

## This issue

Minutes of the  
March 29-30, 2023,  
US Provincial Council  
meeting, p. 1

Minutes of the North  
American councils  
meeting, March 28, 2023,  
p. 7

Calendar, p. 12

Necrology, p. 12

Updates, p. 12

---

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

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

April 2023  
Vol. LXIV, No. 3

### Minutes of the 928th US Provincial Council Meeting March 29-30, 2023, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Vien Nguyen, Provincial Superior, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Rafael Querobin, Fr. Greg Schill (via Zoom), Br. Duane Lemke and Dn. David Nagel, Councilors; Br. Frank Presto, Provincial Secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. David Szatkowski, Fr. Ed Zemlik, Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Frater Paul Phong Hoang (Zoom) from the Centennial Planning Committee met with the council to discuss plans for the anniversary celebrations; Fr. Henry Nguyen was present for dialogue about vocation ministry; Dr. Paul Monson, SHSST Vice President of Intellectual Formation and Academic Dean, joined the meeting for discussion of the ECS program at SHSST.

- I. North American Councils Meeting — Councilors briefly discussed the previous day's meeting with the Canadian regional administration. It was a productive meeting with good dialogue. The next meeting will be on October 24 in Toronto. Dn. Nagel and Fr. Querobin are unable to travel to Canada for the October meeting; they will join via Zoom. Fr. V. Nguyen will make the Zoom arrangements. Minutes from the March meeting will be shared with members of the two entities via the US Cor Unum.
- II. Administration
  - A. Formation
    1. Frater Paul Phong Hoang — The council voted to approve Fra. Hoang's request for final vows. The ceremony will take place at Sacred Heart Monastery / Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology on May 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
    2. Formation Committee report — A draft of the committee's report is being finalized; the committee will next meet in September. The committee is working on a guide and syllabus for province formation.
    3. Vow renewals — Those in temporary vows have indicated that they would like to do their renewals during the Provincial Chapter. Later in the council meeting, vow renewals were tentatively scheduled for July 19.
  - B. Local communities
    1. St. Joseph's Community (4th Floor SHML) — Fr. V. Nguyen recently did a visitation of the community.  
  
The council voted to appoint Fr. Francis Vu Tran as local superior of the St. Joseph's Community. He will begin a three-year commitment on May 1, 2023. The council voted to appoint Br. Frank Presto as local treasurer. The House Council will be Fr. Henry Nguyen (first councilor), Fr. Terry Langley, Fr. Son Nguyen, and Fr. Vien Nguyen.
    2. Sacred Heart Monastery — Fr. V. Nguyen reported on his visitation of SHM. He said that he found it to be very hospitable, and noted that new members, such as Fr. Floribert from Congo, have felt very welcomed.
    3. St. Francis Residence (Woods Road) — St. Francis is an affiliate community of St. Joseph's Community, but its members interact more regularly with the Sacred Heart Community at SHML. The St. Francis community includes Br. Matt Miles and Fr. Dominic Peluse and Fr. Charles Brown. Regarding the property itself, the white house, where Br. Miles resides, needs extensive work.

4. Mississippi— Fr. Louis Mariano Fernandes is returning to India; Fr. Guy Blair recently moved to Holly Springs and will begin to take on ministry in the area. Fr. V. Nguyen will spend Triduum and Easter in Mississippi and assist with pastoral needs.

C. Vacations — The council revisited previous discussions regarding vacation time for members of the province. They reiterated the province policy that all SCJs receive one month of vacation a year. This includes SCJs who minister at schools (any level; grade school to seminary). If school vacation time exceeds one month, it is assumed that an SCJ can attend to tasks related to his school ministry, assist in another province ministry, do research, or do studies in his field. An SCJ's ministry does not determine the amount of vacation that he receives.

D. Centennial — Members of the Centennial Planning Committee (Fr. David Szatkowski, Fr. Ed Zemlik, Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Frater Paul Phong Hoang) met with the council to talk about plans for the Centennial celebrations.

1. Milwaukee (Hales Corners / Franklin) — There will be a large gathering on Sunday, July 16 at Sacred Heart Monastery/ Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology for benefactors, alumni, and other friends of the community. This will begin with a 10:30 a.m. Mass followed by lunch and other activities.

The “family” celebration will be on Monday, July 17, which will include SCJs, employees and others who work with the SCJs in the Milwaukee area, and representatives from province ministries outside of the Milwaukee area. Eucharist on Monday will begin at 4:30 p.m., followed by a social and dinner.

The committee would like to have a memorial service at the mausoleum following the Mass and lunch on Sunday. Perhaps, coffee and dessert could follow. Several councilors raised questions about the logistics of a gathering at the mausoleum. There is not much space, in July the heat and bugs could be challenging, and it may be physically difficult for many to get to the mausoleum area. A speaker system would need to be set up. Perhaps a commemoration of the deceased would be more appropriate for an SCJ gathering, not one with the wider public.

