.
- Continue Lay Dehonian or Dehonian Associates program.

Table 3:

- Choice for marginalized.
- Pastoral responsibility is more than providing sacraments.
- We need better branding.

Table 4:

- Availability.
- Openness to a new ministry.
- Humility.
- Reading the signs of the times and responding.

Table 5:

- Keep reading the signs of the times and adjusting to them.
- Distinguish and focus on SCJ education: bringing in SCJs for retreats, talks, etc.
- Support SCJ parish ministries with community life.

Table 6:

- Promotion of youth ministry.
- Investment in social justice.
- Visible Dehonian presence including concelebrants, visiting SCJs, retreats led by SCJs.
- Being a good example.

Table 7:

- Connecting with marginalized people.
- Social justice.
- Promote lay involvement.

Table 8:

- Our SCJ presence is felt in how we celebrate liturgy and how we interact with one another.
- If we are more consciously Dehonian we can make our parishes more Dehonian.
- By living together in community and reconciling differences in each other and the parishes.

Individual comments (paraphrased):

- Anywhere that we minister is Dehonian because of who we are and what we bring to ministry.
- Before, our conversations centered on diminishing numbers. Now, we have more younger SCJs. There is the capability to do more than just fill slots in ministry. We can do deeper ministry. We can do more to share our spirituality and share something of our charism. This is the time.
- The places chosen for ministry are very specific. We are with the poor. Our ministry must continue to be in harmony with this.

B. Education and social works — At table, SCJs were asked to discuss the following questions:

1. In light of fewer SCJs, what will help us sustain/sponsor these ministries to ensure that the Dehonian charism is evident?
2. What are three highlights from your conversation you want to share with the whole group?

Group responses:

Table 1:

- Continue Dehonian awareness through Mission Education.
- Develop and empower lay leaders for ministry.
- Continue the Dehonian Associates program
- Overall, carry the Dehonian spirituality in all that we do!

Table 2:

- Dehonian catechesis and formation of employees.
- Continued and expanded collaboration.
- Learn from other congregations and orders who have done this already.

Table 3:

- We need to emphasize the Dehonian Associates program and invite the laity to join in our spirituality and ministry.
- The Sacred Heart Center in Eagle Butte, SD, is a good example of how a ministry can be Dehonian without an SCJ on staff.

Table 4:

- Availability with ability.
- Lay involvement.
- Invite others to learn about Dehonian spirituality.

Table 5:

- Establish a Dehonian “watchdog group” to ensure that the Dehonian charism is present.
- Reinforce Mission Education.
- Create Dehonian books, pamphlets, leaflets, etc., in a language that is accessible to the laity, including youth.

Table 6:

- Renew support of the work we do.
- Send SCJs to spend time at the Sacred Heart Center, perhaps as a summer ministry.
- Ensure that our charism is present.
- Have a spirit of faith.

Table 7:

- Be a voice of compassion for people (Sacred Heart Southern Missions, Sacred Heart Center, St. Joseph’s Indian School).
- Have SCJs in key positions
- Ensure that there is a Dehonian “attitude” or “feel” at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

Table 8:

- As we allow the grace of God to work, we do not have to be in-charge.
- How do we plan for internal ministry priorities including administration, vocations and formation?

C. Internal ministries — At table, SCJs were asked to discuss the following questions:

1. How do we prepare people for internal ministries?
2. In which of these positions is it essential that they be staffed by SCJs?
3. What are three highlights from your conversation that you want to share with the whole group?

Group responses:

Table 1:

- Key positions that must be staffed by an SCJ include formators and vocation director, superiors, province treasurer.
- People should be identified and encouraged to prepare for these positions.
- Positions that could be done by a lay person(s) include executive directors (with an SCJ as the face of an office), director of Dehonian Associates and the Dehon Study Center, provincial secretary (with an SCJ overseeing the office), director of communications, director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation.

Table 2

- Attendance of workshops geared toward specific internal ministries after a few years of external ministry experience. Also, international experience is helpful.
- The formation director and spiritual director need to be SCJs.
- There should be job mentoring / shadowing to prepare the next person for a position.

