

# Cor Unum

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## This issue

Minutes of the  
June 28-29, 2022,  
US Provincial Council  
meeting, p. 1

Calendar, p. 7

Updates, p. 7

Necrology, p. 7

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## Minutes of the 918th US Provincial Council Meeting June 28-29, 2022, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Vien Nguyen, Provincial Superior, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Rafael Querobin, Fr. Greg Schill, Br. Duane Lemke and Dn. David Nagel, Councilors; Br. Frank Presto, Provincial Secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Mike Tyrell, Jenny Meyer and Kory Christianson joined the meeting via Zoom for updates on St. Joseph's Indian School. Fr. Byron Haaland was present for a report on the novices.

- I. Check-in — Councilors updated each other on themselves, their ministries, and communities.  
Items of note:
  - A. There are some significant changes to the membership of the St. Joseph's Community at SHML this summer. New members include Fr. Son Nguyen, Fr. Francis Vu Tran (moving in during the summer following the completion of his second term as district superior of Vietnam) and Dn. Henry Nguyen. Of course, Fr. Ed Kilianski's death also impacts the community.
  - B. At the time of his death Fr. Kilianski was on a road trip, visiting places and people of significance to him. He briefly spent time with the SCJ community in Mississippi, and was able to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston before heading west and enjoying a sunrise at the Grand Canyon on the way to California. Shortly before the trip, Fr. Kilianski traveled to Buffalo, NY, to visit with family. Br. Presto is working with authorities in California to have his body released and sent to Wisconsin.
  - C. Br. Lemke said that he has been well-received in his new role as local superior of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML. He is learning the needs of various members and working collaboratively with staff.
  - D. Fr. Tim Gray is traveling; he was with the Mississippi community and will soon go to the Holy Land with a Neocatechumen group. Frater Hung Pham has been a good presence in the Houston community during his summer ministry; he is trying to learn some Spanish.
  - E. Frater Thuan Nguyen and Alfonso Pizano have been doing student ministry in Mississippi and spending time with the community there. Fr. Louis Mariano Fernandes is in India for a home visit and to update his visa paperwork. Seven members of the original group of Lay Dehonians in Mississippi renewed their commitment during the Mass for the feast of the Sacred Heart at Christ the King parish in Southaven, MS. Approximately 35 people will make their initial commitment next month during Fr. V. Nguyen's visit. Another group is expected to begin the Lay Dehonian study plan in September.
  - F. The house in Lower Brule has mold issues that are being addressed. Frater Paul Phong Hoang is completing his pastoral year there; he has been an excellent presence in community and ministry.
  - G. Fr. V. Nguyen had a good visit in South Dakota and was able to meet with both bishops of the dioceses in which the SCJs serve.
- II. Visioning — In early April, the council took part in a planning retreat that addressed the three pillars of focus for the current administration: Spirituality, Community, and Mission and Ministry. Time is set aside at each meeting to continue to discuss and review efforts in the three areas.

- A. Spirituality — At their last meeting, councilors discussed province retreats. It was noted that retreats are not just a time for spiritual renewal, but also fraternal renewal. It was suggested that the retreats be held in a setting conducive to relaxation. An outside speaker would be invited to address topics related to Dehonian spirituality and themes. Retreats would not be mandatory. Fr. V. Nguyen will contact possible speakers.

Several speakers have been contacted about giving presentations / recollections during Advent and Lent for both SCJs and employees (two different presentations by each speaker, one for employees, one for SCJs). Presenters will include Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI (Zoom presentation), and Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA (mix of in-person and Zoom). Possible themes for the Advent presentation: 1) Welcome to the Spirit, 2) Longing for the love of the Sacred Heart, and 3) Ecce Ancilla. An Advent theme for employees might center on the challenge of making room for Jesus during the busyness of the holidays. Suggested themes for Lent: 1) Reconciliation, 2) Water, and 3) Moving forward in times of uncertainty. Concerning the employee presentations, speakers are to be reminded that not all employees are Catholic.

Also, work will soon begin on resurrecting the publication *As a Rule*, which offered reflections on the SCJ Constitutions.

