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U.S. Province Priests of the Sacred Heart

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October, 2022
Vol. LXIII, No. 5

Minutes of the 923rd US Provincial Council Meeting September 27-28, 2022, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Vien Nguyen, Provincial Superior, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Greg Schill (via Zoom), Br. Duane Lemke and Dn. David Nagel, Councilors; Br. Frank Presto, Provincial Secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Raúl Gomez Ruiz joined the council for discussion of SHSST. Fr. Hendrik Ardianto was with the council via Zoom for an update on plans for World Youth Day. Excused: Fr. Rafael Querobin.

- I. Check-in — Councilors updated each other on themselves, their ministries, and communities. Items of note:
 - A. Fr. Jim Schroeder and Br. Duane Lemke assisted Dn. David Nagel in hosting visitors in Hales Corners for the international fundraisers meeting. During the meeting, the group developed a proposal for the General Council to review regarding a fundraising project for the General Administration in the United States. The General Curia is already listed in the Catholic Directory so it could quickly get started as a 501(c)(3); it would most likely take more time to get established in another country. The proposal has not yet been reviewed by the general administration.
 - B. Several entities have requested financial assistance from the US Province for various projects. Dn. Nagel is in communication with the general treasurer; there is a contingency fund for such items that are not in the budget.
 - C. A nurse now comes to visit Fr. Bernie Rosinski three times a week; Fr. Schill and Fr. Joe Dean help him as needed. St. Joseph's Indian School offers a good network of support. At-home hospice resources are very limited in rural South Dakota. Although Fr. Rosinski is physically deteriorating, Fr. Schill said that he is emotionally and mentally doing well.
 - D. Fr. Vien will be in the Philippines from October 3-15 for a meeting with the bishop of Cagayan de Oro and members of a diocesan women's religious community to discuss a possible ministry partnership in South Dakota. From October 19-25 he will be in the Congolese Province for the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the SCJ presence there. During his absence, matters requiring urgent attention will be directed to Fr. Jack Kurps, vice provincial superior.
 - E. Sacred Heart School in Southaven, MS celebrated its 75th anniversary on September 17. A week later, several hundred people took part in a day-long youth gathering at Holy Spirit church in Hernando, MS. Fr. Hendrik Ardianto was the primary organizer of the event; a similar one was held in spring. He has several creative ideas for working with youth not only in Mississippi, but in the province. He is also active in fostering vocations; he has identified three young people as potential SCJ candidates. Fr. Ardi hopes to develop a youth lay Dehonian organization.
 - F. A section of the community house in Lower Brule has developed toxic mold. St. Joseph's Indian School is in the process of procuring a "Governor's House" (a prefab home built through a prison inmate work program in South Dakota) to replace the current community house. It is hoped that a chapel can be included in the new house; there is also to be a basement. The house will be owned and maintained by St. Joseph's. Fr. Jean Claude Mbassi is living in the trailer that had been used by the religious sisters who served in Lower Brule; Fr. Christianus Hendrik is living in the back of the community house, which is not affected by the mold.

II. Administration

A. Elder care — Fr. V. Nguyen noted the growing needs regarding elder care in the province. Fr. Anthony Kluckman's disappearance has brought elder care issues to the forefront of the council's concerns.

1. Sacred Heart at SHML – Br. Lemke gave an update on the Sacred Heart Community at SHML.

As local superior, Br. Lemke said that elder care issues generally fall into two categories: immediate needs (such as Br. Andy Lewandowski's need for memory care as soon as possible) and long-term visioning. How does the province envision the function of its retirement communities, especially Sacred Heart at SHML? Is Sacred Heart a "retirement community," meaning that its members may need some minor assistance but for the most part can live and care for themselves independently, or is it to be a community that is consistently open to providing a higher level of care than simply assisted living? If so, what does that entail in staffing and of the retired themselves?

In his months as local superior, Br. Lemke has come to realize how vital it is to have non-retired people available 24/7 at SHML. An elder in retirement should not be expected to respond to another elder's medical emergency. When Br. Lemke has been away from the community, he has asked Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh to be on call for emergencies. As the average age of the community increases, the needs of its members will also.

2. Adaptations — How can the retirement community be more life-giving? For instance, as elder SCJs give up their driving privileges, what can be done to ensure that they don't feel trapped at SHML? Since there is no public transportation, more needs to be done to allow easy access to rides.

3. Advanced healthcare — The decision as to when a person needs to move to an outside healthcare facility is individual and can be difficult. Br. Lemke said that the province needs to be mindful of what is in the best interest of each person. Some people do well with just a little added assistance, but others are not receptive to it and become more challenging in a community setting. Sacred Heart is not a skilled nursing facility.

4. Hospice — The discussion of advanced healthcare is not the same as hospice care. In most cases, it would be compassionate and appropriate for an SCJ to be in hospice care at SHML and die at home. However, if he needs advanced care prior to hospice, most likely this would best be done at a skilled facility. A person could be in a healthcare facility for subacute care, and later transition to hospice at SHML.

5. Elder Life Policies — In 1995, the Province Handbook had a section on "Senior Life." This included principles, responsibilities, retirement guidelines, and senior residence accommodations. The handbook was later reformatted; at that time the section on Senior Life was not reviewed. It would be good to do so now with a wider consultation of the province. Are SCJs in active ministry mindful of what is needed when an elder is a member of their community? How do elders envision retirement, and when needed, assistance? Added to this is the growing internationality of local communities. How is elder care addressed in different cultures?

6. Senior Life Commission — The terms of Senior Life Commission members have expired; the council surfaced names to appoint to it. Among the suggested names were those in active ministry, retired SCJs and several lay collaborators. The local superiors of the two retirement communities should be on it, but Br. Lemke emphasized that neither should be chairperson of the commission to help ensure that the commission doesn't simply endorse the opinions/policies of those local superiors.

The commission will be asked to review Senior Life policies and perhaps develop an updated set of guidelines and benchmarks for elder care. It could also investigate programs to help prepare SCJs for retirement.

7. Survey — Following up on a discussion at a previous council meeting, Br. Duane Lemke and Mary Gorski created a survey on retirement. All SCJs will be asked to respond to the section of the survey that is appropriate to them: 1) Retired, 2) Preparing for retirement within the next five to ten years, and 3) SCJs 55 years old and younger. Councilors made a few adjustments to the draft. Mary Gorski will send the survey during the first week in October; it can be done either electronically (SurveyMonkey) or on a paper copy.

8. Fr. Anthony Kluckman — Br. Lemke noted the frustration and pain shared by Fr. Kluckman's family and SCJs. Fr. V. Nguyen and Br. Lemke have been in contact with the family. Authorities note that it is highly unusual not to have found something at this point.

The province, and Fr. Kluckman's family, need to begin to process the fact that Fr. Kluckman may never be found. At some point, it would be appropriate to have a memorial service for him. Perhaps this could be on the one-year anniversary of his absence. The family needs to be a part of the discussion regarding a memorial.

