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Minutes of the 929th US Provincial Council Meeting May 9-10, 2023, Hales Corners, WI

PRESENT: Fr. Vien Nguyen, Provincial Superior, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Rafael Querobin (absent the first morning due to flight delay), Fr. Greg Schill, Br. Duane Lemke and Dn. David Nagel, Councilors; Br. Frank Presto, Provincial Secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Hendrik Ardianto (via phone conference) for discussion of World Youth Day. Fr. Andrzej Sudol and Jenny Drzewiecki of St. Martin of Tours for discussion of a proposed childcare initiative.

- I. Check-in — Councilors updated each other on themselves, their ministries, and communities. Items of note:
 - A. Fr. Joe Dean is preparing for a move later this year to Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake.
 - B. Fr. Schill has set aside approximately eight guest rooms for use at St. Joseph's Indian School during the Centennial celebration in Lower Brule. There is also the possibility of using one of the student houses.
 - C. Fr. V. Nguyen will be a panelist at the August CMSM national gathering; the topic will be the impact of internationality. He recently took part in his first regional meeting of CMSM. There were several conversations with other major superiors regarding the impact of new visa regulations and the backlog in processing.
- II. Finance
 - A. Province Development Office — Donations to the Province Development Office continue to be good, maintaining at pre-pandemic levels.
 - B. Dehon House — The province continues to maintain the house and is in communication with Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology regarding possible use of the building for the propaedeutic year that is a part of the new PPF.
 - C. Investments — Return on investments was over 7.4% for the first quarter of 2023; despite uncertainty in the markets, this is a good start to the year.
 - D. Province Chapter Finance Committee — The committee met on May 2 and recommended approval of the province finance report prepared for the chapter. The report was sent to Fr. Kurps, chairperson of the Chapter Preparatory Committee.
 - E. General Finance Commission — The General Finance Commission will hold a meeting in Hales Corners from September 11-15.
 - F. Budgets — The following budgets were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Province Finance Commission. No significant concerns were noted.
 1. Province Development Office — Kory Christianson prepared the budget and created the mail schedule for the upcoming year. The Province Development Office is budgeting a \$7 million contribution to the province. The council voted to approve the Development Office budget for a total of \$17,699,907. With investment income, this includes a surplus of \$1,268,199. The council also voted to approve capital expenditures for a total of \$199,000, the largest of which is the replacement of the office blacktop for \$150,000.

