



Congregation of the Sacred Hearts United States Province

October 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and all good.

It has become a cliché: “**we are all in this together**”. The reality, of course, is that we each face the global crisis in our own way. I know that you have been bombarded by reflections, theological and otherwise, but I submit the following excerpts from Richard Rohr - September, 2020

Somehow our occupation and vocation as believers in this sad time must be to first restore the Divine Center by holding it and fully occupying it ourselves. If contemplation means anything, it means that we can “safeguard that little piece of You, God.” We cannot abide in a place of darkness for any length of time or it will become our prison.

God cannot abide with us in a place of fear.

God cannot abide with us in a place of ill will or hatred.

God cannot abide with us inside a nonstop volley of claim and counterclaim.

God cannot abide with us in an endless flow of online punditry and analysis.

God cannot speak inside of so much angry noise and conscious deceit.

God cannot be found when all sides are so far from the Falconer.

Stand as a sentry at the door of your senses for these coming months, so the blood-dimmed tide cannot make its way into your soul.

If you will allow, I recommend for your spiritual practice for the next four months that you impose a moratorium on exactly how much news you are subject to – hopefully not more than a hour a day of television, social media, internet news, magazine, newspaper commentary, political discussion.

It will only tear you apart and pull you into the dualistic world of opinion and counter-opinion, not Divine Truth which is always found in a bigger place.

You have much to gain and nothing to lose. Nothing at all.

And the world – with God as a stable center – has nothing to lose.

And everything to gain!

Formation

With gratitude to the Lord, the Provincial Council accepted the request of Marc Roque and Juan Carlos Martinez to enter Novitiate in January 2021. They are coming to the end of their pre-Novitiate program directed by Bob Charlton. We thank Bob and the local community for “shepherding” these young men to the entrance of our SSCC community.

They will be joining the four men who experienced pre-Novitiate under the guidance of Marisi Palepale and Johnathan Hurrell: Tavite Uluilakeba, Rafaele Sekiwaqa, Sepulona Lutelu, and Gaberieli Saunivalu. We are awaiting news concerning flight times and schedules from Fiji to the United States.

Due to the threat of dengue fever, the Council assigned Bro. John Sawchenko to St Patrick Seminary in California to continue his studies. St. Patrick is a Seminary and University in Menlo Park, California whose primary mission is the formation of clergy. It is located about 35 miles south of San Francisco. Since its founding in 1898, it has formed more than 2,000 priests. Many priests from the Diocese of Honolulu, including Bishop Larry Silva, are graduates of St. Patrick. Currently, there are 51 students in residence.

John writes: *“Beginning in September 2020, I changed seminaries from Pacific Regional Seminary in Fiji to St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park. The move was due to health reasons. Though it is sad to have moved from our community of brothers in Fiji, St. Patrick has been a blessed experience thus far. The students are very friendly and my classes are interesting. The priests are very devoted to our formation and well-being. Due to Covid, we are, for the most part, not leaving the seminary grounds. But this is quite alright, because I have plenty to do with studies and prayer for the time being.”*

Finance

Martin O’Loughlen and Cindy Epperson continue to keep a vigilant eye on our financial situation. We are so grateful to the National Religious Retirement Organization (NRRO) for their support and guidance. The members of our NRRO team: Bro. Peter Campbell, Ana Casey, and Dayna Larson-Hurst are experts in their field. We also know that there are many other religious communities who are facing similar fiscal crises

Chapter Preparation

In the month of November you will receive another video presentation from the Provincial. Due to Covid-19, the plans and schedule for our Chapter, set by the Chapter Preparation Commission, were put on “pause”. We now need to “kick start” that process. As you know, the Provincial Chapter is scheduled for May 2-8, 2020, at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Kalihi, Hawaii. We ask that brothers continue to discern the most important issues – priorities - facing the US Province, and very importantly, how you can contribute to the discussion and to the implementation of any and all actions required to meet the needs of all the Brothers in the Province.

News Around the Province...

It is with sadness that we announce the retirement of Margaret Gray from her position at 73 Adams Street at the end of 2020. Over the years we have been so fortunate to have a talented, hard- working, diligent, loyal, and conscientious member of our work force. Beyond any job description, Margaret has gone over and above. She has run the Fairhaven office with efficiency and resourcefulness. But most importantly, she has done her work with the utmost care and love for the SSCC men whom she served.

We certainly wish her well as she moves on to a new chapter. She seems to be really love her job as “grandma” to her granddaughter and soon to be two new grandchildren. We are forever grateful to you, Margaret!

... *hakuna matata*...

I just returned from Kaneohe visiting a 95 year old woman who has asked me to do her funeral.

As we parted she said, “ **Please say only good things about me when I’m gone**”.

I replied kindly, “**Of course, I will**”.

And with that she responded,

“**Thank you, and just to be sure, I’ll write it down for you!**”

...and the circle of life goes on...

Aberman



Continued Congratulations to our 2020 Jubilarians

RICHARD LIFRAK	25 YEARS ORDAINED
FINTAN SHEERAN	70 YEARS PROFESSED
DAVID REID	60 YEARS PROFESSED
JOHN ROCHE	40 YEARS PROFESSED
CHRIS SANTANGELO	25 YEARS PROFESSED
SUBAL NAYAK	25 YEARS PROFESSED
ALEXIS NAYAK	25 YEARS PROFESSED