Fr. V. Nguyen said that a psychologist should again be made available to SCJs at SHML to help them process Fr. Kluckman's disappearance, as well as concerns that may have arisen because of it. It was suggested that SCJs be allowed to sign-up for a session anonymously.

- B. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Fr. Raúl Gomez Ruiz, SHSST president-rector, met with the council to share updates about Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.
1. Enrollment — Enrollment is near capacity for on-campus students. There are already 20 potential new seminarians for next year. It is thought that the annual Collegial Gathering of Bishops has helped to promote the school, as well as the work of the recruitment team. The increase in students is a blessing, but the seminary is now trying to address the need for more space.
 2. Staff — The seminary is seeking to fill several staff positions, including a new director of the ECS program, a director of the Lux Center, and several teaching positions.
 3. Affiliation with the Gregorian — SHSST continues to work toward an affiliation with the Pontifical Gregorian University; it is hoped that this partnership can begin in the fall of 2023.
 4. Program of Priestly Formation — The seminary continues to study the PPF 6 (Program of Priestly Formation) to ensure that SHSST meets the USCCB requirements for priestly formation while also respecting the formation programs of sponsoring religious communities and dioceses. One of the challenges is incorporating the propaedeutic stage; if SHSST is to offer this, a space needs to be made available for it, as well as several new staff members.
 5. Accreditation — A proposal is being submitted to the SHSST Board of Directors to withdraw from accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The process of accreditation with this organization is excessively burdensome, and often does not consider the unique nature of a seminary. SHSST's other accreditor, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) fully meets the requirements of the Department of Education. There are also standards which SHSST will need to ensure as a part of its possible affiliation with the Gregorian, adding another layer of review.
 6. Memo of Understanding — Fr. V. Nguyen contacted Fr. Gomez about developing a Memo of Understanding between SHSST and the SCJ Formation Program, similar to what SHSST has with St. Francis de Sales. Fr. Gomez thinks this is a good idea and suggested that a meeting soon be held with representatives of province administration, the province formation team, the Sacred Heart Monastery Community, SHSST administration and the SHSST formation team. Later in the meeting councilors suggested that two Memos of Understanding be created: one for formation, and one for corporate concerns.
- C. International members — With the increasing number of international SCJs, councilors suggested that a policy be established regarding the length and frequency of home visits. They agreed that a one-month visit to an SCJ's home country every two years is appropriate. Dn. Nagel will write the policy. It was noted that immigration concerns must always be considered when making international travel plans. International SCJs are advised to check with the provincial secretary if they have any question regarding their ability to reenter the United States following international travel.

Related to the policy for home visits, councilors discussed the need for an information packet for international SCJs. This would include the home visit policy, but also information about procedures for mass stipends, access to money, fundraising, and other issues. The Canadian Region developed a document of welcome for international SCJs ministering and/or studying in Canada. Br. Presto will get a copy to share with the council. Dn. Nagel was asked by Fr. V. Nguyen to work on the packet.

- D. Mississippi Visitation — Fr. V. Nguyen said that he was impressed by the work of Sacred Heart Southern Missions and praised Fr. Kurps for his leadership. Fr. V. Nguyen was also very impressed by the way the SCJ community has expanded the Dehonian Associates program and hopes that it can move beyond Mississippi. Fr. Hendrik Ardianto has done excellent work with youth ministry. Ministry to the Spanish-speaking may need more focus; Fr. V. Nguyen noted that Fr. Ardianto has been taking Spanish lessons.

The pastoral team continues to welcome long-term guest SCJs to assist with ministry during Fr. Louis Mariano Fernandes' time in India.

- E. Province Assembly — The feedback on the modified provincial assembly has generally been positive. It was good for SCJs to be together and to begin to process the disappearance of Fr. Kluckman.
- F. Parish Ministry Meeting — The Zoom meeting was a good first start. Fr. V. Nguyen hopes to have the next meeting in February. He will look at how the meeting can be better structured so that there is time for adequate discussion of topics such as internationality, Dehonian Associates, and youth ministry.
- G. Provincial Chapter — Two communities have responded with their list of delegates for the July 17-21, 2023, US Provincial Chapter: 1) Houston — Fr. Tim Gray, Fr. Richard Johnston, Fr. George Mordalski, and 2) Sacred Heart Monastery — Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh, Fr. Mark Mastin, Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec, Fr. Duy Nguyen, Frater Long Nguyen, Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Fr. Frank Wittouck.

Br. Presto will send a follow-up letter to communities to get their delegate lists to him soon. A brief preparatory meeting will be held with delegates in January; most likely this will take place by Zoom.

- H. General Chapter — Fr. Stephen Huffstetter invited Fr. V. Nguyen (and the US Province in general) to suggest possible topics to be addressed at the 2024 General Chapter. The two topics that the council surfaced: 1) interculturality, especially considering the number of SCJs serving and/or studying outside of their home entities, and 2) lay collaboration.
- I. Centennial — The tentative date for the South Dakota celebration of the 100th anniversary of the SCJ presence in the United States was July 16. The Provincial Chapter has now been set for July 17-21 (the original dates of July 24-28 were too close to events tied to World Youth Day). Fr. V. Nguyen will see if July 30 — instead of July 16 — will work with the bishops of the two South Dakota dioceses, as well as the South Dakota SCJ community. Once the date is finalized, SCJs from other provinces will be invited. It is hoped that representatives from the entities that have been a part of the SCJ presence in the United States can be present.

The bishop of Rapid City is to be the presider; it was suggested that an SCJ give the homily.

Superiors of the following entities are to be invited: Argentina, Brazil-São Paulo, Cameroon, Canada, DR Congo, Germany, India, Indonesia, Poland and Vietnam. These are entities which have collaborated with the US Province in ministry in the United States.

- J. Joint meetings with the Canadian council — The twice-a-year joint meeting with the Canadian Regional Council ended at the start of COVID. Fr. Gustave Lulendo, superior of Canada, proposed that councils schedule a meeting in spring of 2023 (March). The last meeting was in Toronto; the next meeting should be hosted by the US Province.

Councilors said that it has been good experience to spend time with their counterparts from Canada and share information with each other. However, there are not many common projects. The North American Migration Committee is one of the few joint efforts that has continued to thrive. Members of the North American Theological Commission meet regularly but their work is not well known; how can it be better shared and utilized among SCJs in Canada and the United States?

Are there shared projects that the two entities can undertake, such as a Zoom day of recollection? As a Rule is being re-started; could the Canadians be a part of this?

Perhaps the councils could have a Zoom call before the end of the year, and during it, discuss how the joint meetings can be helpful to each entity but also to the overall SCJ presence in North America. How often should the councils meet? Where should they meet — should it be in a location where the councils can spend more time together outside of the meeting room?

Other questions raised: 1) Does more need to be done to accommodate French speakers in a predominantly English-speaking group? 2) How can meetings of those with common or shared ministries be encouraged, such as those in vocations. Are such meetings helpful?

