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Minutes of the 898th US Provincial Council Meeting March 3-4, 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. Joseph-Thien Dinh was present for an update on formation; Mark Peters, province director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, was present for discussion of a mailing regarding the US elections; Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Yvon Sheehy were present for a dialogue about the English and Cultural Studies program; Mary Balistreri, province director of Healthcare Services, was present for discussion of guidelines in response to the coronavirus.

I. Extended prayer — Fr. Kilianski, councilors, Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto spent the first morning of the meeting in extended prayer and sharing. Fr. Q. Nguyen organized the morning.

II. Finance

A. Remodeling project — Invitations for bids on the remodeling of Sacred Heart Monastery / Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology have been sent. A general contractor is to be selected on March 31. The estimated cost is \$5 million. Move-out is to take place May 4-9 and demolition is to begin May 11. It is hoped that the classroom work can be done by mid-August. Work on the third and fourth floors is to be completed in October with the final date to be determined by the general contractor.

Several options are being reviewed for student housing. The province is currently in discussion with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee about the use of Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center (formerly known as the Cousins Center). Meals and classes would continue to be at SHSST.

There will be no May session at SHSST; housing needs will begin with the first summer session of ECS. It was noted that Fr. Francis Vu Tran asked about the possibility of sending several students from Vietnam to SHSST in May. The council said that this would not be possible because of the renovation, and there will be no classes at that time.

Later in the meeting councilors asked if a limit needs to be placed on the number of students that can be accepted in the summer ECS programs this year. Dn. Nagel is to work with Kelly Kornacki to determine how many students can be accommodated.

B. Investment Procedures Audit — The audit is in process and is expected to be completed in time for the next council meeting. This year it will include an audit of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake; this is done every two years.

C. Capital expenditures — The council reviewed capital expenditures that will be included in the budgets of St. Joseph's Indian School (on-going maintenance and updates as well as the horse therapy program), Lower Brule Ministries (grants), the Sacred Heart Center in Eagle Butte (building project), and the Province Development Office (HVAC and condensers).

D. Province audits — The "Blue Book," which contains all of the audits and financial reports of province entities for the previous fiscal year, is complete. It is available for review by councilors.

E. Province Development Office — The fundraising team met at the Province Development

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March 2020
Vol. LXI, No. 3

Office on February 26. Among the topics covered were the FY2021 budget and marketing. The office is focusing on simplified mailing packages with fewer premiums which seems to be working well. Income is up slightly and costs are down. The office has done well in regard to estate gifts; since July there have been over \$1 million in such gifts. Dn. Nagel said that the office is going to continue to do the ORDO for another year. There are some concerns regarding the effect of the coronavirus in regard to supply disruption from China. Innovare prepared a statement for those concerned about items coming from China.

- F. SHSST Finance Committee meeting — Dn. David recently met with the SHSST Finance Committee. The province is taking out a \$3 million loan from the seminary's endowment fund to help cover remodeling costs at SHSST / SHM. This will be done as a balloon loan, meaning that the interest will be paid up front and the principal will be paid at the end of the loan. Kathleen Dahlgren is working out the details with SHSST.
- G. General guidelines on bank accounts — Fr. Luca Zotoli, general treasurer, distributed a text regarding guidelines for bank accounts within the congregation. The text was developed with input from the General Finance Commission, of which Dn. Nagel is a member. Entity councils and finance commissions were asked to discuss the text. Councilors reviewed the document and noted that much of what is recommended is already being done in the US Province. As suggested in the text, there are to be no private bank accounts (with rare exceptions and only with the approval of the provincial superior) and all accounts are to have at least two signatories. The general treasurer hopes to have a normative text regarding bank accounts to present to the next General Chapter for its approval.

