

Chapter Proposal re: Policy vis-a-vis the Pastoral Plan

1 WHEREAS: The province of St. Joseph has developed a pastoral plan based on
2 agreed upon values and assumptions; and

3 WHEREAS: The pastoral plan of the province, by its nature, must be adapted and
4 applied to (1) the ever changing realities of our numbers of friars for full time ministry,
5 and (2) the eventual need to scale back and even face the possibility of ending some
6 historic pastoral commitments in the province; and

7 IN ORDER TO: (1) Assure the greatest possible ownership of the provincial
8 membership in the eventual shift in ownership and responsibility, or actual divestment,
9 of some of our pastoral commitments in the province; (2) Develop clearer processes of
10 shared discernment and application of the values and assumptions of the pastoral plan
11 for the projected need to divest ourselves of some pastoral commitments, or in
12 response to new pastoral opportunities that may arise; (3) Assure that those members
13 of the province who will hold the responsibility for staffing provincial commitments over
14 the next twenty to thirty years have a proportional share in those decisions; be it

15 RESOLVED: that the new provincial council develop and offer to the province a clearer
16 policy: (1) to project in a timely manner when the reality of personnel and/or finances
17 might indicate the need to decide a shift in responsibilities or an actual divestment of a
18 pastoral presence that is clearly a provincial commitment; (2) for a process by which
19 those friars and partners in ministry of that provincial commitment, or commitments, as
20 well as the larger provincial membership, might be included in the process of
21 consultation, discernment and decision making; (3) for pastorally preparing,
22 accompanying and ritualizing with those friends and faithful, and all of the local church,
23 who are affected by our pastoral decisions; (4) To assure that the voices of those
24 members of the province who are presently in those ministries, as well as those
25 younger members of the province who would eventually have to assume those
26 responsibilities are heard.

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