K. World Youth Day — Fr. Hendrik Ardianto met with the council via Zoom to share updates regarding the delegation from the US Province going to WYD in Portugal in 2023. So far, 27 young people from Mississippi and Texas have committed to going; more are expected from South Dakota and Wisconsin. Fr. Ardi is planning for a group of 40. He is working with Dn. Henry Nguyen and Br. Diego Diaz in organizing the trip. They estimate that the cost will be \$4,300 per person; each participant is asked to pay \$1,000 and the rest is to be covered by fundraising. Fundraising efforts will include raffles, the sale of religious goods, a gala dinner, wrapping paper sales, and advertisements. The province will also contribute. Fr. Ardianto plans to give the Provincial Council a financial report in January with an update on fundraising efforts. It was suggested that money raised be kept with Sacred Heart Southern Missions, which can set up a virtual account and maintain the bookkeeping of it.

Fr. Ardianto is using the opportunity to share Dehonian spirituality with the young people; he hopes that some will choose to become “Young Dehonians,” something similar to the Lay Associates. It is also a way to encourage vocations. Fr. Ardianto plans to have Zoom meetings with the group to both prepare for WYD and to share Dehonian spirituality. He was encouraged to set up a Zoom account for himself to hold the meetings.

The minimum age for participants at WYD is 16. Fr. Ardianto was asked to speak with the diocese of Jackson about guidelines for traveling with minors. There will be chaperones on the trip, but there may need to be a minimum number to adequately support the minors.

Fr. Ardianto was thanked for his work with WYD, as well as all that he has done for promoting youth ministry in Mississippi.

After the meeting with Fr. Ardianto ended Br. Presto said that he would tell Fr. Ardianto to remind WYD participants that if they haven't done so already to apply for their passports.

L. Mornings of reflection — Mornings of reflection, held on Zoom, are being planned for SCJs and for coworkers/lay collaborators during Advent and Lent. The first to be scheduled is for lay collaborators/coworkers on November 29 from 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. (Central). Sr. Nancy Schreck, OSF, will speak on “The Challenge of Making Room for Jesus During the Busyness of the Holidays.” On March 13 from 10:00-11:15 (Central) Sr. Diane Bergant, CSA, will give the Lenten reflection for SCJs. The dates of the Advent reflection for SCJs and the Lenten reflection for lay collaborators have not yet been set.

M. Mississippi pastoral team — It is unclear as to when Fr. Louis Mariano Fernandes will be able to return to Mississippi. Currently Fr. Tim Gray is assisting and is open to extending his time in Mississippi. If Fr. Fernandes is unable to rejoin the pastoral team, the council will need to look at long-term options for replacing him. This would also affect the pastoral team in South Dakota; Fr. Christianus Hendrik is scheduled to do an extended home visit next year, during which time Fr. Fernandes was to cover for him.

The team moderator, Fr. David Szatkowski, has become involved in police chaplaincy.

N. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — Br. Lemke would like to step down from his role as JPR director to focus on his ministry in elder care. Fr. V. Nguyen asked the council about the possibility of collaborating on JPR issues with another religious community. Several councilors indicated that they could envision hiring a religious sister to work with the province on JPR concerns.

Fr. V. Nguyen will send a letter to the JPR Commission and let its members know that provincial administration is considering different options for filling the JPR director role and that they will be a part of the process.

It was noted that Br. Lemke had a good approach to the JPR director's work. His local community visits, though limited, were good.

O. Minutes from Zoom meetings — The council reviewed and voted to approve the minutes of the 919, 920, 921 and 922 Provincial Council meetings which were held via Zoom.

P. Summary of the Meeting of Pastoral Ministers — The council approved the summary of the Pastoral Ministers meeting.

Q. Summary of the Meeting of Local Superiors — The council approved the summary of the Local Superiors meeting.

III. Finance

- A. Investments — The Investment Committee met on August 30 to review investments; in the afternoon there was a meeting with Stakeholders to update them on market returns. The markets continue to be volatile.
- B. Province Development Office – After seeing a rise during the pandemic, donations to the province development offices have leveled. Acquisition of new names has slowed.
- C. Diocese of Aliwal — Bishop Joseph Kizito asked the US Province for a grant of \$14,775 toward the rebuilding of St. Francis Church. The Priests of the Sacred Heart have ministered in the diocese and continue to maintain a community there (American SCJ Fr. John Strittmatter is a member of the community). The council endorsed the grant. The German Province is also donating funds toward the project which has a total cost of \$165,997.
- D. Indonesian Province — The provincial superior of the Indonesian Province is seeking assistance in completing a new school. The total cost is \$673,124; the council endorsed Dn. Nagel's proposal to grant \$50,000 toward the project. It was noted that the Indonesian Province has been an excellent partner in ministry for many years. Fr. V. Nguyen will send a letter to the Indonesian provincial superior letting him know of the grant approval and that Dn. Nagel will soon be in contact with him.
- E. Audit — CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) is working on the audits for SHSST, the Province Development Office and the Provincial Offices.
- F. SHSST/SHM ad hoc committee discussions — At the June council meeting there was discussion of increased need for space for SHSST, related to that was a discussion of physically separating the province formation program from SHM/SHSST. Such a move could offer more space to SHSST for residential diocesan seminarians. An ad hoc committee was formed to review the housing needs of the province formation program; the committee had its first meeting on August 8. Dn. Nagel is chairperson of the committee.

The challenge of having the province formation program within the same building as SHSST has a long history, going back to the 1970s. It can be difficult to coordinate activities between SHSST, ECS and the formation program. As the larger program in the building, SHSST's concerns often take precedence; the formation program can feel like a smaller department of the seminary instead of a program that stands on its own

The committee talked about possibilities such as moving it to Dehon House, the Woods Road property, or the Province Development Office.

Although it wouldn't address the desire to move the SCJ formation program out of the building, another option to allow for more student space for SHSST would be to continue the remodeling process and convert the fourth floor space from its current use as a recreation room to student rooms. The rec room would be relocated to the first-floor laundry.

The council will revisit the discussion after the Memos of Understanding with SHSST are finalized (one memo for formation, one regarding corporate concerns).

- G. Chris Lambert — Chris Lambert is now working full-time for the province; he will assume John Kuxhause's duties when John retires at the end of the year.

IV. Membership

- A. Fr. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas — A Benedictine abbot with extensive background in immigration law has contacted someone he knows in the State Department to get more information regarding the mistaken identity case that concerns Fr. Castañeda. Previously, the province attorney tried to get the information through the Freedom of Information Act but without success. The general administration has been updated on the latest efforts.
- B. Fr. Louis Mariano Fernandes — Fr. Fernandes had the incorrect dates for his immigration interview in India; instead of September, they are to take place in October. However, there is another complication that could delay his return to the US Province. He has health issues that need to be addressed in India. He would still like to return to the United States.
- C. Frater Paul Phong Hoang — The council endorsed the final vows program that Frater Hoang presented. At a previous meeting the council approved him to begin final vows preparation with Fr. John Czynski.