Table 3

- We need to do a better job at identifying and preparing people for internal ministry.
- While in formation people need to have experiences in both internal and external ministries.

Table 4

- Send young people to study (prepare) for ministry.

- Positions that need to be staffed by SCJs include rector of SHSST, director of Dehon Study Center, formation.

Group 5:

- Have the provincial appoint people for internal ministries in advance so that there is time to prepare them.
- Positions that need to be staffed by SCJs include formation, spiritual director of the development office.
- Study how other communities appoint and prepare people.

Group 6:

- Become aware of crucial ministries that need a replacement (succession plan).
- Identify early those who may be interested in particular ministries and encourage them.
- Develop job descriptions for key positions.
- Provide training and support.

Table 7

- Identify key internal positions that need to be filled by SCJs. These include formation, novitiate (novice master), treasurer, vocation director.

Table 8

- Identify and name potential persons for crucial ministries.
- Encourage and ask people to prepare for ministries; give direction.

Personal responses (paraphrased):

- Start early in formation to help a student design a personal program for his life. Help him identify ministries for which he would have aptitude and ensure that his preparation for such ministries begins early. Continue to follow his progress in formation to adjust the plan.
- Province administration has tried to identify and prepare SCJs for internal ministries but with little success. Often, the SCJ says “no.” In some cases, preparation has begun and the person has left the community. Fr. Joseph Dinh is an example of someone who was asked to prepare for formation by going to Rome for the international formators program and is now serving in the ministry for which he prepared. Province administration is grateful to him for his availability.
- Are there internal ministries that could be done by a lay person? Are there possibilities for collaboration with religious communities that have common or similar elements in their charism as the SCJs?

VII. Facilitated panel discussion of “veteran SCJs” — In-between the small group discussions, conference participants heard a facilitated panel discussion from three veteran SCJs. “Be open to new possibilities,” was the common message that Dn. David Nagel, Fr. Christianus Hendrik and Fr. Jim Walters shared. The SCJs were asked to first talk about the ministries in which they had served, and then offer advice to the next generation who will carry on the Dehonian charism in the United States.

The ministries represented on the panel were diverse. Dn. David has been in food service, formation, development, education, and for the past 15 years, has served as provincial treasurer. Fr. Hendrik, originally from Indonesia, did retreat ministry and mission work (including a brief stint in West Papua where he contracted life-threatening malaria) before being called to the missions of South Dakota. Fr. Jim prepared to be a French and Latin teacher but had to quickly learn Spanish when the needs of the seminary unexpectedly changed. The language led him to a love of Hispanic ministry; he served in several Spanish-speaking parishes, and for many years has been the director of the Hispanic ministries program at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

“Always be open, always be willing to give things a try,” said Fr. Jim. “No matter how unfit or ill-prepared you may feel, you are following in the footsteps of others who felt just as unsure and eventually found their way, found a way to continue the work of our founder.”

“As you grow as a minister, you will discover new ways of doing things, you will bring new ideas to ministry,” added Dn. David. Looking back on the history of the province, Dn. David noted that the SCJs have gravitated toward the poorest counties in the country, especially in South Dakota and Mississippi.

VIII. Prayer— The day closed with prayer in the conference call followed by Eucharist at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. During the liturgy, Frater Henry Nguyen received the Institution of Acolyte.

Wednesday, January 8

I. Prayer— The day opened with prayer.

II. Facilitated discussion of younger SCJs — Four younger members of the province — Frater Henry Nguyen, Frater Paul Hoang, Br. Diego Diaz and Br. Duane Lemke were asked to reflect on their vision and hopes for the future of the province. “I have a great deal of hope for the future,” said Br. Duane. “This province started with only five SCJs. They did fantastic things, and we can do fantastic things. We are smaller in number than what we have been at other times, but this is what God is calling us to be at this moment. In our conversations among each other I hear a passion to move toward the future.”

Several panelists spoke of hospitality, hospitality that they have felt from their brother SCJs but also the hospitality experienced by those impacted by SCJ ministry. “We must offer our hospitality in all that we do, especially to youth,” said Br. Diego. Hospitality is a way of helping young adults feel at home in the Church, he added.

