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

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### Minutes of the 904th US Provincial Council Meeting November 10-11, 2020

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps (video conference), Fr. Christianus Hendrik (video conference), Fr. Vien Nguyen and Br. Andy Gancarczyk (video conference), councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Joseph-Thien Dinh, Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec and Fr. Yvon Sheehy were with the council for dialogue about the Sacred Heart Monastery community; Fr. Charles Brown was present for discussion of the Dehon Study Center; Fr. Raúl Gomez, SHSST president-rector, joined by video conference for an update on the seminary.

I. Check-in— Councilors updated each other on themselves, their ministries and communities. Discussion topics included the impact of the pandemic.

II. Finance

A. Franklin Property— Ken Servi, a developer in Franklin, has been pursuing the purchase of a property owned by the Priests of the Sacred Heart. The two parties are at an impasse. Kathleen Dahlgren, province attorney, informed Mr. Servi that the agreement could be adjusted to reflect an increase in price.

B. Province Audit— The council voted to approve the FY 2020 Province Audit which was prepared by Clifton, Larson, Allen, LLP. The auditors stated that there were no issues of concern (“unqualified opinion”) at either the Province Development Office or of the Province itself. Expenses for the year were similar to the previous. There was more cash on hand in 2019 due to the sale of the property in Chicago. Proceeds were used for the remodeling of Sacred Heart Monastery. The impact of the pandemic was just beginning to be known at the end of the fiscal year; however, the CARES Act helped with payroll expenses.

Details of the Financial Report, including contributions from the three development offices, and the status of the SCJ Medical Fund, the Support and Maintenance Trust, and investments can be found in a memo prepared by Dn. David Nagel. It is attached as Addendum A.

C. SHSST Remodeling— Phase III of the SHSST remodeling project is scheduled to begin in early 2021, with an anticipated completion date of early to mid-August. The project includes updating classrooms 1-7 (including infrastructure for new technology), renovation of SCJ offices on the third and fourth floors, and remodeling rooms on the third and fourth floors to allow for three faculty suites and 34 student rooms with private baths. SHSST and the province will work together to provide alternate housing for seminarians affected by the construction, as well as temporary classroom space.

The project is projected to cost approximately \$4.9 million. It will be funded, in part, by a \$3 million loan from the SHSST Endowment Fund at 4.2% interest over six years.

D. SCJ Medical Plan— The plan was renewed on October 1. There are no significant changes to the plan or to administrative costs. However, some of the companies who provide medication coverage for SCJs on Medicare have decided not to cover prescriptions from Walgreen’s, noting that Walgreen’s costs have become high. Those affected by the change are being contacted by the treasurer’s office and alternative options for them are being found.

- E. Meetings — The General Finance Commission met by video conference on October 19; topics for discussion included the pandemic and its effects on the various entities. The Province Investment Committee has a meeting scheduled for November 12.
- F. Thank you — Fr. Kilianski thanked Dn. Nagel and his team (John Kuxhause and Kevin Stanke) for their continued work in regard to the province's financial concerns.

### III. Administration

A. 2021 Province Election Assembly — The council discussed the 2021 Province Election Assembly, noting that the pandemic may impact it. Within the next week Fr. Ed Kilianski will send a brief email to the membership asking for their input. The four options being considered:

1. Hold the Election Assembly as planned for July 26-30, anticipating the possibility that those from outside of the Milwaukee area may not be able to attend. They would then be given a proxy vote. It was noted that for the election to be valid a quorum of eligible voters would need to be present.
2. A mail-in only election, similar to the model used by the province prior to election assemblies.
3. A hybrid model that would be a mix of discussions via remote methods, such as Zoom, and mail-in ballots.
4. Extend the term of the present administration for approximately a year and postpone the Election Assembly until 2022. This is an option that some religious communities have chosen.

Replies need to be returned prior to the December council meeting. If the province chooses to continue with the election assembly as planned, the convocation letter needs to go out by mid-January.

