Notes from Justice Peace & Reconciliation Commission Meeting

September 12, 2019

Provincialate Offices

Present: Fr. Bob Bossie, Fr. John Czyzynski, Fr. Wayne Jenkins, Mark Peters, Fr. Ed Zemlik

Excused: Fr. Guy Blair, Fr. Juan Carlos Castaneda,

**Prayer:** Ed led us in prayer out of “This Day of God.”

**Director’s Report:** The newly-formed Catholic Coalition for Migrants and Refugees has been taking most of Mark’s time since May. On the one hand, the Archdiocese has been very supportive of the effort, on the other the enthusiasm of the July 11 meeting has subsided and leadership in the group is sparse, so there are concerns about the group’s capacity to respond should many parishes or other groups request speakers, and its political advocacy teams to keep up with fast-paced developments. SGI efforts continue, but Mark will cut down on his level of activity with the group this year to focus on immigration. Ed and John will attend this year’s SGI conference/fundraiser on Oct. 7 and each commission member was asked to invite one other SCJ. Mark also reported on his trip to San Antonio with an ICCR delegation to visit an ICE detention center for mothers and children, which he’ll report on in the next newsletter.

**Group Discussion:** Bob led us in discussion of an article on “Climate Disruption’s Ever-Growing Role in Driving Migration” and the media’s failure to cover it. The group was very impressed with the documentation of this worldwide crisis that has also been a strong contributor to migration to our southern border. Bob will do some followup on this and ideas raised at the last meeting and we will consider how to best get this information out to North American SCJs and engage this province in reflection on the climate crisis and our communal response.

**National JPIC Meeting:** Eli McCarthy has invited CMSM JPIC promoters to Holy Cross Retreat Center March 16-18 in Las Cruces, NM for a gathering focused on immigration and systemic change. We will discuss this more on a future phone call.

**Klingler Award:** Mark will get this year’s invitation for nominations out soon.

**Province Response to General Council plan:** Bob will draft something for our review before the 9-30 deadline.

**NAMC:** JPRC and NAMC will meet together on November 18 at 2 PM.

**Conversation with Fr. Raul Gomez:** Fr. Raul joined us for the last 45 minutes of our meeting. He explained to us how Catholic social teaching and the Dehonian understanding of social justice is currently integrated into the curriculum and programs of SHSST, and the challenges of trying to do so given current standards that emphasize academics and priestly formation. We shared the history of JPR involvement with the seminary and our willingness to assist in whatever ways possible in promoting this element of the Dehonian charism. Fr. Raul suggested that we talk to Dr. Olesnavage in Pastoral Formation and Fr. Ziggy as a next step.

**Next Meetings:** Our next phone meetings will be Oct. 11 and 25, from 10:45 – 11:15. Our next quarterly meeting will be Nov. 18, from 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM at the Provincialate Offices.