- D. Br. Andy Lewandowski — He is in the process of moving to the Sacred Heart Community at SHML; from there he will soon transition to memory care at St. Camillus. Br. Presto will write a letter of transfer.
- E. Fr. Mark Mastin — The council endorsed Fr. Mastin’s request to pursue a D-Min degree at Catholic University of America in collaboration with St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. Fr. Gomez, SHSST president-rector, is in favor of the proposal. The program is designed for people in full-time formation ministry so it does not interfere with their work; much of the coursework is done remotely or through short on-campus visits during the summer. The GI Bill will cover most of the costs. Br. Presto will write a letter to Fr. Mastin informing him of the council’s endorsement.
- F. Fr. Joseph Mukuna — Fr. Mukuna is now settled at the novitiate house, where he is working full-time on his dissertation. He is to teach a class at SHSST during the spring semester. It was noted that he does not have an R-1 visa and will need to apply for a training program that will allow for him to continue to stay in the United States until he is ready to apply for an R-1.
- G. Dn. Henry Nguyen — The council voted to approve Dn. Nguyen’s request for ordination to the priesthood. It will take place on December 17 at St. Columban Catholic Church in Garden Grove, CA.
- H. Fr. Vincent Suparman — Fr. Suparman will go to Indonesia in October for a home visit. While he is away, Fr. Pat Lloyd, first councilor, will be acting superior.
- I. Fr. Francis Vu Tran — The council voted to approve Fr. Tran’s request to become a member of the U.S. Province. He is to teach a course at SHSST in the spring semester.
- J. Fr. Charles Brown — The council endorsed Fr. Brown’s request to begin a year-long sabbatical on May 1, 2023.
- V. Calendar — The council confirmed the following meeting dates:
- November 9-10 (Wed and Thurs)
 December 20-21 (Tues and Wed)
 February 7-8 (Tues and Wed)
 March 28-29 (Tues and Wed)
 May 9-10 (Tues and Wed)
 June 27-28 (Tues and Wed)
- The Provincial Chapter is scheduled for July 17-21, 2023
- VI. Next meeting — The Provincial Council will next meet via Zoom on October 11 at 1:00 p.m. (central).

Minutes of the 922nd US Provincial Council Meeting August 23, 2022, held by Zoom

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.

I. Check-in — Councilors briefly updated each other on themselves and their ministries. Among the items of note:

- Fr. V. Nguyen is seeking counsel from directors of elder care facilities regarding Fr. Anthony Kluckman's disappearance and how to address people's concerns about it.
- Although Fr. Kluckman's disappearance was on people's minds, it was good to come together last week in assembly. The celebrations of First Professions and Jubilees were well appreciated. Jubilarians enjoyed the opportunity to visit family and friends.
- SCJs and staff in Mississippi are preparing for the 75th anniversary of Sacred Heart School in Mississippi.
- Fr. Schill's parents will attend the St. Joseph's Indian School powwow in September; this will be their first visit to a powwow.
- Fr. Bernie Rosinski was recently diagnosed with metastatic cancer; at this time, he is physically doing well and experiencing a good recovery from his back surgery.
- Fr. V. Nguyen will be visiting the South Dakota community August 26-28; he is bringing two ECS SCJ students with him to see St. Joseph's.
- Fr. Querobin's father was hospitalized the previous week for heart and kidney issues. Fr. Querobin hopes to soon visit his family in Brazil, most likely in October.
- Fr. Richard Johnston had cataract surgery; he is recovering well.

II. Senior SCJ gathering — Fr. V. Nguyen suggested that the province have a gathering for senior SCJs to discuss issues such as healthcare, aging in place, what it means to be a retired religious, and other issues of concern. It could be both a workshop and a time for facilitated dialogue.

From September 20-21, members of the Provincial Council and Fr. V. Nguyen will take part in an online Eldercare Summit sponsored by CMSM. This will offer good background information in determining what might be helpful in the design of a summit for SCJ elders. Another useful tool would be a survey.

Br. Lemke and Mary Gorski will work together to develop a two-part survey. One section will be for retired seniors; the second will be for those who will be preparing for retirement in the next five to ten years. SCJs will be invited to self-select which section they think fits them best. Answers to the questions will be useful in planning both a retirement gathering, and a pre-retirement gathering.

Among the suggested questions: 1) At what point or in what circumstances would you envision yourself needing nursing care?
2) For those who are not yet retired, when do you see yourself retiring? Where would you like to retire?

The pre-retirement conference is scheduled for next April; councilors will discuss scheduling the retirement conference after they have taken part in the Eldercare Summit. The Province Senior Life Commission will be consulted as a part of the planning process. Councilors suggested that participation in the conference be optional.

III. Fr. Anthony Kluckman — It has been over a month since Fr. Anthony Kluckman's disappearance. The council discussed possible next steps. Br. Lemke is working with Kathleen Dahlgren to determine whether a private investigator might be helpful. Mary Gorski will prepare a statement from the province to be sent later this week. There is no new information to share; but since people regularly ask about Fr. Kluckman it would be good to send an update to media and province offices.

Minutes of the 921st US Provincial Council Meeting August 10, 2022, held by Zoom

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.

I. Check-in — Councilors briefly updated each other on themselves and their ministries. Among the items of note:

- Fr. Bernie Rosinski seems to be recovering well from back surgery; the health center at St. Joseph's Indian School checks in with him regularly.
- Fraters Truc Tran and Paul Phong Hoang have returned to Sacred Heart Monastery following ministry assignments in South Dakota.
- Fr. Greg Schill spoke to St. Joseph's staff during the school's annual orientation day about Fr. Anthony Kluckman's disappearance.
- A member of the SHML staff had covid. Everyone who had close contact with her quarantined; no one else in the Sacred Heart Community has recently reported a positive test. A member of the St. Joseph's Community (4th Floor) recently completed his quarantine after testing positive. The Franklin Health Department said that the community is following good protocols regarding covid.
- Initial steps are being taken to facilitate Br. Andy Lewandowski's move to SHML; it is anticipated that he will fully transition there in September or October.
- Province schools are getting ready for the start of a new academic year

II. Province Assembly

A. Schedule (First Professions will be Monday evening; Jubilees will be Tuesday evening)

1. Morning — The one-day assembly will begin at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, August 16, at the Provincial Conference Center. As has been the style of previous province gatherings, the morning will be held in an atmosphere of prayer. Fr. Kurps will prepare the prayer that will both open and end the morning session. After the opening of prayer, Fr. V. Nguyen will welcome participants and introduce the day's activities. He will also introduce Sr. Dianne Bergant, who will give a one-hour presentation. The presentation is to be livestreamed; Fr. V. Nguyen will check with Sr. Bergant to find out if it is ok to make her presentation public through the livestream. Following the presentation there will be a brief break followed by 15 minutes of table discussions and 15 minutes of open mic with the assembly. It was suggested that Fr. V. Nguyen facilitate the open mic. There will be time for personal reflection before lunch; lunch will be at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.
2. Afternoon — Two options will be available for the afternoon. The first will be a spiritual walk / search for Fr. Anthony Kluckman beginning at 2:00 p.m. Franklin police said that the most helpful area to search is on Rawson, heading east from SHML. Those who would like to participate will be divided into small groups, or perhaps pairs, to search for clues starting on Rawson and then moving toward the subdivision on the south side of the street or Whitnall Park on the north side. Several suggestions were given as to how the groups could be divided; one was to have SCJs sign up in the morning to be part of a four to five-person group, another was to drop off SCJs in pairs. Fr. Vien will finalize search arrangements. Br. Lemke will make maps of the suggested search areas.

