

1 **ADDENDUM A (Pre-chapter meeting, January 31, 2023)**

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3 **Group reports**

4 **“What two to three topics should be discussed at the 2023 US Provincial Chapter?”**

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6 **GROUP 1**

7 1. Interculturality

8 a. We want to revisit the topic of interculturality. As pointed out by one member of the  
9 group, there are different layers of interculturality—the relationship of the one coming  
10 from outside the US Province with the dominant culture and the relationship with the  
11 other coming from other cultures (e.g., Congolese relating to Indonesian). Also, within  
12 the dominant culture, there are different cultures.

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14 b. We want our students in formation to be well prepared for a more intercultural US  
15 Province. Thus, exposure to interculturality, plurality, and diversity early in formation is  
16 crucial.

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18 2. Spirituality

19 a. Here we talk about the openness to the Spirit leading us to new possibilities (e.g., new  
20 ministries) (Cst. 23)

21 b. Our spirituality is to be lived and interpreted through the lens of social justice.

22 c. But what does social justice mean to us? How do we define "the poor" and "the  
23 neglected"?

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25 **GROUP 2**

26 Our reality is that the province has become more multicultural and multigenerational. We don't  
27 always have the skills to navigate community living in this context. The priorities and concerns  
28 of the older members of the province are not necessarily the priorities and concerns of the  
29 younger members of the province. How do we bridge this gap? This affects all areas of the  
30 province - community life, formation, spirituality, ministry. Further conversation on the topic of  
31 interculturality and multigenerational living would be helpful.

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33 Second, that the chapter propose to provincial leadership that the next provincial assembly be  
34 used to educate ourselves on climate change and nuclear proliferation with the hope that we  
35 could agree on actionable next steps - and that, perhaps in conjunction with the Region of  
36 Canada, that we request the general chapter to request a general conference on the same  
37 topic.

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39 **GROUP 3**

40 1. Fulltime University/College Campus youth ministry: The members of the chapter should  
41 revisit having our men involved in fulltime University/College Campus youth ministry. This  
42 in no way is to dismiss what we are currently doing in our present parishes. As part of this  
43 review process, we should seek out programs that other fellow Dehonian entities are  
44 successfully using. There are several advantages to doing this:

- 45 a. A source of potential vocations. Our current parishes are not providing us any  
46 vocations.  
47 b. A source of spreading our charism.  
48 c. Visibility, name recognition.  
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50 As a subset to this topic, our congregation needs to invest in the use of technology to  
51 include: developing videos, catechetical programs unique with the Dehonian charism,  
52 podcasts, radio, etc. The use of varying technology would help spread our name and  
53 charism more broadly throughout the U.S.  
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55 2. Elderly Care: The members of the chapter should discuss the topic of Elderly Care.  
56 Specifically, we need to have the Province propose and mandate that a study be initiated by  
57 a professional health care institution to evaluate what level of care we currently have, both  
58 good and bad, and then determine what is the best type of care we should have. This expert  
59 appraisal should examine our current policy as well. Additionally, the review needs to  
60 examine why men are living alone. This study needs to include the stress placed on SCJs  
61 who are placed as superiors in our facilities and the deep psychological problems of  
62 individual residents that make it difficult for a superior to manage the health and well-being  
63 of our men. Overall, the study needs to account for the lifestyle of religious life.  
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65 3. Formation

- 66 a. The members of the chapter should discuss the need to prepare our men for bilingual  
67 ministry, particularly with the Hispanic community. What is our current Spanish  
68 program for education and immersion? Is it a volunteer or mandatory program?  
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70 b. The members of the chapter should review our overall formation program. We know  
71 that there is a committee that was recently formed to evaluate and develop new unique  
72 SCJ procedures and guidelines, similar but yet different from to what the PPF6 has  
73 presented to Diocesan seminaries. Are we accompanying our men with affective care  
74 and support? Are our men in formation being treated in a way they feel encouraged  
75 and are progressively developing in a positive direction?  
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77 As a side note: Group #3 fully supports the other groups that spoke of collaboration with the  
78 laity and creating lay Dehonians. Bringing the Dehonian charism to the broader church is so  
79 needed. And this effort is for all ages, especially for any youth program.  
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81 **GROUP 4**

82 First, as we approach the future, it is a good opportunity to reassess our charism, particularly  
83 who are we and how do we share this identity with the entire church?  
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85 Second, using that discussion as a foundation, how is our charism represented and  
86 communicated within our local communities, our ministries and institutions? In terms of  
87 Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, how does our charism influence the  
88 “definition/formation” of candidates for ordained ministry?

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**GROUP 5**

1. Items to be referred to Provincial administration:
  - a. Have a professional group study the policies and practice of the care of the elderly in our community.
  - b. Continue to ensure the succession of members to significant roles such as novice master, province treasurer, etc.
2. Collaboration between elderly and youth of the province in consciously transferring ownership and identity of the province to the younger members of the province. There is an awareness of the great need for mutual trust for this to be able to happen
3. Conversation about charism and identity:
  - a. The emphasis of our founder on social justice
  - b. Collaboration with others (laity, other religious communities, especially women's groups) in addressing the issue of climate change.
  - c. Working with our own employees in modeling that collaboration between management and employees that Fr. Dehon was involved in.

**GROUP 6**

1. To continue or to make a priority succession planning for the Province's key positions. (Question: Do we need to or should we recruit SCJs from other countries?)
2. To promote the sharing of the SCJ charism with the broader Church including laity, priests, religious, etc. (Can we utilize retired SCJs to promote the charism and provide service to our entities?)
3. To prioritize province ministries to provide a future for these entities.