“By creating opportunities for young people to come together we also create opportunities in which we can share our charism,” said Frater Paul.

Reflecting on what was heard in Tuesday’s panel discussion, Frater Henry said that “we need to continue to be open to the Spirit, the Spirit is leading us. To thrive individually and as a province we need to be open to the possibilities presented to us, even when those possibilities might not seem like something that we want to do.”

In reference to new ministry, Br. Diego emphasized that it must be community-based ministry. “It should not be a personal ministry.”

Frater Paul suggested involving youth in volunteer activities, such as Sacred Heart Southern Missions. Participants could do a mix of service, prayer and social activities in a Dehonian context. He also suggested youth programs connected with Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston, drawing young people from outside the parish.

Frater Henry endorsed the suggestion of youth ministry, including retreats with young people as a way to have an impact on the spirituality of youth, but also to share the Dehonian charism and spread the name of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

And finally, when asked about an experience that gave each panelist a clear sense of “being Dehonian,” several spoke of a time when they realized that their concept of home was no longer just with their family of origin, but with their SCJ family.

“It was when I looked forward to ‘going home’ after a visit with my family,” said one of the panelists. “I enjoyed being with my family, but I looked forward to going back to my ‘home,’ my home with my SCJ brothers. That’s when I realized that I was a Dehonian.”

III. Introductory table discussions — In small groups, SCJs were asked to reflect on the following: “Calling to mind the characteristics of Dehonian ministry, the ministry reports, the facilitated conversations and the previous table discussions:

1. What is all of this saying to me?
2. What is it saying about future SCJ ministry?

Individual comments, paraphrased:

- There is a sense of opportunity and a desire to move forward at this time. There is a call for prophetic ministry. Maybe work with youth, create a house of hospitality for youth on campus.
- How do we resolve the tension between enhancing our current ministries and the desire for something new? There is a restlessness for something new among the younger members of the province.

- We forget how attractive we are as a religious community in what we say and who we are. If we say who we are and live who we are publicly we will attract young people to our community.
- It is important that we do something new but not just a new project. We need to look at new ways of doing our current ministries. There is always room for improvement. We need to have fresh attitudes in ministry. I like the idea of doing something on a campus, but we also have young adults in our parishes and we have to find ways of being present to them too.
- We are more intercultural now and so I believe that our new ministry should also be intercultural. It should include lay people, it should reflect our sense of hospitality.
- When we have more people involved in a ministry we can go deeper in ministry.
- The Milwaukee area has the highest number of SCJs in the province, but we do not have an extensive ministerial presence. Are there youth initiatives that we can create here in Milwaukee that might involve our men in formation?

IV. A new ministry

A. Introduction — Fr. Kilianski introduced the discussion regarding new ministry, in particular, a new youth or young adult ministry. He reminded SCJs that there has been discussion about starting a new ministry for several years. There has been strong support for a campus ministry project. Now it is time to talk about what the new ministry could look like and how to make it happen.

B. What and who? — At table, SCJs were asked to discuss the following questions:

1. What could this new ministry (youth, young adult) look like?
2. Are there SCJs who wish to be a part of this ministry?

Table reports, paraphrased (the tables are identified by letter instead of number to differentiate the tables; the letters do not correspond to the previous day's table numbers):

TABLE A

General comments:

- R1 visas probably would not be available for international SCJs coming to do this ministry before it is established.
- We need people who are certified and prepared for this ministry.
- We hope that this ministry is done in an area where SCJs are already present. There needs to be support for the endeavor, and there is a shared wisdom that those assigned to the ministry could benefit from.
- We hope that there is a minimum of three SCJs for this ministry; it must be based in community and in Dehonian spirituality.
- Where and what is available?

Who?

Br. Long Nguyen, Fr. Duy Nguyen (maybe)

TABLE B

General comments:

- The ministry must have a minimum of three members.
- We talk about certification, but for love you do not need a license. For compassion for youth you do not need a license. You need a compassion for youth.
- This is a concern for the whole congregation, not just the US Province. There are other examples. In some entities there are SCJ communities that live on campus and open their houses to youth.

