

Business Assembly 2017
May 29 – June 2
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Mario Cafarelli, the Provincial Director, at 7:45.

Fr. Mario then introduced to the assembly Fr. Josephat Msuya, who is working with us at St. Michael's Parish in Ft. Erie as an associate pastor. Father Josephat is a member of the Tanzanian Province.

Roll call. Fr. Ron Wiecek, the Province Secretary, then read the roll. Fr. Luciano Baiocchi, Fr. Jeff Finley, Fr. Joseph Grasso, Fr. Dominic Jung, and Fr. Ron Mahon were absent. The other 21 members of the Atlantic Province and Fr. Josephat from the Tanzania Province were present. There were 22 people present who have active voice.

Reading of Statutes. Fr. Ron Wiecek was then asked to read the pertinent statutes regarding the Business Assembly.

Tellers. Fr. Mario asked for volunteers to be tellers. Fr. Michael Mateyk and Fr. Phil Smith both volunteer and they were accepted.

Agenda. Fr. Mario then asked if the Agenda for the Business Assembly would be approved. Bro. Anthony Canterucci moved that the agenda be approved and Fr. Phil Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by the 22 members present.

Provincial's Report. Fr. Mario asked if there were any comments or questions about his report.

Fr. Ron Wiecek stated that the last part of Fr. Mario's report was dealing with issues that seemed to be destructive of community. He felt that these issues need to be addressed publicly and be dealt with rather than make the statement about these issues and just move on.

Fr. Brendan Doherty wanted to know about the Gala and the \$5,000 deposit put on the first venue. He wanted to know if a refund was ever received. Fr. Peter Nobili, the treasurer, answered simply, "No."

Fr. Patrick Gilmurray wanted to follow up on what the Moderator General stated when he was here for his visitation. He was impressed by our multicultural community and felt that we could be a beacon to the rest of the C.P.P.S. community. The Moderator shared about four different groups in the make-up of the province. Fr. Patrick would now say that there are two – the older school and the newer school. The way that these two groups go about ministry has caused and does cause a great deal of tension within the community. The older school has an older model of ecclesiology and missiology. It doesn't seem to value laws, values, or statutes or texts. The newer group sees this as a threat, is frustrated, feels respect needs to be earned, and that laws, statutes, texts, are not guidelines, but minimum standards of behaviour that are to be followed every day. The world has changed. He feels that donors' wishes are not respected. Fr. Patrick does not doubt that all care about this province. But behavior in regard to transparency is absolutely necessary or else we will lose our tax status.

Fr. John Colacino wished to point out that he probably is considered part of the older group, but 20% of the younger group is now involved in leadership. He takes exception to being called the Italian triumvirate (Fr. Mario, Fr. Peter, and himself) and considers it an ethnic slur.

Fr. Peter said he had been pushing the multicultural idea for many years when he went to community meetings long before the Moderator General expressed this idea.

Fr. Brendan then brought up Tanzania. Before we come up with a vote to turn over the mission projects in Tanzania, we need to make sure that we have the projects in very good shape.

Fr. Gary Luiz asked, "Who is the mission director now – or who is responsible for running the office?"

Fr. Mario responded by saying right now he and Fr. Peter along with Bro. Anthony are coordinating the office. That was why the office was moved back to Toronto so that it would be in closer proximity to them.

Fr. Tim Coday said that there seemed to be two different reports and the figures did not match. This is the crux of the problem because the world today is demanding accountability and transparency.

Fr. Brendan mentioned that at the last business assembly we basically approved giving a million dollars to finish up the work of the high school and put the water project on solid financial footing. It seems that the money was gone quickly and so what has happened? Again, it seems as if the two paradigms spoken earlier by Fr. Patrick are operative here.

Fr. Peter said the money came from Fr. Bufalini's estate and the land which was to be sold was never sold. The donor who said he would contribute a ¼ million dollar has never come up with anything but has only made excuses.

Fr. Mario stated that as far as he is concerned that donor will never come up with it and we should not even think that the man would be a source of help in building the dorms that Tanzania wants us to do.

Fr. Patrick estimated that the water project has been fairly self-sufficient. He felt that a time line of 18-24 months would be possible to have the water project be on its own. He said that the last check that he is aware of was written in January of last year. The water project is not a burden to the province.

Fr. Peter said that he has done nothing because he did not know the procedure. He has just been keeping the books balanced. He mentioned that he has sent money as recently as a month ago. Some of it was from the mission office and some from the province for a pre-fab building.

We now are aware the Tanzanian Province would like our help to build four two-story buildings. This is an impossibility for us to do alone. Each building has a projected cost of a minimum of \$250,000 USD. Perhaps the most that we can do is help build two buildings. Donors are minimal.