- B. JPR Survey — Mark Peters, US Province director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, is preparing for his retirement. The Provincial Council thought it is an opportune moment to survey SCJs about the province's approach to JPR issues and determine how to best move forward. In doing so, the council recognizes and celebrates the work continuing to be done in province ministries to address social concerns, especially through direct service. The goal of the survey is to get a sense of how the province as a whole would like to address JPR concerns. The council finalized a survey and plans to send it to SCJs in the US Province at the beginning of 2021.
- C. Director of Dehonian Associates — The Dehonian Family Committee is beginning the search process for a director of Dehonian Associates. Online advertisements are to be placed in *National Catholic Reporter* and *America Magazine*. After assessing the response to these ads, the committee will discuss whether other options should be utilized.

The Dehonian Family committee has a meeting on November 16 during which they will welcome new members (Fr. Hendrik Ardianto, Br. Diego Diaz, Bridget Martin and Joe Tyrell) and discuss things that it can do while a new Dehonian Associates director is sought. Some of the director's tasks are being attended to. For instance, alumnus Mike Shuler is directing the Esprit de Coeur, and Br. Diego Diaz is serving as a liaison to the Schools in Collaboration.

Although David Schimmel served both as director of Dehonian Associates and as parttime director of the Dehon Study Center, it was emphasized that these are two separate positions. The director of the Dehon Study Center focuses on academic work, while the director of Dehonian Associates takes a more pastoral approach to disseminating the founder's charism.

- D. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Raúl Gomez, SHSST president-rector, joined the council via teleconference for updates on SHSST. There have been a few positive cases of COVID-19 that have impacted the campus. Because of this, and the growing numbers of positive cases in the nation, the seminary has moved to online learning for the rest of the semester. This decision was made in dialogue with St. Francis de Sales Seminary. Visitors to the building must have the permission of the president-rector and adhere to protocols. Efforts are being made to make sure that the on-campus seminarians from outside of the province formation community do not suffer from isolation. Various possibilities are being discussed regarding Thanksgiving to ensure that these seminarians are able to celebrate the holiday.

Staff are currently doing most of their work off-campus. After the semester is over it is hoped that they can be allowed on campus more often. The council and Fr. Gomez spoke about the upcoming renovations; much of the material discussed was covered previously in the finance section of the meeting (timing, the need for alternative housing and classroom sites). Fr.

Gomez was asked to determine how many student rooms will be needed for the spring semester as soon as possible. He will give this number to Fr. V. Nguyen so that the province can work with SHSST to find adequate housing.

Fr. Kilianski thanked Fr. Gomez for his leadership during a challenging time at SHSST. The council appreciates his service during the pandemic.

After Fr. Gomez left the meeting, the council briefly discussed alternate housing and classroom options. Possibilities including having SCJs in the ECS program stay in the SHM wing, using Dehon House, and if needed, the Hampton Inn. The conference center and various meeting rooms at the Provincial Offices could be used for classroom space. St. Martin of Tours is also a possibility.

- E. Province Policies — Br. Presto presented several suggested revisions to the province policies related to the updated Instruments of Hope and Healing. Br. Presto will implement the updates and Fr. Kurps will review the document so that it can be brought to the council at its December meeting for approval.
- F. Sacred Heart Monastery — Periodically, the council invites representatives from local communities for dialogue. Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh and Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec of the formation community, and Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Yvon Sheehy, representing ECS students and the wider SHM community, joined the council for a conversation about the Sacred Heart Monastery community. All acknowledged the challenge of attending to the needs of distinct sub-communities within SHM (such as formation) while also living together as one community with shared concerns. Added to that is integrating with SHSST. One of the more significant issues involves coordinating calendars and schedules. Good communication continues to be key; having Fr. Ziggy in the formation program has been helpful due to his prior roles with SHSST. This has helped to better the lines of communication.