Fr. Kurps, as province liturgist, will plan the July 16 and 17 liturgies. Pam Milczarski from the Province Development Office is searching for a choir for the July 16 Mass. Fr. Vien Nguyen will preside and preach at both Masses in his role as provincial superior.

Fr. Yvon Sheehy is organizing the July 16 and 17 meals. Fr. David Szatkowski will contact Monica Misy at SHSST about securing a block of rooms at the Hampton Suites. He was asked to arrange for a block that would cover rooms needed for Sunday and Monday's events, as well as rooms that might be needed for the Provincial Chapter.

2. Lower Brule — The celebration in Lower Brule will be on Sunday, July 30. The bishop of Rapid City (Bishop Peter Muhich) will be the presider at the Mass in Lower Brule and Fr. Stefan Tertünte, provincial superior of Germany (the mother province to the US) will be the homilist.

Fr. Christianus Hendrik is the point person in South Dakota and it is thought that he is planning the liturgy there. It was noted that there are several hotel options in the Chamberlain area; Fr. Hendrik should be encouraged to look beyond Cedar Shore when reserving a block of rooms.

3. General discussion — Several major superiors of SCJ entities will attend either the Wisconsin or South Dakota celebrations; Fr. V. Nguyen is in the process of inviting them. SCJs from any entity are welcome at all events; invitations will soon be sent. Security concerns should be discussed; SHSST generally has security personnel at public events. Perhaps law enforcement should be informed of the gatherings in Wisconsin and South Dakota. For Milwaukee, Mike Erato might have recommendations for security issues.

Fr. Charles Brown is creating an image for the celebration to be used in the chapel. A banner is being planned for the South Dakota events. The original banner design included pictures of several of the pastors who had served at St. Mary's; councilors suggested that the pictures not be included. People might be inadvertently missed, and focusing on the pastors ignores others who have been a part of the history of the parish. Also, if the locations in which the SCJs have served in South Dakota are to be on the banner, there needs to be research to ensure that none are forgotten. Br. Lemke suggested that a Native American be consulted on the background color; red might be a more meaningful background color than black.

Fr. Querobin will contact a manufacturer in Brazil about ordering Dehonian crosses to use as giveaways. Leftovers can be used by the Vocation Office.

The planning committee suggested using one of the alternate logo designs for the Centennial prayer cards. Councilors said that logo chosen as the “official” logo be used as much as possible for brand identity (red logo designed by Ruth Markworth). However, incorporating Native American themes in the South Dakota design is appropriate. Prayer cards can be printed at Tipi Press in South Dakota. Fr. Szatkowski will contact Melissa Chmela about this.

The committee asked about including the Vocation Office phone number in the logo. Councilors said that the logo can be placed next to contact information in booklets, prayer cards, etc., but that phone numbers should not be incorporated into the design.

Rooms need to be reserved in both Wisconsin and South Dakota for VIP visitors, such as superiors from other entities. VIPs should have first priority to stay in SCJ houses; the province will pay for overflow at hotels. SCJs of the US Province should cover their travel expenses from their local budgets.

Besides the province celebrations, Centennial celebrations will also take place on the local level. For example, at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston the parish will celebrate the Centennial on September 2, as well as 50 years of SCJ ministry at OLG, and the 100th anniversary of the church. Mississippi will celebrate the Centennial on feast of the Sacred Heart.

Members of the committee were thanked for their work and asked to keep the council updated on their plans.

#### E. International collaboration

1. Indonesia — Fr. V. Nguyen reported on his trip to Indonesia. The US Province has long had a collaborative relationship with the Indonesian Province. The purpose of the trip was for Fr. V. Nguyen to get to know the Indonesian Province better, and to discuss possibilities for future collaboration. The Indonesian Province offered to send one of its younger members to serve in the US Province. He is in the process of applying for an F1 visa. It is hoped that he can be here for the first ECS summer session. Another Indonesian, who is currently a deacon preparing for priesthood, may be available at a later time.
2. Theresian Missionaries of Mary — Sr. Joy, the first of the TMM sisters from Indonesia to arrive in the United States, is living at SHSST and taking classes in the ECS program. She and another sister are preparing for ministry in South Dakota where they will collaborate with the Lower Brule Pastoral Team. The second sister is waiting for approval of her visa. Fr. Schill said that there is a house on the St. Joseph Indian School campus where they can stay.
3. Preparation — Councilors emphasized that all international ministers must have cultural preparation about the United States and specifically about the area in which they are to serve and the culture of its people. They must also take part in safe conduct training. Praesidium has webinars that would be helpful.

#### F. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

1. Memos of Understanding — A draft of a Memo of Understanding for formation between the Priests of the Sacred Heart and SHSST is close to being completed. Once approved, it will go to the Provincial Council. The MOU spells out the relationship and obligations of SHSST and the Priests of the Sacred Heart to each other.