Fr. Patrick wanted to clarify that he had stepped-down and did not resign from the office of being the mission director. He further stated that donors have been in the decline for a long time. What we have been able to receive from donors is about 30,000-35,000 a year. Most donor are people who give small donations. The big donors are rare.

Fr. Patrick continued by stating that one exception is Dr. Batt from Buffalo who has a great concern about fresh water and is very supportive of the water project. Fr. Mario stated that he would like to meet him.

Fr. Patrick continued that we have to work together and help one another. No one wants to give. In the past two years our mailing list has gone down to 1,100 people.

Fr. Brendan stated that elementary school is self-sustaining. It has a top rating. We need to make sure that we can do something similar for the high school.

Fr. Peter said that a big problem is that we do not get the whole story. We are only told bits and pieces and everything seems to be a long and drawn out affair.

Fr. John stated that this definitely needs to be part of the five-year plan that we are meeting to discuss.

Fr. Patrick said that the high school cost approximately 1.55 million. In reality, we spent 1.750 million because \$375,000 was spent on other things related to the mission projects.

There seemed to be a lull in the conversation and at this point in time, Brother Anthony moved that the Provincial's Report be accepted and Fr. John seconded the motion. There were 18 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 4 abstentions.

Fr. Mario then stated that we would begin the morning sessions with the Treasurer's report.

Fr. Brendan moved that the meeting be adjourned until tomorrow, Fr Jim Reposkey seconded the motion.

There were 21 yes votes; 1 no vote, and 0 abstentions.

Day Two, Tuesday.

The meeting began with Fr. Mario calling the assembly to order.

Fr. Ron Wiecek took the roll. Fr. Luciano, Fr. Jeff, Fr. Joseph, and Fr. Dominic were absent. The other 23 people who were active in the province were present.

The first report discussed was the Financial Report of the Province. Fr. Peter basically went over his written report and pointed out the following: 1. The Mass Association. We are obligated as a province to say 1,000 Masses for this intention and we need to meet the quota. 2. Bination stipends need to go to the General Curia and therefore they need to be turned over to the treasurer from the house accounts so that can take place.

Fr. Patrick then stated his difference of opinion. First, he wanted to state that he appreciated Fr. Peter's work and commended his efforts. In Fr. Peter's report, he stated that he had spent \$60,000 on fixing up the Merlini Mission House and Fr. Patrick said that expenditure did not follow protocol. All the good that was done is commendable, but the most central thing about following legislation of expenditures was not followed. It then leads to further questions like: Is there any other thing that we don't know about? Where is the money being spent? Who is doing the prioritizing? The Council collectively has the right to set priorities. What was stated in the report is a classic misappropriation of funds – funds being spent without proper authorization. This breeds mistrust and jealousy. Even though we may think we are a Mom and Pop organization, we cannot operate in that way. Everything needs to be up-front and transparent or we could get ourselves into a lot of serious problems.

In this day and age, it is simple to get the consent of the Council, simply call and ask.

Fr. Peter said that he feels a lot of people mistrust him. But the reason seems to fall exactly on this level where lines get blurry. No one is saying that the oversight was intentional nor malicious. Fr. Peter then said what is the mistrust for then?

Fr. Mario said the problem is that most of us do not know what is in our statutes. Perhaps all of us need to read them. This could be something that could be done over time at District Meetings or House Congresses. Perhaps we should be getting more serious about knowing our statutes.

Fr. Gary said that he felt as a community we do not communicate the way we ought to. It seems you find out things indirectly and not from the source. What is needed is more communication especially about minor things. We are all good people and we should let other people know what is happening.

Fr. Augusto Menichelli said we have rules for a reason, but we also need some flexibility too.

Bro. Anthony said little and big things make no difference. Communication engenders trust.

Bro. Anthony moved to accept Fr. Peter's written report. Fr. John seconded the motion. The motion passed with 22 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention.

Fr. Peter then said he would like to go over the basic financial reports with us. Mr. Peter Plagianakos was with us at this point. He is the financial adviser and accountant Fr. Peter works with to prepare the reports for Revenue Canada.

Fr. Peter then went over the financial report for the Gala Dinner. The final figure for the Gala which was given to the mission office is a little more than \$69,000.

Fr. Peter then point out that the financial report for the various houses, individuals who live alone, and for the Mass Association would be placed on the table where the secretary was for anyone to look at.

Fr. Peter then introduced Mr. Peter Plagianakos who would go over the financial picture of the community.

Mr. Plagianakos reported that the Trust Fund had a 4% return. He pointed out that he manages that fund conservatively. When bank savings accounts are getting less than 1%, he thought that the trust is doing well and more importantly it is holding steady.

Mr. Plagianakos than talked about the Discretionary Fund and pointed out that this fund was to protect financial support for the retired membership. Do we want to increase the investment in this fund?