Who?

Fr. Joseph Dinh, Br. Diego Diaz

TABLE C

General comments:

- There is enthusiasm for this ministry.

Who?

Fr. Joseph Mukuna, Br. Andy Gancarczyk and Fr. Ed Zemlik when his commitment to the archives is done.

TABLE D

General comments:

- We are in favor of campus ministry.
- Whatever we offer, it must be based in community and supported by the community. It cannot be an individual project.
- Perhaps Dehon House could be the base of the ministry.

Who?

Jacob Smith, Fr. Vien Nguyen. The table also suggested Fr. Christianus Hendrik, though he was not at the table.

TABLE E

General comments:

- We have not spoken about vocations. Is that a significant motivation for this ministry?
- What are some creative things that we can do to go to the youth? Maybe we could try something more unconventional, like a coffee shop in a mall. It could be a place of prayer, a safe place to share ideas about spirituality.

Who?

Fr. Charles Brown

TABLE F

General comments:

- We talked about campus ministry; certification is needed.
- Could a team of SCJs be prepared to facilitate youth ministry in our parishes? They could help animate our parish teams, coming perhaps once or twice a year to lead retreats or other activities for young adults.

Who?

No names suggested.

TABLE G

General comments:

- We support the idea of youth ministry but we need to be very clear at the start about motivation. We should enter the ministry with the desire to share the Good News, our love and hospitality, our heart. We should not expect the "reward" of vocations. If that is our expectation, we will be frustrated.

Who?

Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec

TABLE H

General Comments

- We agree that we should pursue youth ministry noting that there are different models.
- We anticipate that youth ministry can be a good way of promoting vocations, though it should not be the primary reason for the ministry.
- There is a need for campus ministry. It is a time when young adults need support. They are away from home for the first time.
- We could collaborate with lay people.

Who?

Fr. Praveen Kumar Richard, Fr. Quang Nguyen, Steven DiNello (candidate)

General comments after table feedback:

- Preparation in campus ministry is needed but there is no requirement for certification.
- Fr. Byron Haaland is open to being a part of the planning committee for youth ministry.
- The province needs to define what it means by “youth ministry.” Is this ministry to be aimed at those under 18, or to young adults? If the audience is young adults on a university campus, is there also a way to reach out to young adults who are not in college, especially the poor?
- Be clear what the motivation is for this ministry. If it is primarily for vocations, there might be a disconnect with the young adults.

C. Other forms of ministry to youth / young adults — At table, SCJs were asked to discuss the following questions:

1. In addition to campus ministry, are there other ways to do young adult ministry?
2. Who is your audience (to whom do the SCJs want to minister)?

General feedback:

- We need to go to where young adults are. One suggestion: have a Dehonian café in a mall or other area where young people meet. Seek informal ways of ministry.
- Have a homeless center for young people. Give those who are homeless a place to talk, a place to feel welcome.
- Minister to young immigrants and help them with the immigration process. Many are fleeing difficult situations in their home country and need emotional and spiritual support, as well as help with paperwork and other nuts and bolts of the immigration process. Partner with the North American Migration Commission.
- Minister to prostitutes, be with them where they are.
- Create a Dehonian animators group of at least three SCJs who could work with our parishes and other ministries. Collaborate with pastors and youth ministers to reach out to young adults and youth. Talk to SCJ pastors to learn what their needs are in regard to youth / young adults. This group could be a stepping stone to campus ministry.
- Hospitality center in airports for youth adults.
- Offer Dehonian retreats for young adults at our parishes.
- Open a multi-function center for the poor with a food pantry and soup kitchen, as well as a center to offer people help with basic skills such as English, math, resumes.
- Become a part of the Eucharistic youth movement.
- Offer spiritual outreach to young adults at corporations such as Apple or Google.
- Create possibilities for senior SCJs to mentor or simply be present to young adults.
- Young adult ministry should be connected to social justice. If the province creates a campus ministry project, social justice should be a significant element of the ministry.
- If there are SCJs interested in campus ministry, let’s let them implement it.