- B. Community — A meeting of local superiors is tentatively scheduled for September 20-21 in Florida. The proposed plan is to have the superiors spend the first day relaxing together at an AirBnB or similar, and then spend the following day at the SCJ community house in Pinellas Park discussing common topics and seeking ways to support one another in efforts to enhance community living throughout the province. Fr. V. Nguyen will confirm the date and location with local superiors. Possible themes for the gathering: spirituality, community life, internationality and multicultural living, and preparation for community life.
- C. Mission and Ministry — The council identified four questions to help them focus on the third pillar: 1) How do we sustain our present ministries, 2) How do we foster collaboration in our ministries, 3) What is the Spirit calling us to regarding new ministry, and 4) How can we effectively do ministry with young adults?

The province will continue to invite international SCJs to come to the United States for community and ministry, but it will also focus on enhancing collaboration among SCJs and lay staff. This means identifying and preparing lay people for leadership roles. Such preparation must address the person's professional tasks, but also his or her understanding and commitment to Dehonian spirituality. Opportunities for continuing education on Dehonian spirituality must be offered for all employees on a regular basis.

It was noted that international SCJs have been invaluable to the US Province, but their time in the United States is often tenuous and they make significant sacrifices to serve here. For example, some international SCJs do not go back to their home provinces very often because they are unsure if they will have difficulties crossing back into the United States. They truly live the immigrant experience.

There has been discussion of looking at new ways of doing ministry. For example, how can some of the administrative tasks of pastors be done by others so that SCJs in parishes can spend more time in direct ministry to parishioners? Is the province willing to help a parish fund a lay staff person for administrative work if the parish is unable to do so on its own? Besides making SCJs more available for direct ministry, how else does the province make the parishes it serves "more Dehonian." Also, how does the province help SCJs with a more traditional view of the pastor's responsibilities be open to new ways of administering a parish? How can the province enhance the team ministry approach to parishes? Fr. V. Nguyen and the council envision having a meeting with SCJs in pastoral ministry to better learn about their needs and concerns. This has been scheduled for September 8 from 10:00 a.m. to noon (central).

It was suggested that collaborative ministry be discussed and taught in formation. Also, long-range planning would be a helpful way to address collaboration. How does the province envision the operation of its ministries in the next 10 or 20 years?

The council recognized the repeated request for some type of new Dehonian ministry aimed at youth and/or young adults. Instead of being based out of any one parish or ministry, it was suggested that such a ministry have a wider reach, creating opportunities for young people in a variety of settings. For example, youth or young adults from SCJ parishes could be invited to take part in a volunteer ministry week with Sacred Heart Southern Missions. It is also important to find ways of reaching out to youth outside of SCJ parishes.

Fr. V. Nguyen and Fr. Duy Nguyen are looking into possibilities for a new social service ministry in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Could this incorporate youth volunteers? Could lay employees be invited to be a part of it to serve others while learning more about Dehonian spirituality?

III. Prayers for Fr. Ed Kilianski — The council began its Tuesday afternoon session with prayers for Fr. Kilianski, using the prayer service in *This Day of God* to be used upon learning of the death of a confrere.

IV. Finance

- A. Investments — The Investment Committee met in May to review first quarter returns; market returns were down 7.7% through May 1. However, May returns were up a few points in comparison to April. The SCJs have a strong history of diversification which helps to weather challenging market swings.
- B. Province Development Office — In general, the fiscal year has been positive. Use of simpler direct mail packages has contained costs while producing good income. However, income overall is down, especially monthly pledges. There is concern among all charities regarding the impact of the challenging economy on giving.
- C. Cost of living adjustments — Most of the province entities are giving employees a bonus in July to offset the impact of inflation. Performance reviews and raises are also done at this time. It was noted that increases in pay are sometimes negated later in the year when the medical insurance premiums for employees are increased. Depending on the amount of increase, the province could consider a second bonus at the beginning of the year to help offset the added insurance cost.
- D. Audits — CLA has again been hired to do the audits for the Province Development Office and the Provincial Offices. Auditing will be done in August and reports are to be completed in late fall. The cost of the audits has gone up 20%; however, the province negotiated the increase to 15%.
- E. Christopher Lambert — Mr. Lambert, Vice President of Finance and Business Services for SHSST, has taken the position of Director of Financial Services for the province. He will begin to work parttime with John Kuxhause to prepare to take on the province accountant's tasks at the end of the year when Mr. Kuxhause retires.
- F. International fundraisers' meeting — Fr. Luca Zottoli, General Treasurer, is organizing an international meeting for those involved in fundraising for the congregation; it will take place September 12-14 at the Provincial Conference Center. Dn. David Nagel is assisting with arrangements. A meeting of the General Finance Commission will take place in conjunction with the gathering.
- G. St. John's Ministries — Fr. V. Nguyen received a request for a donation toward the building of a homeless shelter for St. John's Ministries in Green Bay, WI. The organization is trying to raise \$9 million. Fr. Guy Blair was instrumental in developing homeless outreach through the parish when he was at St. John the Evangelist. The council agreed to donate \$25,000 to the project.