There are concerns about SCJs walking along Rawson since it is a busy road. It was suggested that reflective vests be obtained for those who will be on Rawson.

Those who are unable to take part in the search will be invited to participate in Adoration, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Br. Lemke and Fr. Kurps will prepare the Adoration service; Br. Lemke will arrange for people to lead it.

- B. Logistics — Mary Gorski will ask Nancy Grzesiak to arrange for tables and chairs for 50 people in the conference room on Tuesday. M. Gorski will also procure tablecloths, notepads and pens. Br. Lemke has already made arrangements with Sodexo for snacks and lunch on Tuesday.

III. First Professions — August 15 is a holiday for SHSST staff. Because of this, no staff will be available to assist with the building during the First Professions. It was suggested that Frater Truc Tran be asked to take responsibility for ensuring that the SHSST front doors are unlocked at 3:30 p.m. – one hour before the ceremony – and relocked after the dinner. He has a hex key for this.

Minutes of the 920th US Provincial Council Meeting August 2, 2022, held by Zoom

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.

- I. Check-in — Councilors briefly updated each other on themselves and their ministries. Fr. Kurps just finished a week-long retreat with the novices; Fr. Querobin reported that Our Lady of Guadalupe received a surprise \$10,000 donation in the Sunday collection. However, foremost in everyone's mind was the disappearance of Fr. Anthony Kluckman, who has been missing on July 21.

Fr. V. Nguyen has been reaching out to many people, trying to be present as provincial superior. Br. Lemke and Dn. Nagel said that a variety of emotions are being experienced within the Sacred Heart community at SHML. For some, there is a sense of apprehension, wondering about the challenges they might face as they age. There is also some second-guessing, SCJs asking themselves what could have been differently to perhaps prevent such a situation.

Fr. V. Nguyen made arrangements for two counselors — one a diocesan priest, one a lay woman — to be available to local SCJs who might want help in processing their emotions. A counselor will be available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week.

II. Province Assembly

- A. Length and focus — With the province's attention on the disappearance of Fr. Kluckman the council thought it best to modify the US Province Assembly. There are also concerns about the increase in COVID cases. Originally scheduled for August 16-18, the assembly will be reduced to one day. It will begin with First Professions on Monday evening and conclude with the Province Jubilee Celebration on Tuesday night.

- B. Revised schedule — The general outline for the one-day gathering:
Opening Prayer (Fr. Kurps will prepare this)

- A presentation and perhaps facilitated discussion on Sacred Heart spirituality with a focus on loss and healing, or perhaps the sense of "living with the unknown." Fr. V. Nguyen will make arrangements for the morning presenter.
- Lunch
- The afternoon will begin with a two-part option: 1) an opportunity to take part in search efforts for Fr. Kluckman, or 2) take part in Adoration with prayers focused on Fr. Kluckman and those who have and continue to assist in the search for him. Fr. Kurps and Br. Lemke will organize the prayer; Br. Lemke will also speak to the Franklin police about coordinating volunteers.
- There will also be time for SCJs to visit with counselors to help them process the many emotions people are feeling at this time.

- C. Participation — With the increase of COVID cases, SCJs will be welcome to cancel their plans to attend the assembly, regardless if they have already stated that they will be there.

- D. Flexibility — Although the council has made the decision to reduce the assembly to one day; plans for the day itself need to remain flexible and open to adaptation depending on new developments in the search for Fr. Kluckman.

- E. Arrangements — Br. Lemke and other members of the assembly organizing group will work with Sodexo to adapt food plans and make other logistical arrangements. If transportation is needed for the activities on Tuesday afternoon, there are three vans available between the ECS program and formation.

- F. Communication — Mary Gorski will post an update about Fr. Kluckman on the US Province website and social media; Dn. Nagel will write a prayer to include with the statement. This will be adapted for use in mailings to benefactors. By the end of Wednesday Fr. V. Nguyen will write a message to the SCJs in the US Province regarding the adapted assembly.

- III. Br. Andy Lewandowski — Fr. V. Nguyen and Br. Lemke will be speaking to Br. Lewandowski about the need for him to move to Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. He is at the point where he needs more assistance than what is available to him at the Woods Road property. Br. Lemke is seeking a home for Br. Lewandowski's dog.

- IV. Next meeting — The council will next meet by Zoom at 9:00 a.m. (central) on Wednesday, August 10.

Minutes of the 919th US Provincial Council Meeting July 26, 2022, held by Zoom

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.

- I. Disappearance of Fr. Kluckman — The purpose of the Zoom meeting was to discuss the disappearance of Fr. Anthony Kluckman, including its effect on leadership, Fr. Kluckman's community at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, and province membership as a whole. Sadness, frustration and a sense of powerlessness is felt by many.
- II. Summary — Fr. Kluckman has been missing since 1:35 am on Thursday, July 21, 2022. Security footage shows him leaving SHML. The Franklin Police Department is leading the investigation into his disappearance in cooperation with other law enforcement and search and rescue agencies. No viable clues have been found.

Areas where Fr. Kluckman has lived or ministered have been alerted to his disappearance. News of the situation has appeared on several media outlets, both traditional and social media. The archdiocese of Milwaukee is open to assisting by sharing news of Fr. Kluckman's disappearance in the parishes (it will do so upon request of the Franklin Police Department).

III. Actions

- A. Communication — Regular communication is vital. Even when it seems that there is nothing new to share it is important that there be regular communication from leadership to SCJs so that the membership knows that Fr. Kluckman's disappearance continues to be a priority. SCJs — especially councilors — should learn about new developments through leadership, not the media. It is also important to continue regular communication with the family of Fr. Kluckman; Br. Lemke has been in touch with the family daily. The Kluckman family has put up a \$10,000 reward for information leading to Fr. Kluckman's return.

Mary Gorski will draft a communication for Fr. V. Nguyen to send shortly after the Zoom meeting.