D. Open floor — Conference participants were invited to comment in general. Paraphrased comments:

- Are older SCJs hearing what younger SCJs are saying? Do younger people feel differently about this topic than older people?

- I hoped to leave this conference with a sense of focus on the new ministry. Let's discover who is able to do this ministry and support them in it.
 - The idea of a coffee house comes from a desire to be where young people are, and to follow the Dehonian charism of going where Christ seems to be pushed aside. Our charism calls us to meet Christ on the streets of the world. Young people can feel pushed aside and isolated in their families, in the Church.
 - Although initially there was positive energy around the idea of campus ministry, or young adult ministry in general, that energy seems muted in the afternoon. The Lord is with us, let's move forward.
- E. Informal vote — Conference participants were asked to indicate — by a show of hands — if they were in favor of the creation of a campus ministry project and if the province should release three people for that project. Over half of the conference participants raised their hands.
- F. Open floor — Following the informal vote, SCJs were again invited to share their comments. Paraphrased responses:
- In India, SCJs offered Adoration for young people. Interest and participation grew rapidly.
 - Will we serve the poor in this new ministry, or the middle class?
 - I would rather we focus on what we can do in our own places of ministry instead of diluting our resources. There is much that can and needs to be done in regard to youth and young adult ministry in our parishes.
 - Working with youth, regardless of income class (poor, middle class, wealthy) is Dehonian. Young adults are often not in church and are marginalized. We need to minister to young adults regardless if it is a team of three SCJs who go to a campus or a team that animates our parishes.
 - An urban university might have more opportunities than a suburban or rural school for ministry to the poor and/or disenfranchised.
 - A committee needs to look at ways of impacting young adults, but also ways to empower them. Create mission experiences for them at Sacred Heart Southern Missions. How can we help young adults carry such experiences into their lives so that they are not isolated incidents? Sending delegates to World Youth Day is wonderful, but how do SCJs continue to walk with young adults outside of these big events?
 - The Neuman Center in Brookings, SD, has sent a group of student volunteers to SHSM each summer for the past 20 years. If the province develops a campus ministry project, it should organize similar ministry experiences at SCJ apostolates.
 - Who will the province administration allow to do such ministry?
 - The new project must be a community project, not a personal project.
 - There is need for ministry to those who are covered by DACA.
 - Some of the best ministry to young people is the ministry of presence, informal time with young people, listening to them and being available to them.
 - If the province creates a campus ministry program, it should have a component in which the students minister to needy youth / young adults. The SCJs could be facilitators of a young adult-led ministry.
 - I think that campus ministry could be very fruitful for the congregation. Even though college students might be more wealthy than other young adults, it is important to open their eyes to the needs of those less fortunate and create opportunities for interaction.
 - We need to start this in our parishes, not create something new.

G. Who? — Those interested in being a part of a new youth / young adult ministry were asked to stand. Those who did so:

Fr. Edgard Biankeu
Fr. Charles Brown
Br. Diego Diaz
Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh
Fr. Ed Kilianski
Frater Hubert Liassidji
Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec
Fr. Joseph Mukuna
Frater Henry Nguyen
Frater Long Nguyen
Fr. Quang Nguyen
Novice Hung Pham
Fr. Rafael Querobin
Fr. Praveen Kumar Richard
Celsus Robert (candidate)
Jacob Smith (candidate)
Michael Wodarczyk (candidate)
Fr. Ed Zemlik

V. Prayer — The day closed with prayer in the conference call followed by Eucharist at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

Thursday, January 9

I. Prayer — The day opened with prayer.

II. Review — The facilitator reviewed the past two days of the conference. She noted that participants reflected on and named the characteristics of Dehonian ministry; they spoke about what makes a parish a Dehonian parish and how Dehonian spirituality could be made more present in the places served by the province; participants reflected on the province ministries of education and social services, as well as internal ministries; they were asked to identify which ministries needed to be staffed by an SCJ and which could be served by others, such as a lay person or a religious of another community; the conference spent a significant amount of time on Wednesday looking at possibilities for a new ministry, in particular, ministry to youth / young adults; support was indicated for this new ministry.