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May 2023
Vol. LXIV, No. 4

2. Sacred Heart Southern Missions — SHSM operates two schools, six parishes and several social service agencies. It is budgeting a \$1 million contribution to the province, and a surplus of \$81,655. The council voted to approve the SHSM budget for a total of \$33,371,225, and also voted to approve capital expenses of \$1,259,500, \$1 million of which is for the Flanagan Center remodeling project.
3. Sacred Heart Southern Missions Housing Corporation — The budget is similar to last year; revenue comes from SHSM and rent from Dehon Village. The council voted to approve the SHSM-HC budget for total expenditures of \$441,760.
4. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — The seminary requested a 5% increase in the province grant from \$2,779,900 to \$2,917,730. Dn. Nagel asked for more information regarding the need for the increase. The Provincial Council reviewed the follow-up memo from the SHSST President's Council. The Provincial Council noted that SHSST has the lowest tuition of comparable seminaries in the area (the school with the highest tuition also has the highest number of students; tuition itself does not seem to be a deterrent). Should this be reviewed? The Provincial Council is in favor of the 5% grant increase to be used primarily for wages. The council voted to approve the SHSST budget for a total of \$7,578,976, plus the additional 5% (\$138,995) added to the province grant.
5. St. Joseph's Indian School — Total revenue is projected to be \$105,854,443 and total expenses are \$106,388,803. This leaves a \$534,360 deficit, which is attributable to \$10,627,292 of capital expenses, including \$6,700,000 for the continuation of the Rec Center remodel and expansion project. The council voted to approve the budget, and to approve capital expenses. It was noted that the superior general and his council have approved the Rec Center project.
6. Sacred Heart Center — The center is working with an attorney to address oversights of the new building attributable to the builder. Revenue comes primarily from grants from St. Joseph's Indian School and government programs. The council voted to approve the budget with total expenses of \$3,094,796, and voted to approve capital expenses of \$495,750.
7. Lower Brule Ministries — LBM serves six parishes with a pastoral team that includes SCJs, religious sisters, a deacon and two part-time employees. The council voted to approve the budget for Lower Brule Ministries for a total of \$545,758.
8. Native Hope — The organization has increased its outreach and programs and is in its second year of funding the South Dakota Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. The organization has a strong online presence. It is funded primarily by a grant from St. Joseph's Indian School, as well as direct donations. The council voted to approve its budget for \$1,595,231.
9. Houston community — The council voted to approve the budget for the Houston community for a total of \$335,775.
10. Sacred Heart Monastery — The council voted to approve the budget for the Sacred Heart Monastery community for a total of \$977,785.
11. St. Francis Residence — The council voted to approve the budget for a total of \$237,260, which includes \$135,000 of capital expenses primarily for an extensive remodel and update of the "white house." The council voted to approve the capital expenses.
12. St. Joseph's community at SHML — The council voted to approve the budget for St. Joseph's community for a total of \$426,405.
13. Dehon House — The council voted to approve the budget for Dehon House (primarily maintenance and upkeep) for a total of \$76,150 which includes \$35,000 for capital expenses. The council voted to approve the capital expenses.
14. South Dakota community — The council voted to approve the budget for the South Dakota Community for a total of \$130,606 which includes a surplus of \$20,769.
15. St. Michael's community — It was noted that most of Fr. Guy Blair's expenses are in a separate budget. The council voted to approve the community's budget for a total of \$476,280 which includes capital expenses of \$47,000 (car replacement, furniture and equipment). The council voted to approve the capital expenses.

16. Sacred Heart community at SHML — Some of the increase in this year’s budget is due to the hiring of overnight staff. The council voted to approve the community budget for a total of \$2,242,660. This includes capital outlay of \$170,000, the estimated expense of replacing seven of the current showers to those without a raised lip for easier entrance for those with mobility concerns. The council endorsed the Province Finance Committee’s recommendation to replace two showers this year, review their use, and replace further showers over several years.
17. Sacred Heart Community, Pinellas Park — The council voted to approve the budget for the Pinellas Park community for a total of \$483,982.
18. Sacred Heart Novitiate — The budget was created with the anticipation of one novice. At the council meeting it was learned that there will be no novitiate class for FY24. The council voted to approve the budget as written for a total of \$305,105.
19. Senior Life Commission — The council voted to approve the budget of the commission for a total of \$4,500.
20. Province Archives — The council voted to approve the archives budget for a total of \$18,200.
21. Province Communications — The council voted to approve the budget for the Communications Office for a total of \$165,703.
22. Dehonian Associates — The council voted to approve the Dehonian Associates budget for a total of \$153,700, \$62,000 of which is for the Mission Education conference in South Dakota. The rest of the budget is for the anticipated hire of a director.
23. Dehon Study Center — The money budgeted is for any projects that might come out under the center’s name during the next year. The council voted to approve the center’s budget for a total of \$5,000.
24. English and Culture Studies — The council voted to approve the ECS budget for a total of \$520,950. This is down \$47,300 from last year. It is anticipated that there will be 30 students in the summer session and 10 during the fall and spring semesters. Summer capacity is lower following the remodeling of the student wing.
25. Foreign Missions — The contribution to the Generalate was increased, but contributions to India, the Philippines, Vietnam, and DR Congo have gone down by 5%. This budget includes \$34,000 toward a three-year \$100,000 commitment from the province to the renovation of San Quentin, and a \$50,000 contingency fund. The US Province continues to be one of the largest financial contributors to the congregation. The council voted to approve the Foreign Missions budget for a total of \$2,324,788, which includes the funding of international students in the ECS program.
26. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — This budget includes a grant to Our Lady of Guadalupe school for \$45,000; the yearly grant was diminished by \$10,000 from the previous year and voted on in a previous council meeting. The council voted to approve the JPR budget for a total of \$63,850.
27. Vocation Department — There is a new vocation director; the increased budget reflects new initiatives undertaken by the office. The council voted to approve the budget for a total of \$234,124.
28. SHSST Major Maintenance — The budget includes long-range projects, such as \$200,000 for a generator replacement that has been on order. The council voted to approve the budget for a total of \$491,500.
29. Fr. Guy Blair — The council voted to approve Fr. Blair’s budget for a total of \$48,245.
30. Fr. Christianus Hendrik — The council voted to approve Fr. Hendrik’s sabbatical budget for a total of \$43,660.
31. Fr. Charles Brown — The council voted to approve Fr. Brown’s sabbatical budget for a total of \$53,260.
32. Chicago — The Chicago budget covers Fr. Bob Bossie’s expenses. The council voted to approve the budget for a total of \$41,364.
33. Flooring, Our Lady of Guadalupe — This year marks the 50th anniversary of the SCJs’ service to OLG, Houston and