Perhaps a bulletin board could be placed in a common area to help disseminate information. Also, it was suggested that international graduate students, such as Fr. Albertus Joni, have an expectation of communications accountability to the local superior. There is no suggestion of a difficulty; the request is simply to ensure that such students realize their obligation to let the local superior know of their schedule, especially in regard to travel outside of the community.

It was noted that the SCJ formation community has been very faithful to community prayer.

- G. Postulancy — The council is open to Jonathan Nguyen-Vuong being allowed to apply for postulancy in preparation for the 2021-22 novitiate. He is only 19 now but would be 21 before professing vows. The council noted that it would allow for him to do his novitiate with several classmates.
- H. Sacred Heart Center — The council voted to endorse the recommendation of the CPOSH South Dakota Board of Directors to appoint Fr. John Paul Trask to serve on the Sacred Heart Center (Eagle Butte) Board of Directors. His initial term is for three years.
- I. Provincial Visitation — Due to the pandemic, the 2020-21 Provincial Visitations will be done via a hybrid model of on-site prayer and discussions combined with individual visits with Fr. Ed Kilianski via Zoom. Those in Milwaukee will have the option of in-person one-on-one visits (socially distanced). Since the previous visitations were cut short by the pandemic, the theme remains the same: “Our Ministry Together.” An initial letter has gone out to the membership from Fr. Ed. He will now begin to contact local superiors to finalize specifics. He will give the local superiors his schedule and invite SCJs to sign up for meeting times with him just as they would in a traditional visitation. Prayer booklets will be sent to the communities prior to the visit. The schedule:

December 8-11: St. Joseph’s Community at SHML

December 17: Sacred Heart Novitiate

January 4-8, 2021: Sacred Heart at SHML

January 18-22: Sacred Heart Monastery

February 2-4: St. Michael Community, Mississippi

February 8-10: South Dakota

February 22-25: Sacred Heart Community, Pinellas Park

March 1-4: Texas

March 15-17: Individuals not covered in community visitations

- J. Virtual Assembly — SCJs in active ministry in the US Province, along with students in vows, are invited to take part in a virtual assembly via Zoom on Tuesday, November 17, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm (central). A message of invitation was to be sent shortly after the council meeting concluded; a message about Zoom meeting registration was to follow. Fr. Vien Nguyen is organizing the logistics for Zoom.

Fr. Kilianski will host and moderate the meeting. Those in active ministry are not mandated to take part, but it is hoped that they will appreciate the opportunity to be together. It is understood that the students may have classes that conflict with the schedule. If so, they should make their classes their priority.

The format of the gathering will be informal. There will be time for check-in. Participants will be asked to reflect on the following questions:

1. How are you doing during the pandemic?
2. Do you have suggestions as to how we can support each other during this time when many of us cannot be physically present to each other?
3. How have you been reaching out to people in ministry? Do you have any creative ways in which you have adapted your ministry for this time?

- K. Province Ratio — Fr. Kurps completed the layout of the revised Ratio and forwarded it to Br. Presto. Mary Gorski was asked to insert the approval letter signed by Fr. Kilianski and Br. Presto and have the booklet printed in a style similar to the personnel directory. An electronic edition will also be made available.

- L. Dehon Study Center — Fr. Charles Brown joined the council for a discussion of the Dehon Study Center and possibilities for its future following the retirement of David Schimmel as its part-time director.

Fr. Brown is open to serving as director of the center. He is a member of the North American Theological Commission; he said that this may be a good tie-in to the work of the center. The council suggested that regardless of who becomes director that an ad hoc committee be established to work with him in guiding the center's work.

After Fr. Brown left, the council reflected on their discussion with him. Fr. Brown offered a wide variety of options for the center. Fr. Kilianski will ask Fr. Brown to spend time in the current Dehon Study Center at SHML so that he can see what is available and how it is organized, and better develop his own ideas about how the center can move forward. He will be asked to prioritize what he envisions as tasks for the center in the next few years and share those priorities with the council at its December meeting.