III. What are you willing to do? — Conference participants were asked to respond to the following question in writing: To help the province in its planning for the future, please indicate in which ministries (including the internal ministries of formation, vocations, provincial secretary, and provincial treasurer) you could be interested in serving in the future. [Your answer is non-binding.] The responses were collected by the provincial superior for review by him and his council.

IV. Evaluation — Participants filled out an evaluation form; the evaluations were collected at the end of the conference.

V. Closing — Fr. Ed Kilianski thanked SCJs, novices and candidates for not only being present at the conference, but for fully participating in it. Noting that this was the third such conference he asked if there was a desire for a fourth. No vote was taken, though it was noted that next year the province will need to schedule an election assembly. He expressed his thanks to those who helped with the conference. In particular, he thanked Fr. Jack Kurps and the rest of the Provincial Council for their planning and input. He thanked Sr. Cathy Bertrand, who has been an excellent facilitator of all three conferences, as well as other province gatherings. Mary Gorski was thanked for her work at the conference. Br. Diego Diaz and other music ministers were thanked for their service at the various liturgies of the conference. Noting his upcoming surgery, Fr. Ed also asked for prayers for strength and healing.

The conference closed with prayer. The closing liturgy was held at St. Joseph's Chapel at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

Addendum A

Fr. Ed Kilianski's Opening of the Provincial Conference January 7, 2020

Welcome Brothers,

We gather again for this Third Provincial Conference: **“Our Future Together in Community and Ministry Part III.”**

I thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules, your ministries and your free time to be present during these days together. These are important days for all of us as we look to our future as a Province.

We have come a long way since we gathered for the first time from **January 30-February 1, 2018** and last year from **January 8-10, 2019**.

When we gathered together in 2018 we are all aware that there are fewer SCJs available for ministry; many burdens are placed on those in local leadership. There is concern that local superiors and pastors (or pastoral team leaders) are not getting the collaborative support that they need, or that simply too much is being asked of them/you.

The theme for that Conference was: “Our Future: Together in Community and Ministry.” As I’m sure you’re aware, each Conference has the same title but with Part II or now Part III.

We were asked in 2018 to work together to create a vision for how we can best live and serve together in a way that is healthy and life-giving. We looked at new ways of doing ministry to guard against burn-out, including greater use of lay staff.

We also looked at ways in which local communities, and the province, can be more supportive to those in ministry.

That first conference provided an opportunity to look at what is sustainable and how members of the province can sustain each other as confreres, as brothers.

That conference was, in a way, a stepping stone toward planning for the future, including the needs of internal ministries.

The 2018 conference helped us to realize that our local communities and ministries are becoming more multicultural; we hoped that that would continue to increase in the future as more SCJs from other entities come to the US Province. It has. We have five men here who not here three year ago.

We asked: “How can SCJs from other cultures be better prepared for community life and ministry in this Province and how can current members better welcome our international confreres?”

I believe the province is very good at addressing the administration of welcoming an international SCJ (such as immigration paperwork and ESL studies) but more needs to be done in preparing individuals for life and service in a culture different than their own. I believe that is now happening in name (English and Cultural Studies) and in reality.

Expectations, we said, needed to be clarified regarding how members of a community work together to support the ministries attached to it.

There needs to be space for people to be individuals, but the community’s needs and concerns should take priority over the individual’s. As Dehonians we must be present both in community and ministry.

A number of questions were asked at that conference; including:

How do SCJs balance individual needs and desires with that of community and ministry?

How do local communities and ministries have the conversations needed to help everyone “get on the same sheet of music or the same page?”

Are members of the province properly prepared for the responsibilities that they are given?

Are young priests prepared for the administrative tasks of being a pastor? Do they need to be, or could such tasks be handled by a lay employee?

Should the province look at other models of ministry; can it reimagine how current ministries operate?