V. Formation

- A. Frater Hung Pham — The council voted to approve Frater Pham's request for vow renewals.
- B. Frater Paul Phong Hoang — The council voted to approve Frater Hoang's request for vow renewals. The council also voted to approve Frater Hoang's request to begin his final vows program when he returns from his ministry assignment. Fr. John Czyzynski will be his final vows director.
- C. Novices — Fr. Byron Haaland, novice master, joined the council in its review of the novices who are requesting permission to make their first professions.

After Fr. Haaland left the room, the council voted individually on the First Profession requests:

1. Jonathan Nguyen Vuong — The council voted to approve Jonathan Nguyen Vuong for First Profession.
2. Jacob Smith — The council voted to approve Jacob Smith for First Profession.
3. Michael Wodarczyk — The council voted to approve Michael Wodarczyk for First Profession.

Br. Presto will inform the novices of their approval via email.

## VI. Administration

- A. Sacred Heart Monastery — At the last council meeting, Fr. Duy Nguyen was named the local superior of Sacred Heart Monastery. The full leadership team named by the council for SHM:
  - Fr. Duy Nguyen: local superior
  - Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh: first councilor
  - Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec: second councilor
  - Fr. Byron Haaland: third councilor
  - Fr. Ed Zemlik: treasurer
- B. Sacred Heart Community at SHML — At the last council meeting Br. Duane Lemke was named as local superior of the Sacred Heart Community. The full leadership team named by the council for the Sacred Heart Community:
  - Br. Duane Lemke: local superior
  - Br. Brian Tompkins: first councilor
  - Fr. Richard MacDonald: second councilor
  - Br. Brian Tompkins: Treasurer
- C. South Dakota visitation — Fr. V. Nguyen recently did a visitation of the SCJs in South Dakota. He noted that they gather once a month but encouraged them to meet more often as it is possible. It is hoped that sisters from a community in the Philippines will be able to join the pastoral team; Fr. V. Nguyen has been in communication with a diocesan order in Cagayan de Oro.
- D. Novitiate visitation — The visitation of the novitiate was a good opportunity for Fr. V. Nguyen to get to know the novices better. There will be no novitiate during the 2022-23 academic year; another SCJ will be invited to live in the house to help maintain community life with the absence of novices.
- E. Retirement workshop — Br. Wayne Fitzpatrick, MM, Managing Director of Senior Care and Transition Services for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, as well as assistant regional superior of the community, has agreed to give a workshop for SCJs preparing for retirement. It will most likely be scheduled for a day during the week of April 24-28. The workshop will be open to pre-retirees as well as those who are already retired. An invitee list needs to be developed. There are enough topics that the workshop could easily be expanded from one day to two. It was suggested that Br. Fitzpatrick join the council at a future meeting via Zoom to discuss possibilities for the workshop.
- F. Province Assembly — The Province Assembly will take place August 16-18 in Hales Corners / Franklin; SCJs are asked to make their own travel and lodging arrangements. A schedule and RSVP instructions for the assembly will be sent to SCJs within the next week. The Province Jubilees will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. on the first evening, August 16. First Professions will take place the day before, August 15, also at 4:30 p.m. Invitations for the professions will be out soon. Br. Lemke is leading the organization of the assembly. Fr. Kurps is serving as liturgist for the professions and jubilee celebrations as well as the assembly itself. Mary Gorski will assist Br. Lemke with the assembly invitations. Fr. Jack will take the lead on the invitations for the jubilees and professions.
- G. 2023 US Provincial Chapter — The chapter is scheduled to begin the week of July 24, 2023. Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, will be the facilitator. The length of the chapter will be determined once there is a better sense of the tasks that need to be completed. Delegates must be mindful that they need to be present for the full chapter. Br. Presto presented an outline of the tasks that need to be completed in preparation for the chapter. The province celebration of the centenary will take place at the beginning of the chapter (or just before the chapter is opened). Br. Presto was thanked for his work with initial chapter preparations.
- H. General Chapter — The XXV General Chapter will take place in Rome June 14 through July 5, 2024. This allows for a two-week chapter, plus a third week if needed.
- I. SHSST housing — Following the renovation of the student section of SHSST, there are fewer rooms available for students. Fr. Raúl Gómez Ruiz, rector, asked Fr. V. Nguyen if the SCJs would be open to building a new wing with offices on the bottom and student rooms above.

