

This issue

Minutes of the
January 26-27, 2021, US
Provincial Council meet-
ing p. 1

Addendum A (revised
financial competencies),
p. 5

Calendar, p. 6

Updates, p. 6

Necrology, p. 6

U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

P.O. Box 289
Hales Corners, WI
53130-0289
www.dehoniansusa.org
414-425-6910

February 2021
Vol. LXII, No. 1

Minutes of the 906th US Provincial Council Meeting January 26-27, 2021

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior (video conference); Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps (video conference), Fr. Christianus Hendrik (video conference), and Fr. Vien Nguyen (video conference), councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary (video conference). Fr. Charles Brown was present for discussion of the Dehon Study Center; Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SHSST president-rector, joined by video conference for an update on the seminary; Fr. Joseph-Thien Dinh and Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec joined by video/phone conference for updates on the formation program. Excused: Br. Andy Gancarczyk.

- I. Check-in — Councilors updated each other on themselves, their ministries and communities. The Mississippi and the Sacred Heart Monastery communities have both had positive cases of COVID-19. Each community quarantined after learning of members' positive test result. All cases have been fairly mild, with fatigue being one of the most significant symptoms reported. Clergy (defined as "spiritual care providers") have been included among the early groups allowed to be vaccinated; several SCJs in various areas of the province have received their first shot or been put on waiting lists for vaccination. The Lower Brule Pastoral Team has had a significant number of funerals; 16 have been related to COVID-19.
- II. Finances
 - A. Province Development Office — The Development Office mailings have seen good success; the office was able to increase its contribution to the province last year. The revised mailing plan is working well; work is in process toward next year's plan. The province will not request a second PPP loan because its income level no longer makes it eligible for the pandemic relief.
 - B. SHSST Renovation — Work is underway on the remodeling and updating project at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. The initial focus is on asbestos abatement and demolition. Building plans have been approved by the necessary governmental agencies. A construction meeting was to take place soon after the council meetings.
 - C. Trustees — The current members of the Support and Maintenance Trust and the Lay Employee Pension Trust have all agreed to serve another three-year term (2021-2024). In individual votes for each trust, the council voted to reappoint the following trustees:
 1. Support and Maintenance Trust — Fr. Jim Walters, Fr. Quang Nguyen and Br. Ray Kozuch.
 2. Retirement Trust — Fr. Wayne Jenkins, Fr. Quang Nguyen and Br. Frank Presto.
 - D. Procedural Audit — The Procedural Audit was to be done in February but is ahead of schedule. No procedural concerns have been identified in the draft. Once finalized, a letter will be sent to stakeholders with the results of the audit. The audit is being done by CliftonLarsonAllen, which has done the audit for several years. They are reviewing the investment procedures for the Growth and the Charitable Gift Annuity Pools.
 - E. Financial Competencies — Reflecting the adjusted competency guidelines established in Rome, Dn. David Nagel prepared a revised set of US Province financial competencies. The competency limit for the provincial superior and Provincial Council is now \$5 million for the administration of assets; the competency limit for extraordinary administration of free

capital is \$750,000. Anything over these limits needs the approval of the General Curia. The Provincial Council voted to approve the revised financial competencies for the province. The full list is attached as Addendum A.

- F. India — The council voted to approve granting the District of India \$20,000 to purchase a new vehicle for the philosophy program. It will replace the current house vehicle that is almost 15 years old.
- G. Province Finance Commission — Fr. Bob Tucker's seat on the Province Finance Commission needs to be filled. Dn. Nagel will present suggestions at the March council meeting.
- H. Thank you — Fr. Kilianski thanked Dn. Nagel and his staff (John Kuxhause and Kevin Stanke) for their continued efforts regarding the province's finances.