- B. Prayer service — Fr. Joseph Thien Dinh and Fr. V. Nguyen will develop a brief prayer service centered on Fr. Kluckman. Mary Gorski will do a layout; Fr. V. Nguyen will send the service. The intent is that the prayers be done communally, at least with one other SCJ. The prayer service is to be a way of having a shared moment centered on Fr. Kluckman and the community's pain at his absence.
 - C. Grief counseling and processing — Preparations will be made for grief counseling, and perhaps facilitated sessions in-person or via Zoom, to help SCJs process the situation. At this point, it is not known what — beyond Fr. Kluckman's absence — is to be processed. If his remains are found in the near future the process might be different than if his absence continues to be a mystery without any clue. Of course, the hope is that Fr. Kluckman is found alive; but all scenarios need to be envisioned. Fr. V. Nguyen will begin making contacts with the archdiocese, Catholic Social Services, and other organizations to learn about grief counseling resources.
 - D. Care for seniors — The council discussed possibilities for helping to ensure that such a situation does not happen again. It was suggested that a person staff the reception desk at SHML through the night; this person would have access to all cameras that cover the exits. Also, in the weeks ahead the council would like to review (or perhaps reestablish) province senior policies — with the help of the Senior Life Commission — to better ensure that SCJs get appropriate care as their needs change. This isn't to suggest that there has been negligence on the part of either SCJ leadership at SHML or by our hired staff. But possibilities — including the need for professional nursing care facilities for some — should always be reviewed to ensure that the province is doing its best to provide appropriate care for its members, mindful of ever-changing needs.
- IV. Other business — Several areas of the province are now considered "high risk" for COVID. Br. Lemke has asked Mary Balistreri to check with the Franklin Health Department about its current guidelines and make recommendations to him regarding adjustments that might need to be made regarding COVID protocol at SHML. A question was also raised regarding the upcoming assembly: in light of increasing COVID numbers, should the assembly be adjusted in anyway (including the use of masks)?

Summary of the Meeting of Pastoral Ministers September 7, 2022, held by Zoom

PRESENT: Fr. Vien Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Rafael Querobin, Fr. Greg Schill, Br. Duane Lemke, Dn. David Nagel, Br. Frank Presto, Fr. David Szatkowski, Fr. Andrzej Sudol, Fr. Jean Claude Mbassi, Fr. Jerzy Mordalski, Fr. Louis Mariano Fernandes, Fr. Hendrik Ardianto, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Br. Diego Diaz, Fr. Son Nguyen and Dn. Henry Nguyen; Mary Gorski, recording secretary.

- I. Welcome — Fr. V. Nguyen welcomed participants, saying that he thinks of those in parish ministry as being “on the front lines” of the province. For many people, an SCJ in a parish is a person’s first contact with an SCJ and with Dehonian spirituality. Fr. V. Nguyen and the Provincial Council hope to have dialogues with those in parish ministry two to three times a year. The meetings are a way to share information, and to support one another in a common ministry. Fr. V. Nguyen invited participants to talk about how the Provincial Council or the provincial administration in general might be able to assist them in their ministry.
- II. Prayer — Fr. Szatkowski led an opening prayer.
- III. Check-in — Fr. V. Nguyen invited participants to update one another on themselves, their communities and/or ministries. What is life-giving? What projects should others be aware of? What is challenging? Comments:
 - A. Fr. Fernandes is assisting with the SCJ presence in Goa (India) while he waits for his interview at the embassy concerning his visa for continued ministry in the United States; the meeting is scheduled for October 19-20 in Mumbai.
 - B. Br. Diaz is in Argentina visiting his family. His visa interview went well; he anticipates returning to the United States at the end of September.
 - C. Fr. Mbassi is responsible for two parishes on the west side of the Missouri River; he has been in South Dakota since February, 2021. He is currently living in the trailer previously used by the religious sisters; the primary community house needs significant repairs. Fr. Hendrik is living in the back section of the house while replacement possibilities are investigated.
 - D. Our Lady of Guadalupe is doing well both in regard to ministry and the community of SCJs. Participation at the parish is returning to pre-pandemic levels. There has been discussion about erecting a new building for the school, but this would be a large and expensive project. Discussions are taking place primarily at the archdiocesan level. Fr. Querobin said that the neighborhood around OLG has changed significantly in recent years with the addition of several large apartment complexes. Fr. Mordalski noted that people from outside of the OLG parish community often come for ministry.
 - E. Fr. Sudol has been pastor of St. Martin of Tours parish for just under three months. Members of the entire SCJ team (Fr. Son Nguyen and Dn. Henry Nguyen) are all new to the parish and are just beginning to get to know the people and needs of SMOT. Mass attendance and participation in parish activities diminished significantly during the pandemic; the parish also lost several young families when the school closed in 2019. Fr. Sudol said that the parish team is looking at ways to invite people back, focusing on hospitality and activities. Over Labor Day Weekend the parish took part in the nearby St. Martin’s Fair. Br. Lemke noted that the parish had an “evangelization booth” for the festival.

The parish looks forward to hosting SHSST seminarians who will be doing field placements at St. Martin of Tours. The parish benefits from involvement with the wider SCJ community; SCJs are always welcome to celebrate or concelebrate Masses, or take part in other activities.
 - F. Fr. Ardianto is organizing a second youth gathering on September 25, which will build on a previous spring event which attracted over 300 participants.
 - G. Fr. Kurps said that Sacred Heart Southern Missions is busy getting ready for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Sacred Heart School on September 17.
 - H. Dn. H. Nguyen is enjoying his first months of full-time ordained ministry, which has included assisting at a cousin’s wedding, and officiating at baptisms and funerals.

- I. Fr. Schill noted that St. Joseph’s Indian School’s powwow will take place on September 17; the new horse barn will be dedicated the day before though it is not yet completed. A significant number of benefactors are registered to attend the powwow. St. Joseph’s student numbers are just about back to pre-pandemic levels; the school’s limit is 200 students and there are currently 194 enrolled. The local SCJ community and the St. Joseph’s community are working together to support Fr. Bernie Rosinski who is in home hospice care.
 - J. Fr. Szatkowski said that many older parishioners at the Northwest Mississippi parishes are often hesitant to return to in-person worship due to covid concerns. Overall attendance at liturgies and activities is below pre-pandemic levels. However, the parishes are restarting many of the programs that were suspended during the initial months of covid. The SCJ community is smaller than it has been for many years; the pastoral team is grateful for the assistance of SCJs who have taken turns helping with parish ministry during Fr. Fernandes’ time in India, and Br. Diaz’ home visit to Argentina.
 - K. Fr. Hendrik added to what Fr. Mbassi said about the issues regarding the structure of the community house. Items are being removed from the old house in anticipation of its replacement. A new religious sister has taken on the duties done by Sr. Charles Palm, who retired last year. Ministry is beginning to return to a feeling of “normal” since the start of covid, but participation is still lower than before the pandemic. The brother of Dn. Steve recently died.
 - L. Dn. Nagel said that members of the General Finance Commission will soon be arriving in Hales Corners for a meeting; they will be having a workshop with fundraisers of the congregation September 12-14.
- IV. Dehonian identity — Fr. V. Nguyen invited SCJs to share what they are doing to help promote a sense of Dehonian identity in the parishes.