A MOU is also being created by Tyler Galstad and Chris Lambert to address shared use of the building that houses both SHM and SHSST.

2. ECS Program at SHSST — Dr. Paul Monson, SHSST Vice President of Intellectual Formation and Academic Dean, joined the meeting for discussion of the ECS program at SHSST. He has had oversight of the program since the beginning of the fall semester, following the departure of the previous director. Dr. Monson spoke of some of the changes to the program over the years, including the name change from ESL (English as a Second Language) to ECS (English and Culture Studies). “Culture studies” is something that sets SHSST’s program apart from other ESL programs. This is helpful for the visa process (it offers a reason for why a student should come to SHSST to study English as opposed to doing so in his/her home country), but also important for students, many of whom will someday minister in an American setting.

There are now five, six to seven-week sessions spread throughout the year. The multiple sessions allow for flexibility in accommodating students when they receive their visas.

Ryan Stubbs has been hired as the new ECS director; he reports to Dr. Monson. In addition to him, there is a full-time instructor and two part-time instructors. The new director is seeking ways to make the ECS program more a part of the seminary experience for all, such as with a lunch series to showcase the lives and ministries of ESC students. Also, the ECS calendar has been adjusted to allow for the possibility of students attending Mission Education in South Dakota.

In coming months, the program will review scholarship criteria and seek ways to promote SHSST's ECS program more widely among religious superiors and bishops who are preparing international students and priests for ministry in the United States. Councilors suggested that the focus be on students who have some knowledge of English. These would be students preparing for higher studies and/or ministry in the United States. For most people, a seven-week program is not enough to get a good foothold in a new language.

In the "cultural" aspect of the ECS program, councilors said that it is vital for international students to be instructed on appropriate (and inappropriate) social interactions in the United States, and how parish structures work here. It was suggested that people such as Fr. Querobin and Fr. Hendrik Ardianto be interviewed to learn about what was helpful and what was lacking in their preparation for ministry in the US.

Councilors asked if there might be community outreach possibilities for the ECS program, such as offering ESL classes for immigrants. This might allow the two part-time instructors to go to full-time status. There are some challenges to this, but it is a possibility to consider. It might be a good way to start a Dehonian social service initiative in Milwaukee. Barbara Graham would be a good resource on this.

As a member of the SHSST faculty, Dr. Monson expressed his gratitude for the SCJ formation program on the SHSST campus. It offers a good sense of Dehonian presence at SHSST. Prior to the move from Chicago, there were few SCJs regularly on campus. Now, prayers can be heard from the community chapel, Eucharistic Adoration is observed as staff and students walk down the hall. It has a significant impact on the wider SHSST community.

3. Pontifical degree — The paperwork regarding the proposed affiliation of SHSST with the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome is now with the Jesuits' general administration. The Jesuit superior general is said to be impressed with the proposal. It is hoped that the partnership can soon be finalized, allowing for SHSST to confer pontifical degrees.
- G. CMSM — Fr. V. Nguyen invited councilors to consider attending CMSM's National Assembly in Kansas City, August 1-3. The theme is "We are the Body of Christ: Charism and Community." Information is available on the CMSM website. Fr. V. Nguyen has a discount that can be used.
- H. Pre-Retirement workshop — Approximately 10 SCJs will be taking part in the pre-retirement workshop April 25-26 at the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Tucson. Fr. Schill was asked to ensure that a room is reserved for the speaker, Br. Wayne Fitzpatrick.
- I. Fr. Anthony Kluckman — On March 2 members of Fr. Kluckman's family, Mary Butler (private investigator), Br. Lemke and Mary Gorski, met with Sgt. Fadness of the Franklin Police. He spent several hours talking about the investigation of Fr. Kluckman's disappearance but did not seem well briefed on the case.

On March 15, members of Fr. Anthony's family, representatives of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Mary Butler and Kathleen Dahlgren met via Zoom to discuss next steps. As yet unaware of the full extent of the search process later conveyed by Mark Wenzel, Mary Butler suggested that a grid search by volunteers be organized. Mary Butler offered to organize the search and suggested that volunteers be sought from local parishes. April 22 was chosen as the date of the search and initial steps were taken to organize it.

Soon after the March 15 meeting, Mary Butler and Kathleen Dahlgren met with Mark Wenzel. It was then that they learned how extensive the police searches had actually been. Perhaps plans for April 22 should be revisited in light of what had already been done. A meeting was planned with the family soon after the council meeting.

Shortly before the council meeting a detective from the Franklin Police Department reviewed Fr. Kluckman's personnel file with Br. Presto present. He requested copies of the file's contents. Br. Presto agreed to provide them.