the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the current church. In light of that, Fr. Querobin, pastor, asked that the US Province donate a new floor for the church at a cost of \$25,000. The council voted to approve the request.

34. Province — The council voted to approve the full province budget for \$14,795,016, which includes a \$2,820,357 surplus.

G. St. Martin of Tours — Fr. Andrzej Sudol submitted a request for the council to consider; it is in regard to a proposed childcare project at St. Martin of Tours. The council was unclear as to what Fr. Sudol was requesting: a grant or loan, and for how much? Fr. Sudol and Jennifer Drzewiecki of the SMOT staff joined the council to discuss the project. The parish is seeking ways to increase its outreach to young families. Affordable childcare is a significant need in the area. Faith Academy is a childcare organization that has outgrown its facilities. St. Martin of Tours would like to allow the academy to rent the former SMOT school. However, there are significant renovation and start-up costs to the project. The total cost is estimated at \$500,000.

The initial commitment of the parish and childcare care agency would be for five years; the partnership will be regularly evaluated.

During the discussion, the council offered several possibilities, such as a mix of a province grant and a loan. However, the council would like to have a better sense of what the parish needs for this project, what its other funding sources are, and how it anticipates paying back loans it may receive. The council asked Fr. Sudol and Ms. Drzewiecki to write a formal proposal of what SMOT is seeking from the province. If the proposal is done by Monday, it can be reviewed by the council at its Tuesday conference call.

III. Administration

A. Sacred Heart Southern Missions — On May 1, Tim Courts was appointed by Fr. V. Nguyen and his council to the position of president and CEO of Sacred Heart Southern Missions. Fr. Jack Kurps will continue as spiritual director of SHSM. The change was announced to staff on April 28. The transition was reviewed and approved by the Provincial Council at its November 2022 meeting.

The Provincial Council voted to approve the SHSM Board of Directors' election of the following three people to their first three-year terms on the board: Victoria Stirek (youth coordinator for the six parishes in northwest Mississippi; she is also a Dehonian Associate), David Delgado (graduate of Sacred Heart School and the municipal judge of Southaven), and Tim Courts (new president and CEO of SHSM).

Fr. Jack was thanked by Fr. V. Nguyen and the council for his many years of leadership at SHSM. "You infused the organization with Dehonian spirituality," he said.

B. South Dakota visitation — Fr. V. Nguyen said that he had a good visit with the South Dakota community; SCJs have made a commitment to be together more frequently. The community will have a meeting the first Sunday of each month; SCJs will rotate meeting leaders.