There was a very brief explanation about the funds that are held in the United States. This is to protect us in one sense because we are registered in the United States and all the monies that are generated by people working in the US are held in the US. There is no shifting of monies because every time you change currency, you lose money by what the rate of exchange is and by the banks that are involved.

Since there were no further comments, Fr. Mario asked that a motion be made to accept the Financial Reports that were shared with us. Bro. Anthony moved that we accept the reports offered by the Provincial Treasurer. Fr. John seconded the motion. There were 22 votes in favor of the motion, 0 negative, and 1 abstention.

Fr. Mario than asked Fr. Peter as his delegate to give the USC Report.

Fr. Peter stated that he was in the process of restarting the Aug. 15 Celebration. This year it would be held at St. Roch's.

Since time had run out in the morning session, Fr. Mario closed the session by saying that we would continue on this report when we gathered in the afternoon.

Fr. Mario called the afternoon session to order at 2:30 p.m.

Fr. Ron Wiecek read the roll. Fathers Luciano, Jeff, Joseph, Dominic and Phil Smith were absent. The other 22 voting members were present.

The Precious Blood Family Magazine was brought up. Fr. Peter said that in 2018, Fr. Augusto would become the new editor. Most likely there would be a change of format and in the type of articles that will be present.

Bro. Anthony brought up the Aug. 15 celebration again and wanted to know why it left Niagara Falls. Fr. Peter pointed out that at first it was only a small gathering of around 200 people but as it got bigger it became a concern because the City of Niagara Falls was beginning to ask questions. We would have to obtain permits because this property was zoned as residential and we were having a major public event there. There were concerns regarding safety and if security would have to be provided.

The parish setting of St. Roch is a public venue and therefore there is no need to get permits. It is also administrated by us and is in the Toronto area where we hope to get major support for the celebration. Fr. Peter is also hoping that all of us would get behind the celebration and be present for the event.

Since there was no further discussion, Fr. Lui Santi moved that the USC report be accept and Fr. Sam seconded the motion. There were 21 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 0 abstentions. The report was accepted.

Fr. Mario then asked the Formation Report be given. At this time, Fr. Mario also wanted to present to the community the new Formation Director, Fr. Augusto Menichelli. Since Fr. Augusto was just appointed the report was given by the out-going Director, Fr. Michael Mateyk.

There was no discussion on the report. Fr. Ron Mahon moved to accept the report. Fr. Sam D'Angelo seconded the motion. The report was accepted unanimously with the 22 members present voting yes.

Fr. Phil Smith checked in at this time reporting that he was involved in a traffic accident during the lunch break. |There were no injuries to anyone in the accident.

Fr. Mario then introduced the next topic of Vocations by presenting the new Vocation Director, Fr. Alarey Abella. After many years of service, Fr. Sam resigned and suggested Fr. Alarey to be the new director since the three people who have been presented so far to begin studies were all Filipinos. There are potentially two more prospects that will be decided on when the Formation/Vocation Team meets in the evening.

If people are looking at us from the Filipino culture, there is none-better to deal with that aspect than Fr. Alarey since he shares the same cultural background.

Fr. Sam gave the report since the new director does not take office until July 1.

Since one of the prospects is from the Adorini Congregation, Fr. Brendan asked if they were the farm team for C.PP.S.? Fr. Sam stated that is not the case and that he has looked into what has been happening at that house of formation and understands why people are leaving that community. One person is in charge of everything and he does not want the candidates to have type of outside contacts with lay people in any way.

Since there was no further discussion on the topic, Bro. Anthony moved that the report be accepted. Fr. William Mnyagatwa seconded the motion. The report was accepted unanimously by the 23 people present.

At this point in the assembly Fr. Mario wanted the new directors to have a chance to say something.

Fr. Augusto said he is open to collaborate with the Formation Committee. He sees the importance of the distinction of roles. He also likes the idea that the people coming are from a different cultural and that will us have a better multicultural presence just by sheer number.

The Formation Committee needs to revise the formation policy as quickly as possible.

Fr. Alarey is the new Vocation Director. First, he wanted to thank Fr. Sam for all his work that he has done on behalf of vocations. Fr. Alarey promised to try to do his best. Vocations are everyone's concern and not just his. It is all of us and not just my ministry.

Since there were no further concerns in the area of Formation and Vocation, Fr. Mario asked that we move on to the next report which was the Archive Report given by Fr. Gary Luiz.

Fr. Gary said that there were two sections of the report. One is the actual report and the other is a Biographical Sketch on the person of Cardinal Cristaldi.

Fr. Gary stated the biggest need is a fire-resistant file cabinet to protect vital information. For sure the personnel files would be in the fire-resistant and other important items such as wills, deeds, etc. Fr. Gary said he has been look around for the last two years at various discount stores, but still cannot find one. A new fire-resistant safe would cost approximately \$2,800 if you were to go through regular channels. There seemed to be a consensus of members saying if it is needed, just buy it and quit shopping around for it.