- J. Provincial Chapter — The Chapter Preparatory Committee was scheduled to meet the day after the Provincial Council meetings; there will be more to report about the chapter following that meeting. It was noted that the chapter proposals submitted by Fr. Bob Bossie were adapted and presented at the meeting of the North American administrations on March 28.

As a response to Fr. Bossie's first two proposals, the Canadian and US councils ask that a committee be established to plan for a North American Conference to address the threats of climate change and nuclear weapons; the conference is to take place in the fall of 2024 (September). After the conference, the organizing committee will become an established North American committee.

The third proposal called for the Canadian Region and US Province work to pressure the governments of the US and Canada to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Fr. V. Nguyen and Fr. Gustave Lulendo will write a joint letter to the SCJs in the US and Canada encouraging them to write to their elected officials to campaign for the two governments to sign the treaty. Information about how to contact their officials and what to write should be included. The letter from the two superiors can be adapted for employees and parish bulletins.

Fr. Richard MacDonald also submitted proposals for the chapter. The first concerned the process for transferring an SCJ to nursing care. The process described by Fr. MacDonald is the one that is in place, which includes consultation with doctors and the SCJ's healthcare POA. The second proposal regards the definition of "Absolute Majority." The term will be clarified for chapter delegates.

- III. Vocations — Fr. Henry Nguyen, province vocation director, joined the council for dialogue and updates regarding province vocation ministry. Fr. H. Nguyen expressed his gratitude to Fr. Jack Kurps for his assistance as a mentor in his new role, as well as to Fr. Chuck Wonch for his work in the vocation office. Fr. H. Nguyen is exploring new possibilities for fostering vocations, including more focus on SCJ parishes. It is important, he said, to not only encourage young people to consider a vocation, but to help parents envision the possibility of their children pursuing a vocation to the religious life and/or priesthood.

Fr. H. Nguyen would like to offer a variety of retreats and service programs for young men as a way for them to get a better sense of the Dehonians. Mississippi would be an ideal location, since there are already volunteer programs in place and a house for volunteers to stay. However, other areas of the province could also be considered.

He and the council discussed possibilities for Come and See weekends. For those initially discerning candidacy with the SCJs, perhaps a visit to a ministry location such as Mississippi or South Dakota would be more beneficial than a visit to Sacred Heart Monastery.

The internet offers many opportunities for interaction with young people, such as weekly or monthly prayer gatherings or discussions via Zoom.

Fr. H. Nguyen needs assistance staffing the province vocation booth at youth gatherings. More SCJs at a booth allows for greater individual attention to visitors. He will work with Fr. V. Nguyen to schedule SCJs to assist him at such events. Also important are giveaways for youth. The Dehonian cross on a string or chain is popular.

Fr. V. Nguyen thanked Fr. H. Nguyen for his availability to vocation ministry and the work with which he has already been involved.

#### IV. Finance

- A. Flanagan Center Project — The council reviewed and voted to approve the proposal endorsed by the SHSM Board of Directors to renovate and expand the Flanagan Social Service Center in Mississippi at a cost of \$1,998,610. The work will be done by Dan Walker Associates, with which SHSM has previously worked. Food insecurity has grown in recent years; food distribution is a significant part of the center's ministry.
- B. Dehon House — SHSST is advertising use of Dehon House for the propaedeutic year. A rental agreement has been prepared by Kathleen Dahlgren; the suggested rent is \$5,750 a month. This is in line with other buildings of its size in the area.
- C. Woods Road (St. Francis residence) — The cost to update the white house is approximately \$135,000 and would take about a year to complete. Before committing to the project, the province needs to discuss long-range plans for the property's use. Due to zoning issues, it is not an easy property to sell.
- D. Investment Committee — There was a meeting with the Committee and Trustees of the Priests of the Sacred Heart Support

and Maintenance Trust and the Employee Pension Trust. Investment returns moved downward in March. The Growth Pool had a return rate of 5.26% and the Charitable Gift Annuity Pool was 7.3%. Dn. Nagel said that he moved cash from Tri City to Merrill Lynch for Certificates of Deposit in order to get a higher rate of return.

- E. Foreign Missions — Bishop Adam Musialek of De Aar requested financial assistance for his diocese; Dn. Nagel told him that his request would be included in the foreign mission budget. Also to be included in the budget is a request from Poland asking for financial assistance to build a youth center in Belarus. Dn. Nagel suggests that the US Province donate \$50,000.
  - F. Blue Book — The province “Blue Book” is available for councilors to review. The book contains all of the formal audits of the major entities of the province, as well as financial information about local communities.
  - G. Budgets — The Province Finance Commission will meet on April 19 to review the budgets and make recommendations for the council.
  - H. Recreation Center at St. Joseph’s Indian School — C-POSH continues its multiphase remodeling of the Recreation Center. Phase II for FY24 includes much of the substantial work of remodeling (new roof, plumbing, HVAC and other significant items). The council voted to endorse the C-POSH board approval of \$7 million for Phase II. Because it is over \$5 million, the request will need to go to Rome for final approval.
- V. Membership
- A. Fr. Louis Mariano Fernandes — Fr. Fernandes is returning to India.
  - B. Fr. Christianus Hendrik — Fr. Hendrik plans on a year-long sabbatical from August 2023 to August 2024. The council approved of Fr. Hendrik’s request.