- M. Meetings with those in self-isolation — Fr. Kilianski reported on his meetings with members of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML who have been living separately from the majority of the community due to pandemic concerns. Fr. Q. Nguyen, as local superior, also took part in the meetings. They spoke of steps that could be taken to make the community environment safer in light of COVID-19. It was suggested that all staff wear masks when in the building; Fr. Q. Nguyen implemented this. However, some of the suggestions are more challenging, such as the request that only two people be seated at each table during meals, perhaps necessitating two seating times for each meal. Instead of the community chapel, it was suggested that prayer be in the Good Shepherd chapel, or as with meals, that the community be divided into separate prayer times to allow for fewer people in the chapel at once. Fr. Kilianski and Fr. Q. Nguyen decided not to implement these suggestions, in part, because they would further separate members of the community with divided mealtimes and prayer.
- N. David Schimmel — Fr. Kilianski shared with the council the note that he had received from David Schimmel which expressed his appreciation for the retirement luncheon and gifts.

#### IV. Personnel

- A. Transfers to the US Province — The council voted to approve the requests of Frs. Jerzy Mordalski and Rafael Querobin to transfer to the US Province. Both of their provincial superiors gave their approval. The requests will now be forwarded to the Superior General.
- B. Fr. Richard MacDonald — Fr. Richard MacDonald will transfer to the Sacred Heart Community at SHML by the beginning of 2021.

- C. Fr. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas — Fr. Castañeda is ministering with the SCJ community in Ecuador. However, efforts are continuing to be made to allow him to return to the United States. The province has engaged the assistance of a Benedictine monk who is also an immigration attorney; he has been in contact with the province attorney, Kathleen Dahlgren.
- D. Fr. Duy Nguyen — Fr. Kilianski has been in regular contact with Fr. D. Nguyen who is living in Houston during his leave of absence. Fr. D. Nguyen would like to return to the community following his leave. He has been in contact with Fr. Italo Dell’Oro, CRS, the vicar for religious in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, to find ministry during his leave. Fr. D. Nguyen lives in an economically challenged area and would like to have more opportunities to work with the poor.
- V. Next meeting — The council will meet to review these minutes following the November 17 Zoom assembly.

## Addendum A

**DATE:** November 18, 2020  
**TO:** Province SCJs  
**FROM:** Dn. David Nagel, SCJ

**RE:** Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2020

The Provincial Council on November 10, 2020 reviewed the financial audit for the Province. The Statement of Activities is summarized here:

<b>Support, Revenue, &amp; Other Gains:</b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 11,537,970	\$ 11,555,744
Cash on Hand (Beginning)	<u>3,209,280</u>	<u>7,794,610</u>
Revenue Available:	\$ 14,747,250	\$ 19,350,354
<b>Expenditures:</b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
Total program services	\$ 10,215,861	\$10,101,923
Administration and general	<u>1,708,294</u>	<u>1,696,667</u>
Total expenditures	\$ 11,927,155	\$ 11,798,590
Change in Net Assets	\$ ( 386,185)	\$ (4,342,484)
Reserve on Hand (Ending)	\$ <u>2,220,200</u>	\$ <u>3,209,280</u>

Expenses for most Province operations were about equal with the previous year. The most significant increase in cash on hand in 2019 was due to the sale of the Chicago Hyde Park property. The property sold for \$5.7 million and the proceeds from the sale were used for the remodeling of the Monastery/Seminary.

Worries about the pandemic started in March of 2020 but the CARES Act helped with payroll in the spring. The Payroll Payment Program provided for payroll expenses and allowed us to maintain staff.

The Priest of the Sacred Heart Development Office in Hales Corners gave \$4.75 million to the Province for operations and overseas missions. St. Joseph's Indian School has contributed \$4.7 million and SHSM \$800,000 to the Province. Contributions from other sources including rent from SHML increased Province income and helped to offset the expenses.