III. Administration

A. Ministries

- 1. Our Lady of Guadalupe — Fr. Rafael Querobin is assigned to OLG as of March 1. Fr. Jerzy Mordalski will be in Ecuador until June doing Spanish language study. If he is able to get his R-1 visa when he returns, he will most likely be assigned to OLG. Both he and Fr. Wojciech Adamczyk would like to make a home visit to Poland this summer. Fr. Tim Gray plans to spend the summer at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. If extra help is needed at the parish during their absence, perhaps an SCJ from outside of Houston could spend a few weeks at the parish.

Fr. Richard Johnston has been doing most of the English Masses. There has been a desire to have another English Mass on Sundays, preferably in the evening. If there are more SCJs at the parish, Br. Gancarczyk suggests that there be more of an SCJ presence at the school, and/or in youth ministry in general.

- 2. Mississippi — Three priests currently serve full-time on the pastoral team. Br. Diego Diaz has been a good addition to the SCJ presence in Mississippi; he primarily works with Sacred Heart Southern Missions but is available for pastoral ministry, especially with the Spanish-speaking. Frater Long Nguyen is beginning to take on more tasks; he did the Ash Wednesday service at Holy Family School.
- 3. Lower Brule / Crow Creek — Fr. Hendrik Ardianto has returned to Sacred Heart Monastery. Fr. Praveen Kumar Richard has been assisting with parish ministry.

- B. Formation — Fr. Joseph-Thien Dinh met with the council to dialogue on formation issues; one or both members of the formation team meet with the council at most meetings. Fr. Dinh noted that he and Fr. Duy Nguyen recently presented the province's approach to formation to SHSST faculty and staff. It was a good moment of sharing. The formation community hosted a Lunar New Year celebration that attracted approximately 500 people, including students and staff from SHSST and the Vietnamese community at St. Martin of Tours. The North American Migration Committee led the February First Friday reflections; good dialogue took place among the students regarding migration issues. Two participants in a Come and See Weekend were also present. Currently, the formation team is working to place students in their summer assignments. During Lent, the community is assisting in making lunches for a local shelter.

The formation team proposes that vow renewals take place during the June Province Assembly with the exception of Frater Paul Hoang, who will be in his CPE placement in Houston. The formation team is to be in contact with Fr. Q. Nguyen to schedule the renewals during the assembly. Frater Hoang can do his renewal in Houston; it was suggested that Br. Gancarczyk, local superior, receive his vows. Requests for vow renewals will need to be done prior to the May 5-6 Provincial Council meeting.

Councilors asked about financial policies in the formation program, noting the importance of transparency and moderation. Fr. Dinh said that the professed are allowed to request up to \$200 a month in cash; candidates may request up to \$150.

Professed students may have credit cards; statements are reviewed by the formation team.

The whole community (ECS, formation and other SCJs in the monastery) get together once a week for a social and dinner in the third-floor dining room.

Fr. Kilianski thanked Fr. Dinh for his work with formation.

- C. Ratio Formationis Provincialis — The revised Ratio Formationis Provincialis was sent to the general administration for approval. Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, vicar general, told Br. Presto that the General Council hopes to review the document in mid-March.
- D. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Raúl Gomez, SHSST president-rector, was not able to join the council but sent a memo in which he noted that the meeting in Rome regarding the possibility of an affiliation between SHSST and the Gregorian was very positive. The seminary will begin the application process. In his memo, Fr. Raúl also noted that he and Dr. Patrick Russell took part in a meeting organized by the general administration and the Centro Studi Dehoniani for the directors and academic deans of the major Dehonian theological institutions. He wrote that SHSST and the Faculdade Dehoniana in Taubaté, Brazil, have much in common; representatives from both will have a Skype call in mid-March to talk about possible faculty exchanges and/or limited student experiences in both institutes.
- E. Immigration concerns — Fr. Rafael Querobin's R-1 visa was approved; as noted earlier, he has been assigned to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston. Fr. Joseph Quang Tran's R-1 will be renewed as of April 1. Br. Gancarczyk's application for permanent residency is taking much longer than previous such applications. The same is true for Fr. Andrzej Sudol. Br. Gancarczyk noted the difficulty in renewing his driver's license because of his immigration status. Fr. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas' situation will be discussed under personnel.