Since there was no further discussion, Bro. Anthony moved to accept the Archive Report and Fr. Sam seconded the motion. The vote showed 22 yeses, 1 against, and 0 abstentions.

Fr. Mario then opened the floor for discussion.

Fr. Augusto wanted to know something about the new Latin-American unit that the Mexican group had mentioned in their report. Fr. Mario stated that it does not exist yet. This is perhaps a direction in which the units working in South and Central America will find themselves taking. The Atlantic Province is a viable unit and wants to make sure that it continues to be viable and even get better. Along this line, what does it mean to be community or share common ground? Fr. Mario is hoping that the symposium this summer on community sheds some light on this topic.

Fr. Brendan shared that if the parishes we have in Mexico cannot support our priests, then we should ask the Bishop to give us different parishes which can support our priests.

Bro. Anthony said he felt that our congregation was given another opportunity after being forced to leave during the persecutions in the early 1900's.

Fr. Peter stated that formation program in Mexico was completely subsidized by the province.

Fr. Augusto felt that all students (even those in Mexico) should be sent here for studies.

Fr. Ron W. countered that it was much less expense to send candidates to school in Mexico. A semester there is around \$1,400 CAD. There are two good schools of theology in Mexico City. It was also the opinion of Fr. Ron W. that candidates should study theology where they are going to minister.

Fr. Ron W. said that every priest of our province is entitled to health care and it is stated that this is an official expense. So, if the parish cannot afford it, the province should cover it.

Fr. Peter said that the financial needs in Mexico need to be more transparent. He asks for monthly reports and many times they are given to him much later than when he had asked for them.

Fr. Brendan then asked how the other provinces managed their missions financially.

Fr. Peter said that there are different approaches by different provinces. For example, Fr. Peter stated that Cincinnati gives a lump sum and the units themselves are involved in the division of funds.

Fr. Sam said you have to be careful with Visas. A visitor visa will not permit you to go to school. An individual needs a student visa.

Bro. Anthony asked why we could not be involved in working toward the future. If this seems to be a life-giving way to go, then we could become part of it. If the Latin-American unit does become a reality, then perhaps we can share in their formation program.

Our Mexican confreres were asking how to stay abreast of the work of the various committees because sending a representative to various committees in various units would be very expensive. The suggestion was made to use Skype.

Bro. Anthony then moved that discussion would be closed. Fr. Lui seconded the motion. The vote was 21 yes votes, 2 no votes, and 0 abstentions.

Fr. Mario then said the next order of business is the allocations of funds designated to the poor. After several places were mentioned, it was moved by Fr. Sam and seconded by Fr. Augusto that the funds be given to Guinea Bissau. The vote was 22 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 0 abstentions.

Fr. Mario then wanted to inform the community that the people who would be attending the Symposium on Community Life would be Fr. Augusto, Fr. German Santiago, and Fr. Mario. Fr. Mario shared that this would be a seven day meeting centering on the topics of the nature, purpose, and problems of community life. There will be a report given on the meeting to all the membership.

Fr. Ron Mahon asked: Why do we have all these meetings and all these expenses?

Fr. Mario responded that this is part of how the Generate feels it is animating the entire community which is its chief function.

There then was a movement to Adjourn for the day by Fr. Alarey. Fr. John seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with 23 yes votes.

Wednesday, May 31.

Father Mario called the session to order at 9:30.

Fr. Ron Wiecek read the roll call. There were 23 members present.

Fr. Mario then gave a brief reminder of what had taken place already in our district meetings. We had come to the conclusion that our unit is viable and we need to work at making it better.

We all had the material with the different topics and questions. We were to break up into four previously arranged small groups for thirty minutes. Then we would return and share two major points for each question. In this way, the Council would have some solid direction coming from the small groups on the various topics that would enable them to come up with a five-year plan.

Because some people were absent from the assembly, it was necessary to ask Fr. Ron Mahon to go to group 4 rather than the group to which he was initially assigned.

The first topic was Leadership.

Group One said their priorities were the elderly of the community. They felt all offices need attention and new blood. If a person can serve the community in some capacity it should be seen as a great gift to the other members. Even though most felt that they were beyond the age to be elected to office, they felt that if called upon to serve that they would rise to the occasion.

Group Two shared that there should be an exit strategy from Tanzania. They also felt that most important office was the Vocation Office and that that needs to be the primary focus of the individual who is holding that office. They also felt that there should be a retirement place, but not the house at Niagara. Group Two also felt that there should be a common ministry in which all people are engaged to some extent such as retreat ministry. They also felt that there should be an apprentice to the treasurer and a development director for the community. In general, the people of this group felt a general openness to different offices, but also the importance of getting preparation by taking courses and/or workshops to take on the responsibility and perhaps have mentors.