III. Administration

- A. South Dakota — Fr. Bernie Rosinski is continuing to give classes (remotely) to the deacons in South Dakota. Both he and Fr. Joe Dean have been assisting with masses at St. Joseph's Indian School. Fr. Jean-Claude Mbassi recently passed his driver's test but has a medical appointment to attend to before he can be fully assigned to the Lower Brule Pastoral Team. It is hoped that he can go to South Dakota on or around February 10. Fr. Praveen Kumar Richard has begun assisting Fr. Hendrik with pastoral needs on the reservations. It was noted that staff at St. Joseph's Indian School are helping the pastoral team with bookkeeping.
- B. Advancement in Orders — Fr. V. Nguyen noted that when a seminarian at SHSST is up for advancement in orders, the typical protocol involves Faculty Council feedback. This allows comments from those who have had encounters with the seminarian in a variety of settings to share information about his strengths and weaknesses, and his development beyond academic concerns. The information is advisory to a bishop or provincial superior. When SCJ seminarians attended Catholic Theological Union, the school only offered input on the academic portion of a student's development since it was not a seminary. The SCJ formation program has continued with that model, though the theology students are now in a seminary setting at SHSST. Councilors were in favor of the SCJ seminarians following the same protocol as others at SHSST, adding that additional feedback may be helpful when making significant decisions regarding a seminarian's advancement. Fr. V. Nguyen will inform SHSST that SCJ seminarians will follow the same procedures as others.
- C. Formation — Frs. Joseph-Thien Dinh and Zbigniew Morawiec joined the council for updates on the formation program. Both joined remotely since the Sacred Heart Monastery Community is under quarantine following a member testing positive for COVID-19.

It was noted that Frater Thien Nguyen will return to Vietnam to continue his studies when flights are available; he is taking ECS classes while waiting for borders to open. Fr. Morawiec is his formator until he leaves. Fr. Kilianski emphasized that Frater T. Nguyen needs to communicate with his formator, especially in regard to his plans to return to Vietnam.

Fr. Morawiec spoke in general about the first semester. Overall, there is a good spirit in the community. Students participate regularly in community prayer and fellowship; several have been very active in assisting with the video project. Younger students are maturing well in their human formation. The formation team meets every morning to communicate concerns and plans for the day. There have been challenges, but they have been minimal. It can be difficult at times to get some students to be fully open in their communication. Fr. Dinh echoed much of what Fr. Morawiec said, adding that all students are doing well academically, some earning better marks during the fall semester than they did previously. No student asked to drop a class. Fr. V. Nguyen said that when he visits the community, especially for social activities, there is a good energy with the seminarians.

The formators said that while communication within the formation community is good, there is room for improvement regarding communication with the monastery community as a whole.

Fr. Frank Wittouck and Fr. Ed Zemlik have been a good presence with the formation community; both enjoy interacting with the students.

Fr. Kilianski noted that the celebration of Postulancy was wonderful to be a part of; Br. Presto will be in contact with the formators to define what steps need to be taken in preparation for Entrance to Novitiate.

Frs. Dinh and Morawiec were thanked for their service to the province and the congregation.

D. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SHSST president-rector, joined the council to share updates on the school. Because of the current COVID-19 infection rate, the seminary decided to hold the first two weeks of classes totally online. A decision was to be made by the end of the week as to whether classes would soon transition to a hybrid model. Staff have also been meeting — both socially and for seminary concerns — via Zoom. Zoom coffee breaks and trivia nights have been a way to build a sense of community when few staff get to see each other. There will also be combined meetings of the Rector’s Cabinet with staff to foster communication. SHSST recently learned that it was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Catholic Community Foundation of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for the purpose of lay ministry education scholarships. The seminary will also apply for a second PPP loan.

The seminary is looking at its staffing needs for the next academic year.

Fr. Gómez was asked about the master’s program with SCJ students from India. It continues, though because of the pandemic, no students have been able to come to the United States and no instructors have been able to go to India. It is hoped that once the pandemic is under control that the program can return to its original model.

Fr. Gomez was also asked about various tests that applicants are expected to take, including IQ tests and psychological assessments. Are standard tests appropriate for those who come from outside of North America, or who do not speak English as a first language? Fr. Gómez noted that there are a variety of options that take into account international backgrounds. For example, Fr. Francis Vu Tran, the superior of the Vietnamese District, has indicated that he could have psychological tests done on potential SHSST students in Vietnam. There is also the possibility of accepting a student conditionally, allowing him to take SHSST courses and postpone psychological and IQ tests until he gains greater proficiency in the English language and US culture.

