

ONGOING EDUCATION/FORMATION COMMITTEE (OEFC)

MINUTES – MEETING #44

Tuesday, April 9, 2013
Chicago Province Center – Techny, Illinois

Present: Jim Bergin, Kathy Borresen, Jim Braband (Chair), Dan Holman, Mark Weber
Excused: George Gawlik

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with a prayer led by Jim Braband.
The Minutes of the previous meeting held on October 9, 2012 were reviewed and will stand as issued.

1. REPORT: ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT PROGRAM

The final compliance rate for Fiscal Year 2011-12 was 100%. This was the second year to achieve this rate. It was also noted for FY 2011-12, that there were more members required to submit their Statements than last year and that the program was completed in a shorter period of time—by December 31, 2012. The committee was hopeful that the AAS program for the current fiscal year will be as successful. (*Attachment: Annual Accountability Report*)

2. GRANTS

2.1 Final Report: FY 2011-12

A review of the budget for FY 2011-12 was given. Overall, the Education Office's budget for grants was on-target, using 94% budgeted amount. Eighty-four grants were issued to individual SVDs to attend assorted seminars, workshops, etc. and 27 grants were issued under the Group Event portion of the budget. The Group Event this year was the SVD Finance Seminar #5 held in June 2012. (*Attachment: History: Ongoing Education/Formation Grants*)

2.2 Current Report: FY 2012-13

During the first six months of this fiscal year, 57 individual grants have been issued. This is a normal pattern. The Education Office does not anticipate any financial shortages with regards to fulfilling individual grant requests for the balance of the fiscal year. Further, there will be one Group Event—the SVD Leadership Workshop—scheduled to take place in April. This too is a budgeted item and will be completely funded. (*Attachment: History: Ongoing Education/Formation Grants*)

3. OEFC ANNUAL REPORT:2012

This report was submitted to the Provincial on January 24, 2013. In it was listed all of the activities conducted by the OEFC and the Education Office including the AAS program, changes and updates to the website, ongoing education grants, and meetings held during the year. Also reported were the committee's future goals such as conducting the upcoming SVD Leadership Workshop (April 2013) and the SVD Finance Seminar (October 2013). (*Attachment: Chicago Province 2012 Annual Report*)

4. PARISH PROPHETIC DIALOGUE (PPD)

The fourth workshop in this series was held on November 12-16, 2012 at Techny Towers. Remarkably, more laypeople attended (28) than did religious. The material presented was reported to be excellent. One of the items on the agenda included a review of the benchmarks established at the first assembly in 2007. It was suggested that future Dialogues request an increase in financing; travel expenses seem to be a large part of the costs for

participants. Bro. Bernie Spitzley is the newly-appointed USC Mission Secretary replacing Fr. Mark Weber who is now Generalate Secretary for Education/Formation. Future PPD events will be under the responsibility of Bro. Bernie.

5. STUDY DAY # 14 (aka SVD LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP)

Planning for this study day went through several adjustments on the type of topics as well as setting an actual date. Coordinating the availability of speakers, which in turn affects the topics presented, the availability of meeting facilities, and the availability of SVDs to participate was difficult. The established timeframe of a Tuesday through Saturday program was debated several times until the date for the 14th Study Day was set as a Wednesday (April 17) through Friday (April 19) program. The strongest focus for the Day with regards to the theme of leadership will be placed at the end of the agenda when participants will come together to discuss how to pass their leadership skills on to their associates at the parish and community level.

6. SVD (SAVING VALUABLE DOLLARS) FINANCE SEMINAR #5

Fr. Darius Garbacz joined the committee meeting at this point to discuss the plans for the upcoming SVD Finance Seminar to be held October 7-9, 2013 at Techny Towers. The agenda for the seminar is set and the subject matter will be: Canon Law which will include SVD regulations versus canon law regulations; Accounting Basics that will be, among other things, a follow-up to understanding budgets; Employment Law with relevancy to dealing with parish staff; Personal Boundaries especially as needed in doing parish work; and the intricacies of applying (and using) PAC/MEG Grants. It was noted that a minimum of 25 attendees is needed in order for the seminar to be cost and time effective. The committee was confident that it would be especially if the Provincial encourages participation.

7. CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: GOOD LEADERS, GOOD SHEPHERDS

This workshop was brought to the committee's attention by Fr. Dominic Nguyen and they appreciate his doing so. After some discussion it was decided that while the program outline looks very good and very thorough, the number of topics offered as well as the length of the program would present USC with considerable challenges. The length of the program would make it difficult for most pastors and associates to attend and the cost for the entire series is somewhat prohibitive. It was agreed that the workshop could be posted on the Education Office's website if any SVDs would like to participate in it on their own. (*Attachment: Good Leaders, Good Shepherds Program Calendar, Email dated January 3, 2013*)

8. OVERVIEW OF THE ONGOING EDUCATION PRESENTATION FOR THE LOCAL SUPERIORS' MEETING (April 17)

A historical review will be given concerning the website, education grants for the fiscal year, Study Days, SVD Finance Seminars, and the OEFC's workings.

9. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 11:20 a.m.
Minutes recorded by: Kathy Borresen

cc: T. Ascheman, SVD

Note: The attachments listed in these minutes were distributed to OEFC members only.