Group Three also felt that there should be an exit strategy from Tanzania and more of a focus on giving support to the work that is being done in Mexico. Also, the young members were open to the idea of taking a role in leadership, but realized that the language would be a barrier and had to be overcome first.

Group Four was concerned with the bond of charity and how it is actually lived out in practice. They also felt that elections should be done in a different way. They are done too quickly and without time for much thought after someone is elected as to who would complement that individual or bring a different

perspective to the table. One of the things that they would recommend is that the statutes be changed to have a longer nomination process. Some concerns that they voiced were the financial impact of full time community positions. People should be given the opportunity to take courses, read, and to take part in different programs opportunities that would be helpful to enter community positions.

Fr. Brendan commented that in the past, we were able to do it. Why is there a problem now?

This session was moved to adjourn by Fr. John. Bro. Anthony seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with 23 votes.

Wednesday afternoon session.

Fr. Mario called the session to order at 2:30. Fr. Mario then gave the floor to Fr. Lui who explained that he wanted us to help him in a project. Fr. Lui asked each participant to write down five positive words about the community. After the members did that, Fr. Mario then asked Fr. Ron Wiecek to take the roll.

Fr. Ron Wiecek called the roll. There were twenty-two members present. Fr. William Mnyagatwa and Fathers Luciano, Jeff, Joseph, and Dominic were absent.

The group then broke down to small groups to cover the topic and questions regarding Mission Houses. It was decided that 30 minutes would not be enough time for discussion, so it was now extended to 45 minutes with people coming back to the large group to share what was discussed in the smaller groups.

Because of the absences and to level out the groups, Fr. Gary was asked to be part of group 2.

Group One said that Pelmo is not a mission house but a house of formation. The Niagara house did not function well as a mission house because of the personalities there and the clashes of those personalities. We just need to be honest about what is happening.

Fr. John stated that there is a lack of clarity on what we mean. Sometimes there is a great difference between a statute and the reality that is happening. Sometimes it is an intentional distinction, case in point, the house in Rochester.

Group Four stated that we own these places. They are ours. We simply need to be true to who we are. If the place has no viability, then we should sell it and go elsewhere.

Perhaps if we want to insure the continuance of the Mission House, we need to take a good look at the financial question. One way to ensure financial stability is to create an endowment for each house. This in itself would create financial stability.

Fr. Ron Wiecek said that one salary is not sufficient to maintain the Mission House at Niagara Falls. Also, many people do not wish to live at Niagara when retired because there is no public transportation and most of the friends live out of the area and they would feel very much alone. Fr. Brendan said not all our friends are outside the community, some have friends in the community.

Fr. John stated that the house in Rochester functions as a mission house.

Fr. Ron Wiecek said personality conflicts can happen anywhere. Niagara Falls needs to be a residence, and not a warehouse. A warehouse is not happy situation. We need to have an understanding of what a mission house is and needs to be for us and what would it take to be that.

Fr. Phil shared that he thought the three house each have a different purpose. There are opportunities for using the houses for renewal. Also, mission houses need a spirit of hospitality and welcoming. Community people need to what to live there.

The group felt that the places in Rochester and Toronto were viable.

A motion was made by Fr. Jim that the viability of the property at Niagara be investigated. And that the committee doing the investigating come back to the assembly with a good solid report and with recommendations on what should be done. Fr. Gary seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with 22 yes votes.

Evening Session: Wednesday, May 31.

Fr. Mario opened the meeting and Fr. Ron Wiecek took the roll. There were 22 people present. Absent were Luciano, Jeff, Joseph, Dominic, and William.

The topic that was discussed was the Revision of Provincial Statutes.

Group One had the following suggestions: Title Three – expenditures be looked at to make sure it is in agreement with current policy and if it needs to be changed, then to suggest appropriate change.

A question that was raised is what process would be used to make these changes?

Another item to be looked at would be income derived from ministry and the vacation allowance. What if people do not follow the statutes, what can be done? Do any penalties exist for non-compliance? Should they exist if they do not and who is to enforce those penalties?

Group Two said that no rule should be written for one person in mind. Furthermore, it should not even be written if it is not going to be observed. They also suggested that the whole nomination procedure be looked at. The section on Mission Houses should be looked at so that the House of Rochester can be included under that category. The group also suggested that the Finance Committee be changed to the Investment Committee. Also, the group mentioned car allowance should be looked at.

Group Three said that the whole section on Mexico needs to be redone as well as the whole section on formation. It seems as if the restrictions have been broadened and there needs to be clarification.

Group Four felt that the committee should be looking at and suggesting revisions to their own statutes. There seems to be confusion on how people are appointed to the Finance and Mission Committee. It seems as if lay people can be members or even encouraged to be members, but how is this done?

Fr. John wanted to remind the assembly that items in the Customary do not need to be approved by the Assembly or the Generalate, but can be enacted by the Provincial and Council. Statutes do need to be approved. Perhaps the district meetings should look at this and change certain items from statutes to local policies.