C. St. Joseph's Indian School — The council voted to approve the CPOSH South Dakota Board of Directors' appointment of the following two people to three-year terms on the board: Sr. Catherine Bertrand, SSND (she is a frequent facilitator of US Province events and is on the Chapter Preparatory Committee) and Bridget Martin (principal of Sacred Heart School in Southaven, member of the Dehonians' international education committee, Dehonian Associate).

D. World Youth Day — Fr. Hendrik Ardianto met with the council via teleconference with updates on World Youth Day. There are 25 young people from the US Province going to WYD including participants from Texas, Mississippi, Wisconsin, and the province formation program. Fundraising has gone well; participants have already raised \$50,000. It is estimated that expenses will be \$4,500 per person; the province will fund approximately \$1,500 per participant. Fr. Ardi has been in contact with Dehonians in Portugal. Plans are not finalized, but transportation and lodging are to be organized by the Portuguese Province from July 28 – August 6. Fr. Ardi said that travel documents are in place for the group. Fr. Jack has assisted with organization and preparation. Several suggestions were discussed to help SCJs in the US be connected with the youth at WYD, including shared prayer and letters with retired SCJs partnered with the WYD group.

Fr. Ardianto was reminded to send photos during the WYD travels for the province to share in its communications and as a way of helping members of the province feel connected to the events.

E. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

1. Memo of Understanding — The council reviewed a draft of a Memo of Understanding developed by SHSST to better define expectations of the seminary and the Priests of the Sacred Heart in regard to SCJ students enrolled in the seminary. Such a document is in place for seminarians from St. Francis de Sales; other sponsoring communities are requesting the same. The purpose is to clarify tasks and expectations of both SHSST and the sponsoring community/diocese. Councilors wanted to ensure that decisions regarding religious formation remain with the SCJs' program; SHSST's decisions focus on the academic and pastoral portion of a student's preparation. However, as a seminary, SHSST also has to ensure that all of the pillars of formation are met, regardless of whether they are done by a sponsoring community/diocese or by SHSST. There needs to be a system for verifying to SHSST that the sponsoring community's portion of the PPF is met. For accreditation purposes, SHSST has to demonstrate its authority, but in reality, a sponsoring community has final authority in regard to its own students. This needs to be clarified in a manner acceptable to both SHSST and the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

Fr. V. Nguyen will review the document and meet with Fr. Raúl Gómez Ruiz to regarding the concerns raised.

3. Housing — There are fewer student rooms following the remodeling. This is primarily a concern during the summer sessions of ECS.
4. SHSST Board of Directors — Currently Fr. V. Nguyen, Fr. Quang Nguyen and Fr. Andrzej Sudol are on the SHSST Board of Directors. There is a desire to have a stronger SCJ presence on the board; more SCJs will be appointed to the board.

Fr. V. Nguyen will write a letter to the chairperson of the board with his recommendations, including biographical information on each person.

- F. Provincial Chapter — During the April 18 Pre-Chapter Zoom meeting there seemed to be strong support for all of the proposed changes to the Provincial Directory except the one concerning No. 129, which regards chapter participation of those in temporary vows. Position papers for and against the proposed change will be presented to chapter delegates before their June 13 Pre-Chapter meeting.

- G. Workshops and retreats — After a positive experience with the pre-retirement workshop led by Br. Wayne Fitzpatrick, MM, in April, the council asked Br. Fitzpatrick to consider leading a workshop for retired SCJs. It is tentatively scheduled for early October in Hales Corners; more details will be shared in the months ahead. A workshop in Pinellas Park will be scheduled at a later date. One of the "successes" of the pre-retirement workshop was that it was informative, but also felt like a retreat experience. A similar atmosphere is suggested for the workshop for the retired. Perhaps a presentation of 60-90 minutes could be done in the morning (one each of two days) with the afternoon devoted to reflection and/or one-on-one time with Br. Fitzpatrick.

