



CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEARTS UNITED STATES PROVINCE

OCTOBER 2013

From the Provincial's desk...

Our Province Assembly!!

Dear Brothers & Sisters,



ALIVE! Communion! Gratitude! Family! Ready to work! 1 plus 1 equals 1!

These were some of the closing words from brothers as they expressed their sentiments of our week together, any and all of which I believe capture our feelings from the first Assembly of the United States Province. God is working and doing remarkable things through our fragility!



Leaving the beautiful Serra Retreat Center and our Assembly, so many thoughts were going through my mind as I gave thanks to God for this remarkable experience. I'd like to share a few with you:

From the outset, the theme was more a prayer of hope – *'That We May Be One'*. Stan Kolasa and his team set the stage and moved the group through a review of our histories, a celebration of who we have become together, and a beginning look at where we might want to go into the future!

The history was brief and succinct. Brothers had an appreciation for the amazing missionaries who have gone before us; it was almost as if they too were in the room watching the thoughts unfold. In the camel ride, the celebration of who we are left the very real impression that this is a large province, engaged in many different ministries over a vast geographical stage. When placed before us in the *'camel humps'*, there was really a sense that this is the work of the Holy Spirit – working through our lives as we keep trying to discern and then to do the work of God in the vineyard.





As we began the work of looking ahead, one could not help but feel an awareness that again, even through our fragility, *or perhaps because of it* – the Holy Spirit is at work. Bob Charlton, Herman Gomes and David Reid each gave strong presentations on the General Chapter 38, the Provincial Chapter 2011, and what ‘charism’ and ‘mission’ could mean for us today.

While there were not so many concrete suggestions of how the future may look to us – there was the keen realization that we want to understand and be a part of this SSCC mission, and we want to do this together **in community**. The Commission on

Mission will be meeting in Hawaii for three days in November to strategize a process that will take us to the 2014 Chapter. Expect further communication from Martin and the commission next week.

It was very special seeing so many of our older brothers come together after so many years. It was also special witnessing our newly professed brothers and those from India and Indonesia being embraced by the older members with stories and words of encouragement. The spirits of ‘youthfulness’ and ‘newness’ were in the air – regardless of age, with so many young brothers present and the new Tonga mission and Youth & Young Adult Program being discussed.



We celebrated Jubilees counting over 400 years given to religious vocations and felt the combined presence of our more than 4,500 years of life. Truly this was the bread of life being broken open for all to enjoy – the banter and laughter at the gaudeamus was surely an indication of how good it felt to be together. As Joel, our videographer, so wonderfully expressed – *“the Heavenly Father could not help but smile as he watched and heard his sons and daughters laughing and having fun together”*.

I really want to express my sincere gratitude to Stan Kolasa, Herman Gomes, Claire Bouchard, Al Gauthier, Margaret Uiagalelei and Kathy Hinds. They put a tremendous amount of work into preparing for the Assembly. Our thanks to Camille Sapu Malangu, our Vicar General and Peadar Cronin, Superior of the USA West Delegation, as well as a number of brothers from California for their presence with us. Thank you to Sr. Regina Mary Jenkins, Provincial Superior and Sr. Helene Wood, Provincial Vicar of the Pacific-USA Province for making the time to be with us for the week.



And my heartfelt appreciation to so many others who added their own special time and talent to our gathering: Soane Uiagalelei and Tom Booth for their music ministry; Lane Akiona and Tom McElroy for the daily prayers and liturgies; Joe Bukoski for the gaudeamus celebrations each evening; to the special presence of 25 members of the Secular Branch from California. But most importantly, my heartfelt thanks to each of the brothers who were there and to those brothers who were unable to make it – but who we always felt were with us in prayer and spirit—all of you make us who we are as SSCC.

Finally, I feel our prayer of hope – *'That We May Be One'*, was definitely answered – thank God! We not only have a future that is bright, exciting and hopeful, but we are looking ahead together, as one, in communion, as a grateful family ready to work and ALIVE!



LOTS MORE PICTURES TO COME—CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SSCC.ORG

*...with humble hearts and with the spirit and courage of St. Damien
...we move on.*

Fraternal Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnathan".

Very Rev. Johnathan Hurrell, ss.cc.
Provincial Superior