



ORDER OF CARMELITES
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The Carmelites of the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, in allegiance to Jesus Christ, live in a prophetic and contemplative stance of prayer, common life, and service. Inspired by Elijah and Mary and informed by the Carmelite Rule, we give witness to an eight-hundred year old tradition of spiritual transformation in the United States, Canada, Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador.

CARMELITES.NET

Official site for the Order of Carmelites, Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary

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CARMELITEMEDIA.ORG

Portal to Carmelite Media's websites and social media

CARMELITEREVIEW.ORG

English & Spanish magazines published quarterly and dedicated to spreading word of the good works of the PCM Carmelites

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February 20, 2017

To the members of the Province,

This past Fall, we engaged the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to conduct a study of the attitudes and ministry priorities of the Province. Using a list of the members provided by the province, 176 members were sent a questionnaire. By October of 2016, 141 members had responded to the study, for a response rate of 80 percent.

Attached to this email you will find the Executive Summary of the results of the questionnaire. Online at ocarmintra.net (username: carmel; password: May2264) you can find the entire survey questions and the results of the responses. Here is the link to the document:
<http://carmelitemedia.org/intranet/pdfs/CARAreport.pdf>

At the Chapter we are fortunate to have with us Fr. Thomas Gaunt, SJ, from CARA who will offer an overview of the report and highlight possible issues and topics arising from the reports for the provincial council and province to pursue. This will be a PowerPoint presentation with the possibility of discussion and questions.

We are happy to be able to share with you these results at this time.

Sincerely in Carmel,

William J. Harry, O. Carm	Myron Judy, O. Carm.
Joseph Atcher, O. Carm.	Emilio Rodriguez, O. Carm.
Sam Citero, O. Carm.	Paul Henson, O. Carm.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, DC

*Evaluation of Ministries in Light of Mission:
Carmelite Friars of the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary*

Executive Summary

In March 2016, the Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary engaged the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct a study of the attitudes and ministry priorities of members of the Province. The study was designed in consultation with provincial leadership to evaluate the perceptions and priorities of Province members about their own ministry and the ministries of the Province. The study is part of a larger process of gathering information for the purpose of assessing how the Province can better serve God's priestly people and strengthen the spiritual, prayer, and community life of Province members.

In August 2016, the Prior Provincial e-mailed a letter to all Province members as well as all of those temporarily professed and in theology, informing them of the survey and encouraging them to participate. Using a list of members provided by the Province, CARA then emailed all 176 members a link to the online survey and a unique ID and password. Any member that requested a paper copy of the survey received one by e-mail. CARA sent regular reminders in September and October 2016 to those who had not yet responded and received completed responses from 141 Province members by October 2016, for a response rate of 80 percent.

Major Findings

Characteristics of Members

- Responding Province members range in age from 26 to 93 and have an average age of 62. Eight in ten are 50 or older. Half of responding members are age 65 or older. Similar to other Catholic researchers, CARA divides respondents into generations. Four in ten members belong to the Vatican II Generation, ages 56 to 73 in 2016. That generation, which overlaps with the Baby Boomers, came of age during the time of the Vatican II and their formative years spanned a period of profound changes in the Church.
- Seven in ten respondents are currently active in full-time ministry or in formation, with the other three in ten partially, mostly, or fully retired.

- Among all members, three in four were born in the United States and one in ten in Mexico. That changes some when examining only those who are currently still active in full-time ministry or in formation. For those respondents, nearly two in three were born in the United States, a quarter in Mexico, and about one in ten elsewhere.
- Three in four members identify their ethnicity as white or Anglo, with two in ten identifying as Hispanic or Latino. Among those currently in full-time ministry or currently in formation, two-thirds identify as white or Anglo and just over a quarter as Hispanic or Latino.
- About one-third of members each are currently ministering in the East region (including Canada) and the Midwest region. Two in ten are ministering in the West region and one in ten in either Mexico or El Salvador.