Fr. Phil then moved to adjourn the meeting. Bro. Anthony seconded the motion. It was unanimous with 22 yes votes.

Thursday morning session, June 1

Fr. Mario called the meeting to order at 9:30 and Fr. Ron Wiecek took the roll. Fr. Luciano, Fr. Jeff, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Dominic and Fr. William were absent. The other 22 voting members were present.

Fr. Mario said that the topic to be discussed this morning. Is Mission Projects. After having our small group meetings, Fr. Ron Wiecek asked that the larger group share their response to all the questions rather than share in rotation to each question.

Group One shared that they thought the most critical issue we need to do for Tanzania right now is help them with building the dorms at the school. We need to look at other possibilities than just Tanzania.

They also shared that we should consider giving additional help to Mexico especial as the Tanzania Province takes over more ownership of the Mission Projects there.

Group One shared that the focus should be on help with the dorms in Tanzania and creating an endowment for the high school just as the elementary school has one. The group also thought that we need to get a full or complete picture of what is happening in Tanzania because it seems that the information is always changing and we just get pieces at a time.

Group Two shared that there should be an exit strategy put in place so that we would be giving something healthy to the Tanzanians. The country is developing. The way things were done in the past cannot be done today. This makes the work more difficult, but it also makes it more transparent. The projects will not be going forever. The issue is not only constructing things, but there needs to be a good sense of maintenance in place.

The group also shared that in the exit strategy to be healthy needs to end up being self-sufficient. Realistically we can help the school project build two of four dorms that they now are requesting. If the high school models itself on the grade school, it too should become profitable. Four dorms for our province is simply out of reach. The water project needs steady work to be self-sufficient. They are engaged in an application process with an NGO. They need to submit three years of audited statements as part of this process. This is the last year for being audited for this application. There has been no problem so far. If we can partner with the NGO, there will be work. During the downtime, there is maintenance of equipment. With the climate change, there is less and less of a rainy season.

Finally, the group was concerned that not all members are behind the projects. What do we do in the future? The Mission Committee is really important and it needs to be formed as quickly as possible. Transparency and Accountability are key words as we proceed to form an exit plan. The group also said they did not understand the reason for moving the mission office out of Niagara Falls. And they wanted to know who is the Mission Director now? They know a development person is being looked at, but it is a very difficult position to fulfill.

Fr. Mario responded to this immediately by saying that the office was moved because he and Fr. Peter were basically doing the work that need to be done and it just made sense to them to have the office closer to where they are located.

Group Three was the Spanish-speaking group and they thought there should be a definite exit strategy for Tanzania and a refocusing on concern to Mexico. The biggest concern in Mexico is vocations. They would like to get the message out that the C.P.P.S. is there. They felt that they basically have been left on their own to fend for themselves; to get their name out and to fight the bad press about the involvement of blood in witchcraft.

Group Four basically said a lot of their points were already mentioned. But they wanted to emphasize that we need to get a complete and full picture of what is going on in Tanzania.

Fr. Mario then opened the floor for discussion.

Bro. Anthony asked out sending the young adults over to Tanzania. He thought it was a very good way to develop a mission consciousness. Would that still be continuing? And if so, who would be the liaison to that group.

Fr. Mario said these things are getting more and more complex especially with insurance. The guides need to make sure that they do not go where they are not supposed to go.

Bro. Anthony responded that nothing has happened so far.

Throughout the discussion there seemed to a consensus on forming an exit strategy. The question is what we should do before leaving Tanzania.

Fr. John suggested that we avoid a time line and work towards completing various steps. When these steps are done, then in good conscience we can turn over the mission projects.

Because we were beyond the allotted time, Fr. Ron Mahon moved that this session be adjourned. Bro. Anthony seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with 22 yes votes.

Thursday afternoon session.

Fr. Mario called the session to order at 2:30 p.m.

Fr. Ron W. called the role. Fr. Luciano, Fr. Jeff, Fr. Patrick, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Dominic, and Fr. William were absent. There were 21 voting members present.

Fr. Mario asked that we would continue the group discussion on the mission projects for the next half hour and then we would take the next topic Formation and Vocation.

Fr. Brendan inquired about the mission committee because supposedly he is a member but has never attended meetings. Fr. Mario said that this has still not been fully established and therefore there have been no meetings to far.

The question was raised about the buildings as to who is doing the oversight? Perhaps a percentage of an endowment or of a fund should be specifically given to maintenance.

Who is the mission director? Are not three people going over? When we hand it over are we still going to be involved? Self-sustaining is self-sustaining, no? Bro. Anthony said the buildings need to be maintained and perhaps we need to make sure that is happening.

The Dutch NGO is new to us. Fr. Gary asked what exactly are they up to? Health, yes, but are we in agreement with what they stand for?