The council would also like to offer a retreat and/or workshop for those in active ministry. More discussion is needed on this.

Fr. V. Nguyen said that he contacted Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, president of Catholic Theological Union, about doing a presentation for the province. She will lead the Advent one-your recollections. The recollection for employees and other collaborators will be on November 30 and the one for SCJs will be on December 5. Both will begin at 10:00 a.m.

- H. Formation Alfonso Pizano — Mr. Pizano has decided to leave the formation program.

- I. Continuing education on boundary issues — Br. Presto contacted Praesidium and CMSM about conducting a workshop for members of the US Province regarding violations; this would count towards an individual's accreditation hours. Praesidium has availability for a four to eight-hour workshop via Zoom sometime between August 17-25. Br. Presto is working with Dn. Stephen DiMartino to set up the workshop.

- J. Senior Life Commission — Fr. Schill contacted the USCCB's National Religious Retirement Office for background and input on in-home nursing care for religious; several members of the community at SHML have suggested that one of the floors be adjusted to allow for nursing care. The representative to whom Fr. Schill spoke said that the first question to answer is "What is meant by nursing care?" The extent of the in-home care which is desired needs to be put in writing. She

is to send Fr. Schill several resources to help him and the Senior Life Commission have an informed conversation about the topic. The next meeting of the Senior Life Commission will be August 17. In preparation for that, Fr. Schill will also review previous senior life policies.

Several concerns were cited during the council's discussion of in-home nursing care: 1) the long-term investment, 2) the quality of care (a professional facility would have many more options than in-home nursing care), and 3) the permitted use of the property (the occupancy permit is for senior apartments, not nursing care).

The local Jesuits have a block of rooms in a nursing facility; would this be a better option for SCJs that would allow for professional care and community life?

- K. Mission Education — The next Mission Education Conference will take place October 8-9 at St. Joseph's Indian School. The theme: "Your Kingdom Come ~ Óhínniyā (eternally, forever)." Mike Tyrell recently sent a letter to SCJs, various managers and others in leadership with details about the gathering, including a request for numbers by May 26, and hotel options. Financial assistance for local communities to send participants is available through the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

IV. Membership

- A. Fr. Anthony Kluckman — Fr. Kluckman's 76th birthday is on May 12; Fr. V. Nguyen will send a note to SCJs about this, asking that he be remembered in prayer. The one-year anniversary of his disappearance is on July 21, the Friday of the provincial chapter.

- B. Fr. Wojciech Adamczyk — During the week of May 15, Fr. V. Nguyen will announce Fr. Adamczyk's return to Poland.

- V. Next meeting — The council will meet by Zoom at 9:00 a.m. (central) on Tuesday, May 16.

CALENDAR

2023

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 15-16:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
September 26-27:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
October 8-9:	Mission Education, St. Joseph's Indian School
October 24:	North American Councils meeting, Toronto
November 7-8:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI
November 30:	Advent Hour of Recollection for employees and collaborators, 10:00 a.m. (central) via Zoom.
December 5:	Advent Hour of Recollection for SCJs, 10:00 a.m. (central) via Zoom (both will be led by Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, president of Catholic Theological Union.
January 9-10:	Provincial Council meeting, Hales Corners, WI

2024

June 14 - July 5: General Chapter, Rome

NECROLOGY

+ **Fr. Manuel Fernando Ribeiro**, a member of the Portuguese Province, died April 10. He was born in 1936, professed in 1956 and ordained in 1962.

+ **Fr. Ernest Budyn**, a member of the Polish Province, died on April 14. He was born in 1935, professed in 1952 and ordained in 1960.

+ **Fr. Giuseppe Gruber**, a member of the North Italian Province, died on April 22. He was born in 1933, professed in 1952 and ordained in 1961.

UPDATES

Fr. Guy Blair, SCJ, is now a member of the Mississippi SCJ community with residence in Holly Springs. He will be a part of the pastoral team that serves six parishes in Northern Mississippi.

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