Another possibility: some SCJs have suggested that the province formation program, or portions of it, be physically separated from SHM / SHSST. If this were done, perhaps some areas could be reconfigured to allow for more student space for SHSST. The SCJs' old 37<sup>th</sup> Street property is available; however, having a residence closer to SHSST and other province communities is preferred. Dn. Nagel agreed to chair a committee to review the housing needs of the various province formation programs and how they can best be configured in the Hales Corners - Franklin area.

J. Membership

1. Fr. Bob Naglich — Fr. Naglich asked Fr. V. Nguyen for driving privileges and to be reinstated to ministry. Fr. V. Nguyen intends to keep the same restrictions in place for the same reasons that his predecessors did.
  2. Fr. Francis Vu Tran — Fr. Tran will move to the St. Joseph's Community this summer following the completion of his second term as district superior of Vietnam.
  3. Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec — Fr. Morawiec returns from his sabbatical in late July. He will serve as SHSST Vice Rector, SHSST Associate Director of Formation, and Director of Dehonian Mission for the seminary.
  5. Br. Diego Diaz — Br. Diaz plans on a home visit to Argentina August 19 – September 19. He said that he would like to return to the United States.
  6. Br. Andy Gancarczyk — Br. Gancarczyk's sabbatical ends in December.
  7. Fr. Charles Brown — Fr. Brown would like to focus on giving presentations on Dehonian spirituality and scripture in other entities, similar to the work that he has previously done. Fr. General suggested this. Fr. V. Nguyen asked Fr. Brown to put a proposal together for the council to review.
  8. Fr. Joseph Mukuna — Fr. Mukuna is hoping to finish his dissertation by September.
  9. Fr. Francois Tsanga — There had been questions about Fr. Tsanga identifying as an SCJ while ministering in the Diocese of Brownsville. Br. Presto clarified his status. Fr. Tsanga is excommunicated for the purpose of incardination into the Diocese of Brownsville. He has no rights as an SCJ, and the community has no obligations to him, but he may identify as an SCJ until the process is complete.
- K. St. Joseph's Indian School — Mike Tyrell, Jenny Meyer and Kory Christianson of St. Joseph's Indian School joined the council via Zoom to give a general update on the school's mission. They emphasized the school's holistic approach to education, ensuring that students receive not only a strong academic education, but knowledge about their Lakota culture and traditions, as well as healthcare and family outreach and support. Dehonian spirituality is regularly emphasized as the backbone of the school and its mission; new employees receive an introduction to Dehonian spirituality and the Priests of the Sacred Heart as a part of their orientation. Fr. Greg Schill, school chaplain, has given several presentations to staff on Dehonian topics.

St. Joseph's supports several outreach programs, including the Sacred Heart Center in Eagle Butte, SD, and Native Hope, a storytelling project for Lakota people based out of Chamberlain. Through Native Hope, the school is funding a missing person specialist position created in the South Dakota state Attorney General's Office.

Regarding development, Mr. Christianson noted the growth in digital fundraising.

School administration is mindful of the possible impact of news about the Canadian indigenous residential schools; in April Pope Francis apologized for the actions of members of the Catholic church in connection to the schools. The Superior General of the Jesuits is expected to make a statement as well. St. Joseph's current model is centered on family-like residential settings, much different than the dormitory settings of years ago.

- L. St. Martin of Tours — Fr. Andrzej Sudol will begin as pastor of SMOT on July 1; he is to be installed on July 3.
- M. Social outreach ministry in Milwaukee — Fr. V. Nguyen and Fr. Duy Nguyen have done preliminary investigations regarding social outreach ministry in Milwaukee. Fr. V. Nguyen spoke about this with Archbishop Listecki, who gave him some helpful suggestions. One of the next steps is for the SCJs to speak to the alderpersons in areas where new ministry might take place to find out the needs of the areas.