Fr. John again reminded people of the Atlantic Newsletter, Blood Lines. He needs to get input from various committees and members and then there would be no surprise.

Fr. Patrick said the NGO Company needs to be transparent. You are paid for what you do. There is no free money.

Fr. Mario said he is getting a lot of mixed signals. He feels that some are not happy, others are questioning, and he wants to know if have we reached a consensus. If we have reached a consensus, there is no turning back. There is nothing magic about five years. We need to work to do this. If it happens in three, fine; if more than five, fine. But we need to make sure we leave them something very healthy.

Bro. Anthony stated we should move on this.

Fr. Sam stated that we should do fund raising for the schools not only to raise the dorms, but also to form an endowment for the high school.

Fr. Tim -said we should also fund the repairs to the water rig even though we should really be looking long range to getting a new or newer one.

Fr. Josephat who is from Tanzania was asked to share his thoughts on what he is hearing. He said he did not know anything about what we were planning to do. Fr. Mario said he had talked to Fr. Chesco but obviously they are able to hold something confidential better than our own province. Fr. Mario went on to state that the priests who are working there are doing so as hired people. Obviously, this proposal needs to be written out and communicated to everyone involved.

After the half hour, Fr. Mario said we need to discuss the next topic of Formation and Vocation.

Returning from the small groups, each group shared their response to the proposed questions.

Group One shared that the Director of Formation should make sure that the Formation Program itself is adapted to the Canadian culture. The Vocation Director needs to meet with the inquirers where they are within reason. The Formation Committee should meet on a regular basis. In general, this group saw no place for interprovincial collaboration. Yet if an opportunity should present itself, there is no objection in participating in it.

Group Two shared some interesting facts. Vocation research said when people make up their minds to pursue a religious vocation is at age 11 and grade 11. They felt strongly that the Vocation Director should be full time eventually. The Director should be culturally sensitive. There should be a clear delineation between the Vocation Director and the Formation Director. There should also be a broad exposure to the larger community. Mexican candidates should have at least part of their training here.

Group Three shared that both the Formation Director and Vocation Director should hear the counsel of other members. It is a different mentality or reality that exists in formation here. People are from the Philippines, Canada, Mexico, United States, and Italy. There needs to be openness and flexibility. One area in which we could perhaps share would be special formation. For Mexican candidates or those who speak Spanish, theology in Mexico is preferable. It is much less expensive and there are two very good schools. One is the archdiocesan seminary, Conciliar de Mexico, and the other is the Intercongregational Theologate which is similar to the GTU or CTU in the States.

Group Four shared that both Directors need to look beyond the numbers. There should be continued training for all involved in leadership such as reading, conferences and workshops. There should be definite criteria that you are looking for and expecting from candidates. Other members at various time can be involved and in this way. There would be more contact with various members of the province and they would take ownership in the formation program itself. The summer formation program needs to be substantive and not just touring around the various countries in which we are involved.

Fr. Peter said that candidates should learn Italian if they are able because we still are involved in Italian ministry.

Fr. Ron W. stated the same is true for Spanish because it is becoming the up-and-coming language to be dealt with among Catholics and would help to communicate with our Mexican District.

Fr. Augusto wanted to thank the leadership and the entire community for their trust. He mentioned that roles have to be distinct between the Formation Director and the Vocation Director. He also mentioned that quality is far more important to him than quantity. This is a discernment to know if the candidates are called to ministry as priests.

Fr. Sam said SKYPE is a possible to have communication especially with candidates in vocation discernment. Obviously, it is very cost effective.

Since there was no further discussion, Fr. Phil made the motion to adjourn the session. Fr. Jim seconded the motion. It was agreed to unanimously with 21 members voting yes.

Thursday night session

Fr. Mario called the assembly to order at 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Ron Wiecek took the role. There were 21 members present. Fr. Luciano, Fr. Jeff, Fr. Patrick, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Dominic and Fr. William were absent.

The topic this evening was Evaluation of Current Ministries.

Group One shared that they felt all ministries are threatened if nothing changes. Bilingual parishes where Italian is spoken are getting difficult to cover. Parishes are providing stability to the province, but as more members are involved in full-time leadership positions, this becomes concerning. All the people felt that they would like to continue in ministry in some form or other in the next five years. Some new possibilities for ministry would be in the area of Retreat and Social Media.

Group Two felt that we should be involved in parishes, but not necessarily the ones we are in currently. They also thought new areas for ministry would be preaching and retreat work, and they were open to advanced studies for people who had a specialized interest. They too thought multi-media or any social media would be a form of ministry for the future.

Group Three shared that the need is not only present in Italian, but even more so in Spanish especially in the Niagara Region. In Mexico, there are no other possibilities but parishes at the present time. Perhaps it is time to look for parishes outside of the Toronto Archdiocese.