VI. Calendar — The following meeting dates have been established:

May 9-10: Provincial Council meetings  
June 27-28: Provincial Council meetings  
August 15-16: Provincial Council meetings  
September 26-27: Provincial Council meetings  
October 24: North American Councils meeting in Toronto  
November 7-8: Provincial Council meetings  
January 9-10: Provincial Council meetings

There will also be a short meeting via Zoom on April 11 at 1:30 p.m. (central)

## Summary of the Meeting of the Administrations of the Canada Region and the US Province

March 28, 2023, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Vien Nguyen (provincial superior, United States), Fr. Gustave Lulendo (regional superior, Canada), Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Maurice Légaré, Br. Duane Lemke, Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo, Fr. Rafael Querobin, Fr. Greg Schill on Zoom (councilors), Br. Frank Presto (provincial secretary) and Mary Gorski (minutes).

- I. Welcome and updates — Participants shared updates on their ministries and local communities. Items of note:
- US Province administration has been in frequent contact with the family of Fr. Anthony Kluckman to determine next steps regarding his disappearance. A private investigator was hired; there has been regular communication with the Franklin Police Department.
  - Fr. Vien Nguyen has visited several provinces that collaborate with the US Province, including Congo (125th anniversary celebration) and Indonesia.
  - Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo has been at St. Helen parish for about a year. It is a good parish community, but the church building needs expensive updates and maintenance. At 150 years old, it has significant historical value to the archdiocese of Toronto.
  - Our Lady of Guadalupe is also facing several significant maintenance issues. This year, the parish celebrates the 50th anniversary of the SCJ presence, and the 100th anniversary of the church building. The parish was established in 1912.
  - A Brazilian SCJ priest is scheduled to come to Toronto on April 14. He will live with the community on High Park Boulevard and study ESL in preparation for ministry. An SCJ priest from Congo is waiting for his visa to come to Montréal, and another from Portugal will come to the region in June (he has already visited the region but returned to Portugal for eye surgery). His ministry has not yet been determined.
  - The US Provincial Treasurer's Office is in the midst of the annual budget process.
  - Fr. Gustave Lulendo continues to wear three hats in Montréal but noted that a council comes with each one: a regional council in his role as regional superior, a house council in his role as local superior, and a parish council in his ministry at St. Anthony. One of his goals at the parish has been on building a better sense of community.
  - Members of both councils spoke of the increasing challenge of immigration. International SCJs face significant delays in receiving visas for either country, including visas for short visits.
  - Weather events have impacted St. Joseph's Indian School more so this year than in the past. Fr. Greg Schill took part in the meeting via Zoom due to weather-related travel concerns.
  - A major remodel and expansion of Sacred Heart Southern Missions' food pantry in northern Mississippi will take place this year. Recent years have seen a significant growth in food insecurity in the area.
- II. General Chapter — Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo is a member of the General Chapter Preparatory Committee; the committee met in person for the first time in early March and soon after, the convocation letter and questionnaire were sent to entity superiors. Answers from the questionnaire will direct the committee in its preparation of the *Instrumentum Laboris*, which is due to be finished in March 2024. Some entities may want to work on the questions in their chapters, while others will address them in local communities, later synthesizing a response.

The North American entities proposed that Internationality and Interculturality be addressed at the General Chapter. Fr. Willyans said that the theme, "Call to be one in a transforming world," touches on that. The Preparatory Committee reviewed the input of all entities when determining the theme. A common topic from the entities was community life and/or issues related to it. The theme urges the chapter to look at three main topics: communion, identity and mission. One hundred years after the death of Fr. Leo John Dehon, who are the SCJs called to be? Does the structure of the congregation need to be revisited? What is the best way for the general administration to interact and be a part of the life of the entities? How much autonomy do entities have to

build partnerships with each other? Which decisions are or should be under the jurisdiction of an entity and which require the input of the general administration?

Fr. Will was asked if the Preparatory Committee anticipated that much work would be done on the General Directory during the General Chapter. He said that he did not anticipate much focus on the directory.

Members of the Preparatory Committee will divide the chapter questionnaire responses into regions to be summarized. The summary for South and North America will be done by Fr. Will.

As is past practice, each entity is expected to prepare a State of the Entity report for the chapter.

Fr. Will reminded councilors that the Preparatory Committee invites SCJs and co-workers to submit a logo design for the General Chapter and/or create a hymn. A prayer has been developed. The prayer is included in the March 14 convocation letter.