The visa renewal process for Vietnamese students needs to be clarified. It was thought that they could remain in the United States for the duration of their studies, but some have gone home to do visa renewals after just a year. If an international student needs to visit an embassy outside of the United States for such renewals could he go to Canada? Fr. V. Nguyen will check with SHSST staff to get a better sense of the process.

- F. 2021 Provincial Conference — Although they noted the benefit of previous conferences, councilors decided not to schedule a Provincial Conference in 2021.
- G. 2020 Provincial Assembly — The planning committee for the June 9-12 assembly includes Fr. Quang Nguyen (chairperson), Fr. Andrzej Sudol, Fr. Ziggy Morawiec and Frater Paul Hoang. They have met twice. The theme of the assembly will be "Called to Mission: Availability and Adaptability." The "mission" is in reference to one's vocational call as a religious. This will be explained by the committee in its invitation letter which is to be sent in the next couple of weeks. Fr. Edward Foley, OFM Cap, is to be one of the presenters.

Time will also be given to the North American Migration Committee, province communications, and province healthcare, among others. There does not seem to be a need for the province attorney to speak at this year's gathering. A remembrance service will be held, most likely on Wednesday morning, followed by social activities in the afternoon and evening. Some of the suggestions include bowling, a mini golf outing, and/or a Brewers game (there is a 6:40 p.m. game in Milwaukee against the San Diego Padres).

Participants will be asked to make their own lodging arrangements. Mary Gorski will collect the RSVPs.

- H. 2021 Election Assembly — The council set the dates for the next Province Election Assembly: July 26-30, 2021. Fr. Ed Kilianski's term ends on September 18. Br. Presto will prepare a timeline of activities that must take place prior to the assembly; he will have this ready for the next council meeting.
- I. Letter concerning US elections — Mark Peters, province director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, presented the draft of a letter that the JPR Commission prepared, with input from the North American Migration Committee, concerning the upcoming elections in the United States. The draft was addressed to the wider Dehonian Family from Fr. Kilianski and the Provincial Council. The council suggested that it instead be sent from the JPR Commission. Councilors further suggested that resources from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops be included, in particular, "Forming Consciences for Faith Citizenship." Immigration should be added to the list of issues of concern as well as life issues beyond abortion. Mark

Peters will revise the draft, mindful of the council's input, and show it to Fr. Kilianski before sending it from the JPR Commission.

- J. Coronavirus — Mary Balistreri, province director of healthcare services, shared a draft of a guide that she is preparing regarding the coronavirus. In it she echoes many of the directives of the CDC and WHO regarding safe hygiene practices, especially handwashing and self-quarantine when a person shows symptoms of illness. The document is to be distributed within the next week.

A concern to be mindful of is healthcare and hygiene within local communities. Extra cleaning is recommended (the frequent cleaning of countertops and other surfaces, doorknobs, bathrooms, etc.). Most of the SCJ communities have a staff person to do this. However, each community should have a plan in place to cover for that person if s/he becomes ill. Will members of the community be able to take up these tasks? If a member of a local community becomes ill with the coronavirus, how will he be cared for? In a large community, such as Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, there are a number of staff people to assist. How will smaller communities facilitate the care and quarantine of an SCJ who may become ill?

Mary Balistreri reminded the council that influenza is a more widespread illness than coronavirus at this time. If an SCJ exhibits symptoms of the flu, he should be tested because there is medication that can assist in overcoming influenza. As for preventive measures, besides good hygiene, she said that plenty of sleep, good hydration and general good nutrition are important in general.

It was noted that many dioceses are recommending that the cup not be shared at Mass to help lessen the spread of germs.

- K. English and Cultural Studies — Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Br. Duane Lemke visited with the council for a dialogue on the ECS residential program. There are currently nine students, one of whom is an SCJ. The student population is quite a bit larger during the two summer sessions. Several accommodations will need to be made because of the remodeling project. All affected by the project (including the full SHM community, SHSST and ECS) are asked to maintain frequent and open communication.