Fr. Gómez and Fr. V. Nguyen will be in communication to ensure that all SCJ students arrange to take the tests necessary for them to move forward in their formation and seminary education.

Fr. Kilianski thanked Fr. Gómez for his service to the province, noting that he is grateful that the rector emphasizes the Dehonian nature of the seminary.

E. Dehon Study Center — Fr. Charles Brown joined the council for discussion of the Dehon Study Center. He presented a proposed list of names for the center’s advisory board. The council voted to approve the following to the Dehon Study Center Advisory Board:

- Jennifer Bartholomew (SHSST Director of Library and Academic Support Services)
- Fr. Joseph Dean
- Fr. John Czyzynski
- Barbara Graham (Program Director of the Milwaukee Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services)
- Fr. John van den Hengel.

Fr. Charles would like to also include a student from the formation community on the board; it is hoped that the center can be a regular resource to the formation program.

After discussing the board, Fr. Brown discussed the location of the center; he hopes that the center can be housed at SHSST, near the Leo John Dehon Library. This would make it more easily accessible to others, especially those in the SCJ formation program. It would also benefit from the expertise of the library staff in regard to cataloguing the information and seeking ways to preserve materials. Fr. Brown envisions a collaborative relationship with the archives; archive displays are currently in the area that is proposed for the center. Some have raised HVAC concerns about the area; can delicate items be stored in the proposed location? Mark Wenzel, province director of buildings and grounds, has been consulted and does not think that it will be difficult to make the necessary adjustments. Fr. Brown has also consulted with Pam Milczarski to determine whether the location would interfere with donor activities. Most likely the donor tree would need to be relocated, but otherwise, she saw no conflict. Some have proposed that the DSC be located in the Provincial Office Building/Conference Center; there is space in the vocation office. However, this would not be as accessible as SHSST, and further from the assistance of library staff.

If the center is located at SHSST, councilors noted that its relationship with the seminary needs to be clearly defined so that it remains a congregational entity in collaboration with SHSST, not a department of the seminary.

Fr. Brown was asked to more fully clarify what he sees as the direction of the DSC, and the next steps that need to be taken in regard to that vision, and share these with the Provincial Council at its March meeting. He was encouraged to work with the Advisory Board.

Fr. Brown was thanked for his work.

- F. Election Assembly — Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú approved extending the term of the current provincial administration until February 7, 2022. This allows postponement of the Province Election Assembly (due to the pandemic) to January 3-7, 2022. The council reviewed a draft of the revised timelines prepared by Br. Presto. It was suggested that the State of the Province be sent to SCJs by October 15, 2021. Br. Presto noted that the council needs to be mindful of recent delays with the US Postal Service and allow for extra time in all mailings. Information can be shared electronically, but discernment ballots need to be returned by USPS or fax. Councilors briefly discussed the State of the Province report, suggesting that it be a mix of printed materials received prior to the assembly and a video to be viewed at the assembly.

Br. Presto will have a revised set of protocols, based on the protocols used at the previous six elections, for the council to review at its March meeting.

G. Membership

1. Fr. Mark Mastin — He is now a member of the St. Joseph's Community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. After a period of quarantine, he has joined the community at meals and prayer, and is assisting with daily Mass at SHSST.
2. Fr. Thi Pham — Fr. Pham is expected back at the Sacred Heart Community at SHML in March; he is currently traveling as part of his sabbatical.

- H. Fr. Bob Tucker's funeral — The funeral for Fr. Tucker will be at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake on Saturday, February 6. The wake will be at 9:30 a.m. and the funeral mass at 10:30. Because of the pandemic, attendance will be limited to local SCJs. Mary Gorski will make arrangements for a livestream.

- IV. Next meeting — The council will meet by conference call / video on Monday, February 1, at 10:45 a.m. to review the minutes.