The General Chapter Preparatory Committee will next meet in Rome in November. Fr. Will noted that members of the committee are not members of the General Chapter unless they are already de jure members or selected as delegates by their entities.

Members of both administrations said that they will continue to be in dialogue with each other regarding General Chapter concerns.

III. Entity chapters — Both the US and Canada will have their entity chapters this summer. The Canadian chapter will be August 28-31 with the theme “Being Community in the Process of Synodality.” The preparatory committee (Fr. Gustave Lulendo, Fr. Willyans Prado Rapozo, Fr. John van den Hengel and Fr. Richard Woodbury) is working with Myriam Wijlens, a canon law professor who was appointed by Pope Francis as an advisor to the Synod of Bishops. The region will focus on the General Chapter questionnaire in local communities following its chapter. The US chapter will be July 18-21; its preparatory committee: Fr. Jack Kurps (chairperson), Sr. Cathy Bertrand (facilitator), Fr. Henry Nguyen, Fr. Hendrik Ardianto, Br. Frank Presto, and Fr. Vien Nguyen (Mary Gorski sits in to take the minutes). The theme of the US chapter: “Welcoming the Spirit... preparing for our future.”

IV. Proposals for consideration — Fr. Bob Bossie joined the meeting to discuss three proposals that he wrote for the councils to consider. He originally prepared them as proposals for the US Provincial Chapter; however, Fr. Jack Kurps, chairperson of the US Chapter Preparatory Committee, suggested that they instead be presented at the North American councils meeting for consideration.

A. Proposals (paraphrased)

1. That the Canadian Region and US Province establish a North American Commission for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation to address the interconnected, existential threats to life as we know it: climate change and nuclear war. The commission would help local Dehonian communities and institutions implement *Laudato Si*, encourage the governments of Canada and the United States to sign the US Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and work toward “creating a network to stimulate and facilitate collaboration within the Congregation at all levels...” and “with other forces (ecclesial and non-ecclesial)” toward the two items mentioned above (the quotes are from the final message of the IX General Conference). Also, that the North American entities — through the General Chapter — encourage a similar commission at the international level for the congregation.
2. That the Canadian Region and US Province hold a joint North American conference in 2024 for the purpose of educating SCJs and their collaborators to be called to action to stand in opposition to the threats of climate change and nuclear weapons.
3. That the Canadian Region and US Province work to pressure the governments of the US and Canada to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Tasks to include joining with other organizations in this effort (such as International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and writing letters to the federal legislators in each area in which SCJs reside, urging them to encourage the US and Canada to sign the treaty.

B. Comments — The councils commended Fr. Bob for his work on the proposals; they are extensively researched and offer helpful resources. It was noted that there are other religious organizations and secular groups which are active in these concerns; the SCJs could collaborate with them and/or utilize resources prepared by them. For example, the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes are involved with the *Laudato Si* Action Platform.



Councilors cited the North American Migration Committee as a good model for North American collaboration. A committee was established to organize a North American Congress; the organizing committee went on to become the North American Migration Committee. For many years after the gathering the committee continued to educate SCJs in each entity, as well as collaborators, on migration concerns. Having a focused mandate contributed to the success of the committee.

- C. Action — A similar model (Migration Committee) is to be followed regarding Fr. Bob Bossie’s proposals. A committee will be established to organize a North American Conference on the threats of climate change and nuclear weapons; the conference is to take place in the fall of 2024 (September). After the conference, the organizing committee will become an established committee with a defined structure, including the term length of its members.

A description is to be written of what is envisioned for the 2024 conference and the preparatory committee. This will be shared with SCJs and collaborators in both entities, who will be invited to submit their names for consideration as members of the preparatory committee. Fr. Jack Kurps will work with Fr. Bob Bossie to write the description. A draft will be shared with the two councils. Once approved, the councils will determine how the description should be disseminated. It was suggested that the draft be discussed by the councils via a Zoom call.

Frs. Bob and Jack were thanked for their work.

- V. North American Dehonian Theological Commission — Each continental area in the congregation now has a Dehonian Theological Commission. The original members of the North American commission are Fr. Charles Brown (secretary), Fr. Gustave Lulendo, Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec and Fr. John van den Hengel (chairperson; the chairperson is also a member of the General Dehonian Theological Commission which meets each year). Recently Fr. Francis Vu Tran (full member), and Fr. Joseph Mukuna, Fr. Guy Bertrand Wabo and Frater Paul Phong Hoang (associate members; associate members do not attend the general theological conferences) have been added. Councilors discussed the process for appointing members to the commission. In the future, the commission will be asked to suggest names to each of the North American councils; the councils will then make the appointments.