Having three communities live as one (formation, ECS and the wider monastery community), alongside another community (SHSST) can be challenging. The council urged the ECS team, as they have the formation team, to be proactive in building a good community experience, including regular meetings and other means of communication between local leadership and the individual members of the community.

Both SCJs were thanked for their ministry, which includes not only on-site concerns, but also field trips to help students learn about American culture.

- L. Meeting of North American administrations — The next meeting of the NORAM administrations will be in Hales Corners. Both groups will gather for dinner the evening of Monday April 27, and meet for the full day on Tuesday, April 28. Mary Gorski will send councilors the summary of the previous meeting for review. The council will discuss agenda topics and logistics during their next conference call.
- M. Missionary Sisters of Mother Mary — The Missionary Sisters is a religious order founded in India. Their superior contacted Fr. Tom Cassidy about the possibility of ministering in the United States. Fr. Cassidy shared their request with Fr. Kilianski. The council spoke about the possibility of the sisters' community ministering in Lower Brule. Fr. Hendrik has been seeking assistance from a women's religious community from Indonesia but has not received a commitment. The sisters from India could move into the four-bedroom trailer used by previous sisters who served in the area. Currently, Fr. Mark Mastin is living in the trailer so that it does not remain vacant. Clear expectations will need to be defined but the council is open to discussions about the Missionary Sisters of Mother Mary coming to Lower Brule for ministry with the pastoral team. Fr. Kilianski will contact the superior of the sisters' community to begin discussions.

IV. Personnel

- A. Fr. Hendrik Ardianto — Fr. Ardianto has returned to Sacred Heart Monastery and will be assigned to do ministry at St. Martin of Tours. The province will apply for faculties for him from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
- B. Fr. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas — Fr. Rojas has been in Colombia with family since October, 2019, when he went to his home country to update immigration documents. He has been unable to return to the United States. The province has worked with legal experts and government officials but is currently at an impasse. Fr. Ed Kilianski is working with the

provincial superior in Spain and the district superior in Ecuador to assign Fr. Juancho to parish ministry in Ecuador at Fr. General's suggestion. This does not close the door on Fr. Juancho's return to the United States; it is an assignment that allows him to return to community.

Br. Gancarczyk removed Fr. Rojas' personal belongings from his room at Our Lady of Guadalupe so that Fr. Querobin would have a place to stay. Fr. Rojas made arrangements for a family to store his possessions but the council said that the items should be with the province; they belong to the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Br. Gancarczyk is to have Fr. Rojas' belongings placed in a storage pod; the pod will be transported to Hales Corners and unloaded at the Province Development Office. The items will be stored in the basement of the building.

- C. Frater Long Nguyen — Frater L. Nguyen has been in Mississippi since October; his assignment there is for approximately a year. The purpose of his time there is to help Frater Nguyen gain ministerial experience as a part of his preparation and discernment for ordained ministry. Fr. Kurps serves as his mentor and meets with Frater Nguyen every other week. He has been involved in religious education at the parishes, and recently did the Ash Wednesday service at Holy Family School.
- D. Fr. Frank Wittouck — Fr. Wittouck will move to Sacred Heart Monastery in June.
- E. Frs. Richard Johnston and Richard MacDonald — Both have been asked by Fr. Kilianski to move back to community. They were given the option of finding a house or apartment together near Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston. Br. Gancarczyk said that he had looked at several options for them but has not yet had a strong response from either. The council agrees that neither SCJ should be living on his own.
- V. Upcoming meetings — The council will next meet by conference call at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10. Besides review of the minutes, councilors will also discuss the agenda for the April meeting of the North American administrations. The next in-person meeting of the council will be May 5-6.

CALENDAR

April 27-28, 2020:	Meeting of North American administrations (Hales Corners)
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. Frank Burshnick**, a member of the US Province, died February 21. He was born in 1937, professed in 1966, and ordained in 1970.

UPDATES

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