A. What is being done now:

- 1. Prayer and liturgy — Several parishes have incorporated Dehonian traditions such as First Fridays and Adoration. In Mississippi, a prayer book has been published that is based on “This Day of God.” Wording was adapted for a wider use.
- 2. Incorporate Dehonian spirituality in homilies — SCJs often try to incorporate Dehonian themes in their homilies, especially as they relate to the social teachings of the Church.
- 3. SCJ symbols — In Mississippi, SCJs have distributed inexpensive plastic SCJ crosses to youth; the young people continue to wear the crosses.
- 4. Sharing SCJ information — At some parishes, news of the Priests of the Sacred Heart is shared with parishioners. This might include the death of an SCJ, or the First Profession of Vows of a student who had spent time in ministry at the parish. It was suggested that more be done at all SCJ parishes to facilitate this. It is important that people at a parish know that they are a part of the ministry of the Priests of the Sacred Heart as a whole, not just an isolated parish.
- 5. Dehonian Associates — Mississippi has a growing Dehonian Associates program; recently 35 people renewed or made their first commitment as a Dehonian Associate. More people are expected to begin with the program this fall.
- 6. Anniversary at OLG — In 2023, the Priests of the Sacred Heart celebrate their 50th anniversary at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston. It is a moment for building greater awareness of the Dehonians. SCJs at the parish said that most parishioners know that OLG is served by a religious community. The SCJs’ focus on reconciliation is felt by many; people come from outside of the parish to go to confession with SCJs at OLG.
- 7. Dehonian way of being — Fr. Sudol spoke about the Dehonian way of ministering. This includes being open to the needs of all; it means “getting out of the sacristies and going to the people.”

B. Areas to work on in the future:

- 1. Visible symbols / branding— SCJ symbols need to be more fully incorporated in each parish. This can be something as simple as ensuring that the SCJ logo is displayed on bulletins and parish websites. Small displays could be placed in each church that share news of the SCJs and give a sense of the community that ministers at the parish. It should be obvious when a person enters an SCJ parish that it is Dehonian.

At St. Joseph's Indian School the Mission Statement of the US Province is on the back of staff ID badges. This is another visible symbol of the SCJ presence.

2. SCJ News — News items from the SCJs should be regularly shared with parishes. These could be small bulletin inserts, e-mails with prayer requests, death notices, notices about those moving through formation (vows, ordinations, etc.), and news about events in the community. It is a way to help parishioners feel a part of something bigger.
3. Dehonian Associates — The Dehonian Associates program is doing well in Mississippi; how can this be expanded to other areas of the province?
4. Sacred Heart spirituality — How can Sacred Heart spirituality be better shared and lived in parishes? How can the Dehonian interpretation of Sacred Heart spirituality be expressed, an interpretation that is more focused on social outreach? Could there be a regular First Friday volunteer project at parishes? Could dialogue with other faith communities be a part of this?
5. Anniversaries — The centennial of the SCJ presence in the United States is an excellent opportunity to promote the SCJs; however, other anniversaries, such as the SCJ presence at OLG, and the 75th anniversary of Sacred Heart School in Southaven, are also good opportunities to share who the Dehonians are.
6. Connect ministries — More needs to be done to help people served by individual SCJ ministries see that they are connected to others. For example, some parishes served by the Lower Brule Pastoral Team don't know that the SCJs who minister to them are the same people who operate St. Joseph's Indian School.

C. Specific tasks to promote the Dehonian identity:

1. Provide statues and/or photos of Fr. Dehon for parishes to put on display.
2. Offer inexpensive Dehonian crosses for distribution at parishes.
3. Offer links to downloadable SCJ logos for use by parishes.
4. Have the Provincialate send short write-ups to parishes about events and/or news in the province which can be shared in bulletins or other parish communications.
5. Produce a Dehon-themed poster to be distributed on March 14 (founder's birthday). It was suggested that Tipi Press might be able to design and produce this.
6. Offer the seasonal e-blast mailings from the Dehonian Associates to parishioners and staff.
7. Have Dehonian-themed Lent and/or Advent missions. These could also be done as Zoom conferences.
8. Invite parishioners and parish staff to subscribe to the Fridge Notes.
9. Have teams of SCJs visit parishes for a "Come and Show." These would be visits to a parish by seminarians and others in which they would talk to different groups in the parish about the SCJs and perhaps put on events (for example, a youth retreat, teach faith formation, etc.).
10. Develop an app for the US Province with prayers and links to information about the community.
11. Focus on First Friday programs throughout the province.
12. Offer dual events, such as what was done during the afternoon of the Province Assembly. Some people could take part in a physical activity (such as the Spiritual Walk for Fr. Anthony), and some could be together in prayer. They would be doing different tasks, but a shared Dehonian activity.

13. Offer Come and See experiences in areas of the province other than Sacred Heart Monastery, perhaps as volunteer experiences in an SCJ community setting.

14. Give out inexpensive SCJ-themed tee shirts at youth events.

V. World Youth Day 2023 — Fr. Ardianto is organizing the US Province's group that will travel to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. He gave a brief update. WYD will take place August 1-6, 2023, in Lisbon; the theme will be "Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39). Before WYD, from July 28 – August 1, Dehonian youth from around the world will gather in Porto.

Fr. Ardianto said that he hopes to have participants from St. Martin of Tours, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the parishes in South Dakota, St. Joseph's Indian School, the parishes of Northwest Mississippi, and from Sacred Heart Southern Missions. He estimates that the group from the US Province will include 20-30 people, including Fr. Ardianto, Br. Diaz and Dn. H. Nguyen. The cost for each person will be \$4,300; however, it is hoped that most of this can be covered by fundraising efforts.

Fr. Ardianto said that invitations to take part in WYD can be made in parish bulletins, school newsletters and other communications, but that the most effective way to invite young people is to do so one-on-one. SCJs in parish ministry were encouraged to identify youth who they think might benefit from WYD and talk to them, and perhaps their families, about participation.

Once the travel group is established Fr. Ardianto plans to host meetings with them each month via Zoom. The meetings will be about logistics, but more so, about Dehonian spirituality and learning about Priests of the Sacred Heart.

All parishes should be encouraged to celebrate WYD through prayer, the sharing of photos and videos from the event, and other communications. WYD should be an event for all, not just those in attendance.

VI. Future meetings — Fr. V. Nguyen suggested that those in parish ministry meet again, perhaps in February. Topics for future discussion: 1) youth ministry, 2) international SCJs, 3) Dehonian Associates, and 4) Dehonian parish ministries.

Summary of the Local Superiors Meeting September 20-21, 2022, Pinellas Park, FL

PRESENT: Fr. Vien Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Rafael Querobin, Fr. Greg Schill, Br. Duane Lemke, Br. Frank Presto, Fr. David Szatkowski, Fr. Vincent Suparman, and Fr. Duy Nguyen.