- N. PPF-6 — The sixth edition of the Program for Priestly Formation was recently released; Fr. V. Nguyen took part in a CMSM webinar on June 22 to go over some of the changes. Previous academic stages of formation are replaced with the following: Propaedeutic, Discipleship, Configuration and Vocation Synthesis. SHSST is examining how the changes will affect its program for seminarians, and the SCJs (as well as other religious orders) are investigating how their own formation ratios are impacted by the PPF-6. In some ways, the revision mirrors much of what is already called for by the Formation Ratio. The impact of the PPF-6 on religious communities will continue to be discussed at the CMSM gathering in August and in a second webinar in September.
- O. Dehon Lecture — The next Dehon Lecture is tentatively scheduled for October 19. Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana will speak on social justice. The cardinal was one of the presenters at the General Conference in February. There is to be an evening with the SCJ community; this would include a dinner and a presentation. Fr. Mark Mastin is making the arrangements with the cardinal.
- P. Philippine sisters — As noted previously, a women's religious community is interested in ministry in South Dakota. Fr. V. Nguyen will travel to the Philippines in October to visit with the sisters. The sisters' community is based in Cagayan de Oro on Mindanao. The SCJ community there is familiar with them. It was suggested that Fr. V. Nguyen bring with him videos of the area in which the sisters would minister, as well as information about some of the significant challenges that the people on the reservations face. Also, Fr. V. Nguyen will address the practicalities of being an international religious worker in the United States, including the need for health insurance.

Fr. V. Nguyen noted that when he is out of the country Fr. Kurps is the acting provincial superior. When possible, Fr. V. Nguyen is available via electronic communication for consultation.

- Q. Congolese Province — The Congolese Province is celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SCJ presence in the country. The celebration is scheduled for October. When details are available, Fr. V. Nguyen suggested that he and perhaps another councilor attend.
- R. CMSM National Assembly — Fr. V. Nguyen encouraged councilors to take part in the August 2-4 National Assembly in Buffalo, NY. The theme is "One in the Mission of Christ: Co-responsibility in Religious Leadership."
- S. NRVC — Fr. V. Nguyen renewed the province's membership in the National Religious Vocation Conference. This allows the province discounted access to NRVC's resources.
- T. WYD — Fr. V. Nguyen asked Fr. Hendrik Ardianto to join them at a council meeting in the fall to update councilors on plans for World Youth Day. Fr. Ardianto is leading the US Province preparations and delegation to WYD. The council wants to make sure that Fr. Ardianto has whatever support he needs.

VII. Next meeting — The Provincial Council will next meet via Zoom on July 5 at 1:30 p.m. (central).

## CALENDAR

### 2022

August 10: Provincial Council teleconference TBA  
August 15: First Professions  
August 16: Province Jubilee Celebrations  
August 16-18: Province Assembly  
September 8: Meeting of Council and Local Superiors (10:00 a.m. to noon, central, via Zoom)  
September 12-14: International Fundraisers meeting in Hales Corners, WI (organized by the General Treasurer's office)  
September 27-28: Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI  
October 19 (tentative): Dehon Lecture, SHSST (Cardinal Peter Turkson)  
November 9-10: Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI  
December 20-21: Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI

### 2023

July 16: Centennial celebration in Lower Brule, SD  
July 24: Start date of the 2023 US Provincial Chapter

### 2024

June 14 - July 5: General Chapter, Rome

## UPDATES

**Bishop Joseph Potocnak** has a new cell number, and his room phone has been added to the directory:

Phone (CELL): 727-350-0034  
Phone (ROOM): 414-409-4829

**Fr. Fabio dos Santos**

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**Fr. Bill Marrevee's** corrected email address: wmarrevee@gmail.com

**Dn. Henry Nguyen** corrected cell: 714-653-2153

**Br. Duane Lemke**

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## NECROLOGY

+**Fr. Claude Bédard**, a member of the Canadian Region, died on May 28. He was born in 1940, professed in 1960 and ordained in 1966.

+**Fr. Ed Kilianski**, a member of the US Province, died on June 26. He was born in 1954, professed in 1975 and ordained in 1983.

+ **Fr. André Perroux**, a member of the Franco European Province, died on May 18. He was born in 1931, professed in 1949 and ordained in 1957.