Fr. Gustave spoke of the work of the commission, which has been primarily tied to the directives of the General Dehonian Theological Commission. Besides personal research projects, the North American commission is currently preparing a paper for the May 2023 General Theological Conference to be held in Madrid, Spain; its focus is on the aboriginal people’s relationship to the earth. Two representatives from each entity will attend the conference: Frs. Gustave Lulendo and John van den Hengel for Canada and Frs. Ziggy Morawiec and Francis Vu Tran for the US Province.

The commission prepared a workplan for 2023 and beyond which was shared with the councils.

Councilors talked about communication, which is noted in several points of the plan; how can the commission’s work be better communicated to the two administrations and to the SCJs of both entities? Also, are there possibilities for the commission to engage SCJs and the laity on societal and/or spiritual topics from a Dehonian perspective? The commission could use communication tools already in place in North America (websites, social media pages, e-blasts and/or direct emails) or create their own media format(s). The commission is welcome to work with the province communication office, development offices or other established resources. Perhaps the Dehon Study Center in Wisconsin could become a North American effort linked to the commission. This isn’t to suggest that the center mimic the format that it had when Fr. P.J. McGuire was director, but the commission could use it as a base for disseminating the founder’s writings. Or, the commission could direct the work of someone appointed (SCJ or lay) to lead the center.

The commission workplan cited retreats as a possibility. Both councils were in favor of this, noting that the North American retreats organized by Fr. John van den Hengel, Fr. Jim Schroeder and David Schimmel were well received.

It is thought that most of the other continental commissions have bylaws. Councilors agreed that the North American Dehonian Theological Commission should have the same; several topics which would appear in the bylaws are noted in the workplan, such as the election of the president and the presentation of a budget. The bylaws would formalize these and other tasks, such as the term length of commission members. The bylaws should be reviewed and approved by both councils.

- VI. North American Migration Committee — Members of the Migration Committee recommend that it be dissolved. The committee grew out of the North American Conference on Migration and continued the work that started at that conference. The committee suggests that further work regarding migration be done within each of the entities. The Canadian Region has established the

Region of Canada Migration, Justice and Peace Committee. The US Province does not have a migration-focused committee but there have been efforts on the local level to address the migration issues of each area, such as human trafficking in South Dakota. In the United States, a significant issue is the visa process for migrants. International SCJs, like other migrants, have increasingly struggled with this. Perhaps there are ways that the SCJs can collaborate with other organizations, such as CMSM, on migration concerns.

Members of the two administrations endorsed the committee's request for it to dissolve and expressed appreciation for its members' work. It has been a positive example — and model — for collaboration between the two North American entities. The superiors of each entity will write a letter of acknowledgment to the members of the committee, thanking them for their work.

VII. Spiritual activities — The councilors talked about possibilities for shared prayer and reflective experiences.

- A. North American Retreats — As noted earlier, the Dehonian retreats held in Canada and the United States were very well received; it would be good to organize something similar, perhaps in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the death of Fr. Dehon. The administration of both entities will brainstorm on names for an organizing committee to create a set of retreats to take place in 2025. It is hoped that a committee can be named at the next North American administrations' meeting in October.
- B. Zoom Hours of Recollection — The US Province has begun to offer one-hour seasonal reflections via Zoom; one is for SCJs and one is for employees and collaborators. So far, these have taken place during Advent and Lent. Canadian SCJs, staff and collaborators are very welcome to take part. Are there other ways in which the two entities can partner in sharing Dehonian spirituality?

Language is a challenge of which to be mindful. French is the primary language of some members of the Canadian Region, but there are also international SCJs in both regions who might struggle to understand a presentation in English on Zoom.

Regarding presenters, both entities have welcomed non-SCJs to lead reflective experiences.

- C. As a Rule — Members of both councils were invited to suggest names to Mary Gorski for future *As a Rule* reflections; *As a Rule* uses a passage from the Rule of Life as a starting point for reflections on a particular topic.
- D. Dehonian Associates — Both entities have Dehonian Associates programs. In Toronto, Fr. Jim Casper has been instrumental in starting and continuing a group in Toronto. Fr. Will plans to follow the model used by Fr. Jim at St. Helen's. Both Fr. Jim and Fr. Jack have used some of the resources developed by David Schimmel when he was director of Dehonian Associates for the US Province. These materials are available on the US Province website.

It was suggested that a simple newsletter — perhaps electronic — be created for Dehonian Associates to share news, reflections, and to enhance a sense of connectedness between members.

Language is an issue of which to be mindful. In some cases, presentations could be made in English, but after, participants could break into language groups for reflection. For example, Mississippi has a significant number of Spanish-speakers, Toronto has a wide variety of languages, Quebec has many French-speakers. These break-out groups could be done in-person but also in virtual meetings via Zoom.

Another suggestion was that a service component be available to Dehonian Associates, not as a mandatory part of the program, but as an option for those seeking such an experience.