Proficiency

- About nine in ten report being fluent or native in comprehension, speaking and writing in English. Three in ten are fluent or native in comprehension, speaking and writing in Spanish. Two in ten or slightly fewer are fluent or native in both English and Spanish. Among those currently in full-time ministry or in formation, eight in ten are fluent or native in English and slightly more than two-thirds are fluent or native in Spanish.
- Roughly half report being “very” proficient in pastoral ministry, homiletics or preaching, and teaching. Just over a third are as proficient in collaboration and delegation and in parish administration. White or Anglo members are especially likely to be “very” proficient in teaching, with Hispanic or Latino members especially likely to be “very” proficient in spiritual direction.
- Among the ten areas of proficiency members were asked about, they are least likely to be “very” proficient in social/mass media, school administration, or Province administration. However, Hispanics or Latinos are relatively more likely than whites or Anglos to say they are “very” proficient in social/mass media and those currently serving in the Midwest region are relatively more likely to say they are “very” proficient in teaching.

Satisfaction with Aspects of Life and Ministry

- Nine in ten members report being at least “somewhat” satisfied with their life as a Carmelite and their current ministry assignments. More than six in ten report being “very” satisfied with these aspects of their life and ministry. Roughly four in ten report being “very” satisfied in these areas: the types of ministries the Province offers, the preparation they received before starting their current ministry, the prayer life of their community, and community life where they live.
- More than half report being at least “somewhat” satisfied with current Province planning in all eight of the areas asked about on the survey. Between four in ten and half are “very” satisfied with planning in the areas of retirement needs, future financial needs, and

aging members. Less than two in ten are “very” satisfied with planning for fewer members, ministry priorities, community life, ongoing formation, and new members.

- More than eight in ten at least “somewhat” agree that they trust in provincial leadership, they have a good relationship with their local superior, and they have a good relationship with provincial leadership. More than half agree “strongly” that they have good relationships with both their local superior and provincial leadership, with four in ten agreeing as strongly that they trust provincial leadership.
- Seven in ten at least “somewhat” agree that there is a sense of solidarity among the members of the Province, with slightly less than two in ten agreeing “strongly” there is. Those currently ministering in Mexico or El Salvador are more than twice as likely as those ministering in other regions to “strongly” agree there is such a sense of solidarity.
- Members are somewhat more likely to say the Province meets the needs of its retired members than those of its members still active in ministry. Nearly two in three agree “strongly” it meets the needs of its retired members, with four in ten agreeing as strongly it meets the needs of its members still active in ministry. Moreover, fewer, about a third of those currently in full-time ministry or in formation, agree “strongly” that the Province meets the needs of its members still active in ministry.

Importance of Aspects of Carmelite Life

- At least six in ten members say the following aspects of Carmelite life are “very” important to them: being a Carmelite, Carmelite spirituality, their ministry as a Carmelite, the prayer life of the Carmelites, being a brother, being a priest, being a member of the Province, the ministries of the Carmelites, the community life of the Carmelites, and living with other Carmelites.
- Between four-tenths and half say the following are “very” important to them: retirement in a Carmelite community, ministering in their home country, working with other Carmelites, and working in a Carmelite institution.

Criteria for Maintaining Ministries

- When asked how much importance should be placed on 14 different criteria for maintaining a ministry in the Province, half to two-thirds listed these: the ministry allows ministry in the spirit of Vatican II, fosters Carmelite spirituality, provides opportunities for vocations, fosters community life, the willingness and interest of individuals to minister there, and Carmelites and parishioners mutually nurturing and appreciating one another. Members of the two youngest generations and those currently ministering in Mexico or El Salvador are also likely to list that the ministry allows all members to live within a Carmelite community house, that it serves the needs of the poor/marginalized, and the prophetic dimension of the ministry.
- The least important criteria, listed by about four-tenths to half, are geographic diversity, strength of relationship with the local diocese, and the ministry continuing a history of

community presence. For those currently ministering in Mexico or El Salvador, the willingness and interest of individuals to minister there also is listed among their least important criteria.

Importance of Types of Ministries

- When asked to choose among 12 different types of ministry which three are most important to them at present, at least a third choose parish ministry, vocation/formation ministry, secondary school education, and ministry to the poor and marginalized. Those of the younger two generations, Hispanic or Latino members, and those currently active in full-time ministry or in formation are also most likely to mention spiritual direction among their top three types of ministry.
- Members were also asked what three types of ministry are least important to them at present. About half listed individual apostolates and senior living center ministry among their top three, with a third listing secondary school education and Carmelite spirituality publications. Individual apostolates are especially likely to be seen as least important to Hispanics or Latinos, those currently ministering in Mexico or El Salvador, and those of the youngest two generations.