- I. Check-in — As part of the check-in, participants reflected on and shared insights on the following questions: What have you found surprising in your ministry of local leadership? What are the challenges and joys that you have encountered? Have you found the support to help you lead and deal with different personalities in the community?
- II. Community Life/ Elder Care
 - A. The Tuesday morning session (September 20, 2022) focused on community life, specifically eldercare. Almost every community in the province has at least one retired SCJ. The presence of retired SCJs in our local communities is a blessing. But it also means sacrifices for SCJs in active ministry. In emergencies, SCJs in active ministry may have to juggle between ministry and care. The appointments and priorities of those in active ministry might get pushed aside. And they can be overwhelmed and prone to burnout.
 - B. Are SCJs in active ministry ready to make this sacrifice? Retired SCJs are welcome to stay. But there needs to be a conversation between the provincial superior and the retired SCJ, as well as with the local superior and the province nurse, about expectations, medical needs, and levels of care.
 - C. To help a local community effectively provide the care needed, the retired SCJs would need to trust their local superiors and be transparent about medical issues.
 - D. Then, there is the question about transfers. When is the right time to move an SCJ to the retirement community or an assisted living facility where he would receive proper medical care? Who is involved in the decision? A survey is one possibility to find answers to these questions.
 - E. As for SCJs in our retirement communities, what are the emotional effects on SCJs in the prime of their retirement to see their community move increasingly toward being an assisted living facility?
 - F. In the afternoon, participants took part in the CMSM webinar on eldercare. There were two topics of discussion: spiritual accompaniment and the utilization of healthcare resources in eldercare.
- III. Spirituality
 - A. On the second day of the meeting, Wednesday, September 21, 2022, the discussion centered on Dehonian spirituality. At the provincial level, there are planned spiritual activities for province membership to deepen our Dehonian spirituality. These spiritual activities include the centennial celebration in 2023, retreats in 2024 and 2025, and days of recollection during Advent and Lent. In addition, we will restart the *As a Rule*. It's an outlet for us to reflect on and share our insights and understandings of the Constitutions.
 - B. There are efforts made by members of the SCJs in Mississippi to share our Dehonian spirituality with the laity. Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Diego Diaz, and Fr. Hendrik Ardianto actively recruit Dehonian Associates. They are looking at ways to expand the movement beyond Mississippi.
 - C. In Houston, parishioners join the SCJs for Adoration and morning prayer.
 - D. SCJ organizers of the World Youth Day 2023, under the leadership of Fr. Hendrik Ardianto, are working with SCJs and youth leaders to promote interaction and connection among youth and groups among our SCJ parishes.
 - E. We recognized that SCJs touched on Dehonian themes in their preaching. But do parishioners know they are Dehonian themes? SCJs are encouraged to be explicit in making known our Dehonian spirituality and themes in our preaching.
 - F. Presently, there is no one at the Dehon Study Center. Are there creative ways to fill this void for some time? It was noted that a lot has been written in English. Can we have someone use these English resources and publish writings that apply to our pastoral contexts and are shareable with the people? This person doesn't necessarily have to be an SCJ.

- G. The following questions were asked: what are some of the spiritual activities in your community that are Dehonian? What does your community do to foster our Dehonian spirituality? Eucharistic adoration, prayer for a brother upon death, and the inclusion of our deceased SCJs in our community prayer were mentioned. In addition, members in some communities intentionally include Dehonian news and topics in their conversation at the dinner table. Some communities had a day of recollection. But the pandemic put a stop to it.

IV. Mission and Ministry

- A. The focus of our discussion was on internationality. We acknowledged the diversity and richness that international SCJs bring to the US Province. However, it was noted that visas are an ongoing issue. International SCJs need to familiarize themselves with the visa application and interview processes. It is said that the paperwork is cumbersome and lengthy.
- B. Comprehension of the English language is necessary and helpful to the individual SCJs and the receiving community/parishioners. Learning English is more than understanding the language; it is also about learning communication styles and idiomatic expressions that often find their way into daily conversation.
- C. Develop specific criteria, such as the capacity to learn the language and the willingness to learn about the US church and culture, to determine whether an international SCJ can serve in the province. Perhaps, there should be a discerning period for the province and an international SCJ. It is necessary that an international SCJ embodies a missionary spirit and is open to any of the ministries in the province. Fr. Vien noted that when recruiting an SCJ for mission and ministry in the US Province, he prefers to work directly with the provincial and not with an individual SCJ.
- D. If an individual SCJ is here to study and the original intent is to return to his home entity, we should not ask that SCJ stay to “pay back” the province. Adjustment for an SCJ staying long term differs from one staying for a short period.
- E. In the afternoon, participants listened to a panel discussion on spiritual accompaniment by CMSM.

V. Conclusion

- A. We thanked the Sacred Heart Community in Pinellas Park for hosting us. We valued the time together and acknowledged the need to meet regularly for (re)connection and support.
- B. For the first year, it would benefit the group to meet twice and once a year afterward.
- C. The Mississippi community is open to hosting the next local superiors meeting. The week of April 17-21 or April 24-28 was suggested as the next meeting time.

CALENDAR

2022

October 18:	Evening with Cardinal Peter Turkson with SCJs at SHML (7:00 p.m.)
October 19:	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

February 7-8:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
March 28-29:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
May 9-10:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
June 27-28:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
July 17-21:	US Provincial Chapter

2024

June 14 - July 5:	General Chapter, Rome
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UPDATES

Please note that a new hard copy of the North American Personnel Directory will be in the mail in mid-October.

NECROLOGY

+ **Fr. Czesław Konior**, a member of the Polish Province, died on October 5. He was born in 1936, professed in 1953 and ordained in 1962. He served as provincial superior of Poland from 1992-1998, and was local superior of the International College in Rome from 1998-2004.

+ **Bishop António de Sousa Braga** died on August 22. He was born in 1941, professed in 1962, ordained a priest in 1970, and ordained a bishop in 1996. He was bishop of the diocese of Angra in the Azores from 1996 until his retirement in 2016. At the time of his appointment as bishop, he was vicar general of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. In retirement, he lived in his home province of Portugal with the SCJ student community in Alfragide (Lisbon).

+ **Fr. Tadeusz Mazur**, a member of the Polish Province, died on September 3. He was born in 1955, was professed in 1975 and ordained in 1981.

+ **Fr. Yves Ledure**, a member of the Franco-European Province, died on September 5. He was born in 1934, professed in 1954 and was ordained in 1963.

+ **Fr. Jim Schifano**, a member of the US Province, died September 29. He was born in 1945, professed in 1972 and ordained in 1975.

+ **Br. Michel Poirier**, a member of the Franco-European Province, died on August 12, the anniversary of Fr. Leo John Dehon's death. At 107, Br. Michel was the eldest SCJ in the world; he professed his first vows in 1936.

+ **Fr. José García Ercille**, a member of the Venezuelan Region, died on August 11. He was born in 1932, professed in 1949 and ordained in 1957.

+ **Fr. Stanisław Szymajda**, a member of the Polish Province, who died on June 30. He was born in 1950, professed in 1970 and ordained on 1976.

+ **Fr. Agostinho Clemente Neto**, a member of the Portuguese Province, died on July 12. He was born in 1952, professed in 1974 and ordained in 1982.

+ **Fr. Kazimierz Wawrzyczek**, a member of the Polish Province, died on July 20. He was born in 1938, professed in 1954 and ordained in 1963.

+ **Fr. André Boelrijk**, a member of the Dutch Region, died on July 28. He was born in 1925, professed in 1945 and ordained in 1951.

+ **Br. Petrus Sumardi**, a member of the Indonesian Province, died on July 30. He was born in 1934, professed in 1967 and made perpetual profession in 1974.