As of June 30, 2020 the Province Ministry Fund was \$ 2.97 million. The total reserves available for the Province needs were \$6.3 million which is about 6 months of surplus. Phase III of the remodeling project for

Sacred Heart Monastery and SHSST was postponed due to the pandemic. Costs have been reduced and the savings has helped with Province obligations.

**SCJ Medical Fund** expenses exceeded contributions due to increased costs as the Province membership continues to age.

**Medical Fund Activity 2020:**

Starting Balance:	\$ 256,374
Contributions:	\$ <u>1,492,213</u>
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$ 1,748,587
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$ <u>1,315,694</u>
<b>Gain/ (Loss):</b>	\$ 432,893

The monthly contribution was \$1,255 per SCJ member. The SCJ Medical Plan has stop-loss insurance of \$75,000 per member so the liability is limited to that amount and expenses over \$75,000 for an individual are reimbursed by the insurance carrier. The Provincial Chapter passed a resolution to fund the medical plan individual contribution at 92% of actual claims which the current premium should do. The actual claims history has exceeded projections during the last few years making it difficult to adequate forecast costs.

**Priests of the Sacred Heart Support & Maintenance Trust** continues to support those members of the Province who are not active in ministry. The Trust provides support to retired SCJs about \$1 million per year. The monthly support contribution from SCJs active in ministry was \$400 per person.

**The investments** for calendar year 2019 returned 21.9% which was up from previous years but in calendar year 2020 the return rate is 1.61% through the end of October which is okay. The calendar year 2020 has been bumpy as the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter was down -15% which is significant but the remaining quarters have recovered from there. Quarterly meetings are held with the investment committee and our consultants to review the investment activity. Monthly reports and frequent phone conversations are also used to manage the investments.

**Note:** These are a few of the financial highlights of the finances for Fiscal Year 2020. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this information.

## CALENDAR

December 15-16:	Provincial Council meeting
January 26-27, 2021	Provincial Council meeting
March 9-10:	Provincial Council meeting
May 4-5:	Provincial Council meeting
June 8:	Provincial Council conference call to discuss advancements in formation; time to be determined.
July 26-30:	Provincial Election Assembly
September 14-15:	Provincial Council meeting (transition of out-going and in-coming administrations).

## UPDATES

**Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec** has a new email address:  
zmorawiecscj@gmail.com

**Fr. Jean Claude Mbassi** has a new mobile phone number:  
605-222-9425

**Fr. Bill Marreeve** has a new email address:  
w.marreeve@gmail.com

**Fr. Duy Nguyen**  
4616 Buck Street  
Houston TX 77020

## NECROLOGY

+ **Fr. Franciszek Leżański, SCJ**, a member of the Polish Province, died on October 15. He was born in 1940, professed first vows in 1958, and was ordained priest on June 18, 1967.

+ **Fr. José Manuel de Jesús Ferreira** was killed by gunshot October 20 during a robbery attempt at his parish of San Juan Bautista, in San Carlos, Cojedes, Venezuela. He was 39, professed first vows with the SCJs in 2004, and was ordained to the priesthood in 2009. At the time of his death he was a priest with the diocese of San Carlos.

+ **Fr. Kazimierz Marekwa**, a member of the Polish Province, died on November 8. He was born in 1925, professed in 1949 and ordained in 1953.

+ **Br. Manuel Domingos de Castro Vasconcelos**, a member of the Portuguese Province, died on November 1. He was born in 1929 and professed in 1953.

+ **Fr. Stanislaw Mleczko**, a member of the Polish Province, died on October 30 of COVID-19. He was born in 1962, professed in 1983 and ordained in 1989.

+ **Father Mirosław Daniluk**, a member of the Polish Province, died on November 15. He was born in 1936, professed in 1953 and ordained in 1961.

+ **Br. Zbigniew Mańko**, a member of the Polish Province, died on November 15. He was born in 1951 and professed in 1925.