Originally, we thought that the 2018 conference was the time to seriously look at the possibility of seeking a new ministry. We have long talked about this need in our province. For example, we have said we would like to be in “Youth Ministry”, of one kind or another. As we invite confreres from other “entities”, we thought that it was the time to prepare for this new ministry? In reality we didn’t get there in 2018. We barely had time to discuss it.

Last year, in 2019, we gathered again for Part II. That gathering was a continuation of the work and discussions that we began the year before. As with that 2018 conference, one of the major themes last year was **multiculturalism**, and in particular, **Interculturality** in our Province and local communities.

Some of our discussions last year focused on Fr. Anthony J. Gittins’ book, *Living Mission Interculturally*. His concepts and ideas served as a resource for follow-up activities to that provincial conference.

Our presentations and discussions focused on community living, including community prayer, meals and communication, as well as wider issues such as the changing culture of the Church in North America. Many of the topics we discussed were further developed at the June, 2019 Assembly when Fr. Gittins worked with us.

It has been my hope and the hope of the Provincial Council that each conference be another step on the path to learning, as a community, how to intentionally live, pray and work together better, recognizing each other’s diversity but also our shared Dehonian values. As with the 2018 and 2019 gatherings, and this 2020 conference, this is not an end, but a continuance, a work in progress, if you will.

Once again, this conference is a stepping stone toward planning for the future. We are closer but, still, there needs to be space for people to be individuals, always remembering that the community’s needs and concerns ought to take priority over our own. This is the Dehonian way. It is my hope that, with the help of international Dehonians, we will, finally, begin a new ministry with young people, College Campus Ministry somewhere, anywhere in the United States.

This is the focus of this 2020 conference. Our ministry. Both where we are currently ministering and where we would like to go. We, the Council and I; but also all of us need to find the way and the will to make this happen, this year or next, we have to get this done. We have been talking and talking and talking. Not rushing or hurrying, but methodically planning and preparing to make it happen. That preparation has already begun. Early in the fall some of our confreres met with me for the process to make this desire a reality.

During this conference, regarding ministry, your concerns need to and will be heard. I ask all of you to be present with an open heart and mind; I ask you not to prejudge the outcome of this conference. This is a very important time for us in the life of our Province; it is a critical time.

I and the Council are doing everything that we can to help prepare us for a healthy and positive future **together**, a future that will see us with a smaller and more international province. In the last four years of my ministry as provincial, 17 men have died. That’s a quarter of the province.

So now, I and the Council are asking each of you to continue to be a part of this planning together.

I thank Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, for being with us once again as our conference facilitator. Cathy has been with us many times and knows us well. In reality, in many ways, she has become a part of us and is one with us.

I conclude with another comment from one of the evaluations: *“I do realize that this meeting is only the beginning. It is a process and it will take some doing from all members. My hope is that each member will look within oneself to do something that will enable change to take place. This experience was inspiring.”* (2018)

Let us pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and wisdom and inspiration. We make this prayer through the intercession of Venerable Leo Dehon. Amen.

Thank you and again, **Welcome Brothers.**

CALENDAR

March 3-4, 2020:	Provincial Council meeting
May 5-6, 2020:	Provincial Council meeting (budgets)
June 8, 2020, 4:30 pm:	Province Jubilee Celebration
June 9-12, 2020:	Province Assembly
June 11, 2020, 7:00 pm:	Provincial Council meeting (advancements in formation)
August 12-13:	Provincial Council meeting
September 15 and 17:	The council will meet on September 15. The Dehon Lecture, featuring Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez, will be on September 16. Fr. General will meet with the council on September 17
November 10-11:	Provincial Council meeting
December 15-16:	Provincial Council meeting
January 5-7, 2021:	Provincial Conference

NECROLOGY

+Fr. Vittorio Benzoni, a member of the North Italian Province, died January 3. He was born in 1943, professed in 1960 and ordained in 1969.

+Fr. Tarcísio Pereira de Paiva, a member of the Brazil – Recife Province, died on January 11. He was born in 1953, professed in 1984, and ordained in 1988.

+Fr. Hans Schädle, a member of the German Province, died January 24. He was born in 1936, professed in 1959 and ordained in 1965.