There are a wide variety of possibilities for affiliation with Dehonian spirituality. Are there ways to create virtual affiliation through online sessions and reflection groups? Perhaps the North American entities could host an international Dehonian Associates gathering via Zoom. Fr. Jack said that there are YouTube videos that might be helpful; he will share them with the other councilors.

A group could be developed for lay residents at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.

Fr. Hendrik Ardianto is developing a group of Dehonian youth in Mississippi. Initially, it is to prepare young people traveling to World Youth Day, but he hopes to continue to grow the group after WYD and transition it into a Dehonian Associates program.

- E. Mission Education — The next Mission Education Conference will take place in South Dakota October 8-9. Members of the Canadian Region, staff and other collaborators are welcome and encouraged to participate.
- VIII. Vocations — Fr. Henry Nguyen has been appointed as the new vocation director of the US Province. The Canadian Region has not placed a significant focus on vocations in recent years. The councils hope to renew their collaboration on vocation efforts in the future.
- IX. Dehonian Youth, and World Youth Day — As noted previously, Fr. Hendrik Ardianto is organizing the group from the US Province going to World Youth Day. The Canadian Region is not organizing a WYD group this year.
- X. 100th anniversary of Fr. Dehon's death — The councils talked about collaborating on the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the founder's death in 2025. One possibility: have a pilgrimage to Dehonian sites. This could be a part of a larger "jubilee year" celebration ending on August 12, the anniversary of Fr. Dehon's death. The North American retreats for SCJs could be a part of this jubilee year.

It was suggested that a quality video on the life of Fr. Dehon be commissioned, something which could be utilized beyond North America as a way to promote who the SCJs are and the Dehonian charism.

- XI. US Centennial — The US Province welcomes Canadian SCJs to take part in any of the Centennial activities. There will be a public mass at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology on Sunday, July 16, and a "family" celebration with SCJs, local staff and representatives of local ministries on Monday, July 17. The celebration in Lower Brule, SD, will be on Sunday, July 30.
- XII. Collaboration with South America — The councils talked about how they can develop a dialogue between the entities of North and South America. It is important to visit the entities that have a direct collaborative relationship with the US and Canada; however, beyond that it would be good to have a simple exchange of information. Language is a challenge, but not insurmountable.

It was suggested that Frs. Vien and Gustave write a joint letter to the major superiors in South America to begin an informal dialogue. At the next international major superiors meeting the superiors of North and South America can request to have time together with translation assistance.

- XIII. Next meeting — The two councils will next meet together in Toronto on October 24, 2023.

## CALENDAR

### 2023

April 18:	Pre-Chapter Zoom meeting with delegates, 9:00 - noon (central)
April 25-26:	Pre-retirement workshop, Redemptorist Retreat Center, Tuscon
May 9-10:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
June 13:	Pre-Chapter Zoom meeting with delegates, 9:00 - noon (central)
June 27-28:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
July 16:	Province Centennial Celebration with the public, Hales Corners
July 17:	Province Centennial Celebration ("family" celebration with SCJs), Hales Corners
July 17-21:	US Provincial Chapter
July 30:	Lower Brule Centennial Celebration
August 12:	Province Jubilee celebrations
August 14:	Entrance to Novitiate
August 15-16:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
September 26-27:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
October 24:	North American Councils meeting, Toronto
November 7-8:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
January 9-10:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI

### 2024

June 14 - July 5: General Chapter, Rome

## NECROLOGY

+**Br. Harry Theo Schurgers**, a member of the Dutch Region, died February 6. He was born in 1933, made his first profession in 1956, and his final profession in 1960.

+**Br. Amedeo Mason, SCJ**, a member of the North Italian Province, died on February 25. He was born in 1935, professed in 1963, and made perpetual vows in 1966.

+**Br. Peter Mankins, SCJ**, a member of the US Province, died March 4. He was 93, professed his first vows in 1963 and made his perpetual profession in 1967.

+**Fr. Gerardus Zwaard**, a member of the Dutch Region, died on March 14. He was born in 1938, professed his first vows in 1958 and was ordained priest in 1965.

+**Br. Johannes Cornelius de Beijer**, also a member of the Dutch Region, died on March 15. He was born in 1934, professed in 1954 and made his perpetual vows in 1957.

+ **Br. Lorenzo Maffioletti**, a member of the North Italian Province, died on March 25. He was born in 1939, professed in 1957 and made his final profession in 1961.

+ **Fr. Claudionor José Schmitt**, a member of the South Brazil Province, died on March 21. He was born in 1948, professed in 1970 and ordained in 1975.

## UPDATES

### **Fr. Floribert Dhelo Bulo, SCJ**

Sacred Heart Monastery  
7335 S. Lovers Lane Rd.  
Franklin, WI 53132-1350  
Email: bulofloribert@gmail.com