Group Four shared that they felt the most viable ministry is the parishes, but the ministry of community service is even more important. Some thought that perhaps getting back into the role of teacher should be a possibility. Also, an opportunity for further studies like obtaining a STL degree or studies to engage in the renewal of the church would be practical complements to the work of the community.

The floor then was opened for further discussion.

Fr. Brendan said that the new endeavors may not be financially productive. We need to have ministry that is viable for the province.

Fr. Augusto shared that there is a possibility of doing retreats on line. People do get on line to do such things. Perhaps we can create an App for the phone for the Precious Blood Family Magazine.

Most people carry a phone. If a member gives three or four retreats a year within a parish setting, you would not lose money. Fr. Peter stated that he has done so and has had success with mini-retreats, Saturday and Sunday, and using the hall at St. Ann Church for food, and it worked well.

Maybe we can get involved in mission appeals again. This was financially profitable for the community. It is still an option but we would need people to committee to do it and it could be resurrected again.

This would be another way to get known again in the various parishes and dioceses here in Canada.

Bro. Anthony moved that the session be adjourned. Fr. Michael seconded the motion. A vote was called and the yes votes numbered 19, no votes numbered 0, and there were 2 abstentions.

Fr. Ron Mahon is leaving tonight to begin his return to Orlando, FL.

Friday morning session, June 2.

Mario called the session to order at 9:30.

Fr. Ron Wiecek read the role. There were 20 members present. Fr. Luciano, Fr. Jeff, Fr. Patrick, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Dominic, Fr. Ron Mahon, and Fr. William were absent.

This session was going to center on the motions that would be coming forth from this Business Assembly.

Fr. Sam moved that an ad-hoc committee be formed to study the over-all viability of the Gaspar Mission House and the feasibility of the Gaspar Mission House to be a house of discernment where the Vocation Director and other community members are in residences. This committee is to finish its work within six months. The motion was seconded by Fr. Alarey.

Discussion followed.

If Fr. Alarey is gone, who would be in charge? Who would be involved in this discernment if Fr. Alarey is not there?

A question was asked as to how many people would go to the Niagara House to retire? Seven people raised their hands in the affirmative.

Bro. Anthony said the committee should make their study viability before we make a decision.

Fr. Phil said we should keep the house.

Fr. Augusto stated that we could sell the house and buy another.

Fr. Brendan said we have a High – Low reputation. We buy high and sell low.

Fr. Peter said we did not do that. Fr. Mario agreed with what Fr. Peter said.

Fr. Gary asked Fr. Peter for a statement of what is of value in Niagara. Fr. Peter said the land in back is not worth very much. The 900 ft. on the Parkway is the property that has the greatest value. Fr. Gary said he sees the land in the back as an investment because they are building homes across the street from that land.

Fr. Peter said that prime real estate is beyond us at this time.

Bro. Anthony agreed and said now is not the time to buy.

Fr. Gary stated that there is no transportation on the Parkway and that he did not intend to be a taxi service. If these inquirers are there, how would be go to school if that is part of their program?

Fr. Brendan said perhaps to make things viable, there might have to be a change of personnel.

Fr. Mario then closed the discussion and the motion was voted upon. There were 18 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions.

Fr. Ron Wiecek made the motion that the Provincial Council is to make an action plan and take steps to transition out of Tanzania. Fr. Augusto seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion followed.

Fr. Brendan said there are too many committees and people do not even know they are on them. He continued by saying that the Mission Committee needs to be heard on this issue.

A vote was taken on the motion. There were 19 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention.

Fr. Jim made the motion that we look into buying a community house or building in Toronto or in GTA where the Provincial, Treasurer, members, and Mission Office could be located. The motion was seconded by Fr. Augusto.

A question was asked directly to Fr. Peter about if we could afford something like this.

Fr. Peter responded that anything is possible. A situation similar to Bathurst is ideal where we buy something where the upper floor can be community space and the main floor would be rentals. In this way, the funding would be ideal and maybe we can do that again.

The vote on the motion was 16 yes votes, 3 no votes, and 1 abstention.

Fr. Gary moved that we suggest to the next Major Superiors' Meeting that Feast of the Precious Blood be asked to be put back into the Universal Calendar of the Church.

After some discussion Fr. Gary withdrew the motion.

Fr. Mario then opened the session for new business.

Fr. John again reminded us that updates are needed to make the newsletter readable.

Fr. Gary suggested that there should be a symposium on Merlini. His cause for beatification needs to be pushed.

Since there was no further new business, Bro. Anthony moved that the assembly be adjourned. Fr. Brendan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with the 20 members present.

Rev. Ronald P. Wiecek, C.P.P.S.
Provincial Secretary
Atlantic Province

Very Rev. Mario Cafarelli, C.P.P.S.
Provincial Director
Atlantic Province

June 13, 2017
Date