Personal Interest in Ministries

- Members were asked about both their interest in and skill level for serving in 33 ministries Province members currently serve in. At least one-third lists the following as ones of interest, whether they currently have the skills to serve at them or not: Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, Can.; Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darien, IL; formation programs in the USA, Mexico, El Salvador; lay Carmelites; individual apostolates; Province administration; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Darien, IL; and St. Thomas the Apostle in Chicago, IL. As can be seen, non-parish ministries dominate the list.
- At least three-quarters list these parish and non-parish ministries as ones they are not interested in, whether they currently have the skills to serve at them or not: St. Raphael in Englewood, FL; St. Therese Chapel Bergen Mall in Paramus, NJ; St. Agnes in Phoenix, AZ; Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, IL; St. Raphael's in Los Angeles, CA; Transfiguration of Our Lord in Torreon, Mex.; Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, CA; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Osprey, FL; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Fairfield, CA; and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Joliet, IL.
- Members were also asked what three ministries they have least interest in. The four most common are Province administration, St. Raphael's in Los Angeles, CA; formation programs in USA, Mexico, El Salvador; and individual apostolates. Those of the younger two generations and those still active in ministry or in formation are also especially likely to have listed St. Therese Chapel Bergen Mall in Paramus, NJ among their bottom three ministries of interest.

Parish Ministries of Greatest and Least Priority

- Responding members were asked how much priority the Province should give each of the 20 parish ministries. Half to two-thirds say the Province should give “very much” priority to the following parishes: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Darien, IL; St. Cecilia in Englewood, NJ; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Joliet, IL; and Transfiguration of Our Lord in Torreon, Mex. On the other end of the scale, less than a quarter give “very much” priority to St. Agnes in Phoenix, AZ; St. Teresa in San Francisco, CA; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Fairfield, CA; and St. Raphael in Englewood, FL.
- Members were also asked which three parishes should be given highest priority. Between three-tenths and half list the following parishes: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Darien, IL; St. Cecilia in Englewood, NJ; Transfiguration of Our Lord in Torreon, Mex.; and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Joliet, IL. Hispanics or Latinos and those currently ministering in Mexico or El Salvador are especially likely to also add St. Raphael’s in Los Angeles, CA.
- Conversely, members were asked which three parishes should be given least priority. At least one-quarter lists St. Teresa in San Francisco, CA; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Fairfield, CA; and St. Raphael in Englewood, FL. Those among the younger two generations combined are especially likely to add St. Agnes of Phoenix, AZ to their list.

Non-parish Ministries of Greatest and Least Priority

- Members were asked how much priority the Province should give to 14 non-parish ministries in the Province. At least half say the Province should give “very much” priority to these: formation programs in USA, Mexico, El Salvador; Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, Can.; Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, IL; Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago, IL; Salpointe Catholic High School in Tucson, AZ; and Province administration. Lay Carmelites and media/publications are especially likely to be given high priority by those of the younger two generations.
- When asked to list the three ministries the Province should give highest priority, members are especially likely to list formation programs in USA, Mexico, El Salvador; Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago, IL; Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, IL; Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, Can.; Province administration, and Salpointe Catholic High School in Tucson, AZ.
- Conversely, when asked to list the three ministries that should receive the least priority, members list the following: St. Therese Chapel Bergen Mall in Paramus, NJ; individual apostolates; Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, IL; Joliet Catholic Academy in Joliet, IL; media/publications; and Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, CA.

Open-ended Questions

- When asked in what new ministries the Province should be involved in, a number of members suggested the Province not add any new ministries as it does not have enough members to staff its current ones. Among those suggesting new ministries, ones in these

areas are especially likely to have been mentioned: ministries related to spirituality, more secondary and elementary school education ministries, social justice ministries, ministries related to higher education and campus ministry, and more individual apostolates.

- Members were also asked to write in the greatest challenge facing the Province at present. By far, the most common response is the declining number of members and/or the need to close some current ministries. Also likely to be mentioned are better focusing on the Carmelite charism, mission and vision; finding a better model for community life; better formation, training and mentoring; more unity and solidarity among members; and better leadership and planning.