Addendum A

COMPETENCIES FOR EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURES

1. Provincial Administrators:

Limits:

Provincial Council (set by Generalate)	\$5,000,000
Extraordinary Administration of Free Capital	750,000
Provincial Superior	125,000
Provincial Treasurer	75,000
Vice-Provincial	30,000
Provincial Secretary	30,000
Director of Hales Corners Development	75,000
Executive Director St. Joseph's	75,000
Executive Director SHSM	75,000
Rector SHSST	75,000
Director of Formation/Vocations	20,000
Director of ECS Program	20,000
Director of Senior Personnel	20,000
Director of Dehonian Affiliates	20,000
Director of Justice & Peace	20,000
Foreign Mission Secretary	15,000
Foreign Mission Procurator	35,000

2. Local Administrators:

Local Council	\$30,000
Local Superior	15,000

Priests of the Sacred Heart Board of Directors (MS)	\$100,000
Sacred Heart Seminary & School of Theology Board of Directors	100,000
Cong. of Priests of the Sacred Heart Board of Directors [SD]	100,000

3. Special Cases:

- a. Purchase of cars: The normal trading of a car for a new one is within the competency of the local administrators. Any purchase of an additional vehicle—new or used, and regardless of price—must be approved by the Provincial Superior in consultation with the Provincial Treasurer.
- b. Equipment for fund-raising offices. The above limits apply to the purchase of equipment for the offices, regardless of whether the machine is to replace an old machine or not. For the rental of equipment, its purchase price must be considered; the same approvals are needed as would be needed for its purchase.

Note 1: Each of the above-named administrative bodies may delegate lower competency levels to groups and/or other individuals within the corresponding entities.

Note 2: The administrators of entities receiving subsidy from the Province or from some other body are also limited by the amount of subsidy approved in their budget. If an expenditure approved by an entity cannot be made without exceeding its budgeted subsidy, it cannot be made unless an increase in subsidy is first approved.

Approved by PC: January 27, 2021

CALENDAR

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.
September 14-15:	Provincial Council meeting
January 3-7, 2022:	Provincial Election Assembly

Provincial Visitation schedule (meetings will be done via Zoom and in-person):

St. Michael Community in Mississippi from February 2-4
South Dakota from February 8-10
Sacred Heart Community, Pinellas Park, FL, from February 22-25
Texas from March 1-4
March 15-17 meetings with individuals who were not covered in the community visitations.

UPDATES

Frater Henry Nguyen - while he is in Ecuador he can be reached at the following:

WhatsApp: +593-99-239-3232

Phone (CELL): 714-798 -3253

Email: Hdm.scj@gmail.com

Fr. Mark Mastin - he is now a member of the St. Joseph's Community at SHML

NECROLOGY

+ **Fr. Józef Cebula**, a member of the Polish Province, died on December 27. He was born in 1950, professed in 1969 and ordained in 1975.

+ **Fr. Aloísio Back**, a member of the Brazil – Sao Paulo Province, died January 6. He was born in 1952, professed in 1973 and ordained in 1982.

+ **Fr. Messias Alberto Lopes**, a member of the Mozambique Province, died January 9. He was born in 1970, professed in 1998 and ordained in 2005.

+ **Fr. Johannes van Berkel**, a member of the NLV Province, died on January 10. He was born in 1929, professed in 1950 and ordained in 1955.

+ **Fr. Alphonsus Maria Dingelstad**, a member of the NLV Province, died on January 11. He was born in 1922, professed in 1944, and ordained in 1949.

+ **Cardinal Eusébio Oscar Scheid**, retired and living as a member of the Brazil-Sao Paulo Province, died on January 13. He was born in 1932, professed in 1954, ordained to the priesthood in 1960 and ordained a bishop in 1981. He was named a cardinal in 2003.

+ **Frater Rakotoniaina Christian Barthélemy**, a member of the Region of Madagascar, died on January 15. He was born in 1997 and professed his first vows in 2019.

+ **Fr. Robert Tucker**, a member of the US Province, died January 23. He was born in 1952, professed in 1975 and ordained in 1982.

+ **Fr. Sergio Filippi**, a member of the Portuguese Province, died on January 28. He was born in 1935, professed in 1952, and ordained in 1961.

+ **Fr. Ezio Toller**, a member of the Mozambique Province, died on January 26. He was born in 1936, professed first vows in 1954 and was ordained in 1964.