

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MINUTES

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**Provincial Council Meeting
Provincial Office, Darien, Illinois
September 26, 2020
Minutes**

Present in Darien: Carl J. Markelz, O.Carm., David McEvoy, O.Carm., Gregory Houck, O.Carm., and Rolf Nepi Willemsen, O.Carm. Present through Lifesize Video: Daryl Moresco, O.Carm., and Luis Jesús “Chuy” Paz Acosta, O.Carm.

Opening Prayer

Carl led the Provincial Council in an opening prayer regarding racism composed by Sarah Signorino of Canisius College.

Personnel Assignments

Kevin McBrien	Villa Scalabrini, Sun Valley, CA (effective Oct. 5, 2020)
José Benjamín Constante Quezada	La Inmaculada Concepción Parish, Pucusana, Peru (effective Dec. 1, 2020)
Santos Cecilio Hernández Carranza	San Alberto de Jerusalén Community, El Salvador (effective Nov. 1, 2020)

Health Care Issues

The Provincial Council reviewed the current condition of a number of brothers who had serious health issues: Terry Cyr (who died later that day), Myron Judy, Michael LaFay, Henry Ormond, Clyde Ozminkowski, and Emilio Rodriguez.

Regional Issues

Peru: The Provincial Council reviewed the Minutes of the September 2, 2020, Meeting of the Peruvian Commissariat Council of Miguel Bacigalupo, Floristan Guerrero, and Rodolfo Aznarán. Their discussions included a reflection on Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si*, the impact of the pandemic on our Peruvian communities

and ministries, formation and vocation issues during the pandemic, and the financial impact of the pandemic on the Peruvian Commissariat. Discussions are also underway among the directors of the three Carmelite schools for planning the opening of the 2021 school year.

Mexico and El Salvador: The Provincial Council approved the creation of two Task Forces to explore future possibilities for ministries in Mexico and El Salvador. The Council would like the men of these areas to be particularly involved in discussing the issues of their own future. The Task Force for Mexico includes: Luis Jesús Paz Acosta, Edgar Lucio Lezama Aparicio, Mario Loya, and Gregorio Vázquez. The Task Force for El Salvador includes: Luis Jesús Paz Acosta, Edgar Lucio Lezama Aparicio, Alfredo Guillen Sandoval, and Santos Cecilio Hernández Carranza. Both Task Forces are charged with presenting the Provincial Council with three concrete options for future ministries in their respective countries and a vision for our Carmelite presence there.

Vocations

US & Canada: David McEvoy gave the Provincial Council an update on vocation efforts for candidates in the US and Canada. Paul Henson, Gregory Houck, and David met for a three day brainstorming weekend, September 5-7, in Darien. Student representatives to the Vocation Commission, Roberto Mejia and Roberto Reyes, joined in for additional input through Lifesize video conferencing. Carl Markelz also attended one of the sessions.

Greg gave a detailed outline for a comprehensive plan to utilize our digital and social media in the Province to promote vocations. With our vocation headquarters now at the Provincial Office in Darien, all incoming inquiries will be funneled through this site. Paul will continue to work in the field with current candidates already in discernment. David will be organizing a prayer campaign to involve the men of our Province, Carmelite Nuns and Sisters, Lay Carmelites and all those served by the men of our Province in Carmelite ministries. Roberto Reyes and Roberto Mejia gave important input regarding the potential participation of our men in formation in our vocation efforts.

David met with Daryl Moresco and Roberto Mejia at Whitefriars Hall the following weekend to share insights from the brainstorming days in Darien. Daryl, who is now the Managing Director of the Carmelite Center at the Catholic University of America, will be a Carmelite presence on campus to promote vocations. He will also be available to make personal contacts on the East Coast once COVID-19

restrictions have eased. Along with the students at Whitefriars Hall, he will help to coordinate future vocation retreats at the Hall.

El Salvador: Chuy reported that currently 42 men are in discernment with our vocation team in El Salvador. It is the goal of the men in El Salvador to admit ten new candidates into the pre-novitiate program for the next semester.

Formation

Peru/El Salvador: Currently there are four novices from El Salvador in the Novitiate in Lurín, Peru. They are: Wilmer Ulises Ascencio Piche, Tereso de Jesús Benítez López, Jairo Augusto Hernández Jiménez, and Daniel Edgardo Juárez Colocho. These men are scheduled to make their request to profess simple vows this December in a few weeks. If COVID-19 and immigration protocols permit, they will come to the United States for English language studies in Tucson, AZ, from January--July 2021, before continuing studies in theology or beginning pastoral internships. We agreed to the importance of undertaking considerable research to ascertain the best program for these men to study English as a second language should they be able to come to the US in early 2021.

Ethical Ministry

Jim Geoly, of Burke, Warren, MacKay, and Serritella, PC, our long-time attorney who has assisted the Province in sexual abuse cases, is now employed full-time for the Archdiocese of Chicago. He will no longer be representing us. His replacement, Susan Overbey, will be joining Norah Flaherty, who has worked for us for many years, in representing us in the future.

Considerable time and effort has been put into researching the names of men in our Province with credible allegations of sexual misconduct with minors from 1950 to the present. A list of these men will be published on the provincial website in the near future. The Review Board is scheduled to meet on October 8 to make their final recommendations regarding this list, to review safety plans for a number of men of the Province, as well as to discuss any new cases of misconduct.

Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein, IL

The Provincial Council reviewed a report from the Board of Members meeting of September 21, 2020 of Carmel Catholic High School. The school has a current enrollment of 1069 students, having budgeted for 1075. This figure includes 42 international students, some of whom have not yet arrived but have registered. The school has begun in a hybrid format. Around 200 students have chosen to go to class online. All 60 classrooms have received new furniture, carpeting, and paint. The Fitness Center, which has been under construction since July, is projected to be completed by late October. The Kathy A. Nemmers Welcome Center was opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 9.

Financial Issues

The Provincial Council will be focusing on the Province's financial issues at our next Council meeting on October 24.

Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Endowed Chair and Center for Carmelite Studies at Catholic University of America

The Provincial Council reviewed a Progress Report from Steven Payne, OCD on the Center for Carmelite Studies at Catholic University. The update included the following information:

- 1) Daryl Moresco, O.Carm., has assumed the duties of "Managing Director" of the Center and has an on-site office on the fifth floor of Caldwell Hall, next to Steven Payne. Daryl will be in charge of overseeing publicity and communications, organization of events, the list of contacts, etc.
- 2) Daryl will be managing the new website for the Carmelite Center: <https://trs.catholic.edu/faculty-and-research/institutes/carmelite-center/index.html>
- 3) As a first step, Steven Payne is now teaching a two-semester course entitled "The Carmelite Tradition," covering the Order's history to 1500. The eventual academic goal is to organize these Carmelite courses into a certificate program.

- 4) Steve Payne plans to give the “Inaugural Lecture” for the Center on November 13, 2020.
- 5) Plans are underway for the Carmelite Center to host a Symposium sponsored by the Carmelite Institute of North America on the CUA campus July 18-22, 2021. Potential speakers include both the O.Carm. and OCD Generals, Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Washington, DC, and the Carmelite Cardinal Lars Anders Aborelius, who has already confirmed his attendance. (Cardinal Aborelius, a Swedish Discalced Carmelite and former Lutheran, has been the Bishop of Stockholm since 1998 and was named the first Cardinal from Sweden by Pope Francis in 2017.)

Carmelite Missions

The Provincial Council approved three requests for financial assistance for projects both within and outside the Province. These included:

- 1) \$52,000.00 (\$40,000.00 from the Carmelite Mission Office and \$12,000.00 from the Province) for remodeling of the old school building in Transfiguration Parish in Torreon, Mexico. The motion, made by Carl and seconded by Nepi, was approved unanimously.
- 2) \$20,000.00 for the Congregation of Carmelite Sister Institute of Our Lady of Carmel in Quezon City, Philippines from the Carmelite Mission Office. The motion, made by Chuy and seconded by David, was approved unanimously. An additional \$14,000.00 donation has been made by the St. Elias Community in Joliet, IL.
- 3) \$6,000.00 for the Carmelite Missionary Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus to help support the construction of the “Carmel Prayer Garden” in Boko, Tanzania from the Province. The motion, made by Daryl and seconded by Gregory, was approved unanimously.

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission

The Provincial Council discussed a number of issues presented from the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission from their August 29, 2020 meeting. The JPIC Commission is urging the Provincial Council to make a Province-wide response to the current Climate Change crisis as one of the

Council's strategic goals for the current term. This appeal was accepted by the Council. Specific objectives will be outlined in the Provincial Council Goals for 2020-2023.

David Semmens of the JPIC reported in a memo to Chuy that he made a recent contact with Page Gravely of Catholic Energies. This is the entity that had found investors to install solar systems at Darien and Whitefriars Hall without cost to us. They will also be presenting an analysis of the solar systems in Darien and Whitefriars Hall this coming February 2021. Catholic Energies is available to help the Province create a strategy of moving toward the eventual goal of net zero emissions should we decide to do so.

An issue discussed by the Council for future clarification included the relationship between the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission and the Carmelite NGO.

Prayer and Liturgy Commission

Daryl reported that the Prayer and Liturgy Commission had met on-line a number of times. They are continuing to work on an app for Compline to be ready by the First Sunday of Advent.

Initiative of the Philippine Province

The Council reviewed a September 4, 2020, letter from Fr. Rico P. Ponce, Prior Provincial of the Province of Blessed Titus Brandsma of the Philippines. The Philippine Province is looking forward to future discussions concerning their proposal to establish a community or parish within the PCM Province.

2020 Provincial Chapter of Affairs in 2021

The Provincial Council received a number of ideas from Craig Morrison regarding the Chapter of Affairs in Niagara Falls, June 2021, particularly the Titus Brandsma theme. Craig forwarded an insightful article from *The Atlantic* magazine of August 27, 2020 entitled, *The Pope, the Jews, and the Secrets in the Archives*, to contextualize issues surrounding Titus' potential canonization.

As the dates of the PCM and St. Elias Provincial Chapters are both set for the week of June 20, 2021, plans are already in place for Prior General, Míceál

O'Neill, to fly to Canada after his attendance at the Chapter of the Irish Province, with a Sunday arrival in Niagara Falls. He will then fly Tuesday to New York for the SEL Chapter.

Provincial Council Strategic Goals, 2020-2023

The Council engaged in a discussion of a tentative draft of the Provincial Council Strategic Goals presented from a sub-committee of Carl, David, and Nepi. These goals will focus on community, vocations, integration of the various regions of the Province, climate change, and spirituality. We hope to be able to publicize these goals by the end of the year.

Some Future Dates:

October 8	Review Board
October 16	PCM Formation Commission Meeting
October 17	Interprovincial Formation Commission Meeting
October 24	Provincial Council Meeting
November 7-8	Vocation Commission Meeting
November 21	Provincial Council Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.

MOUNT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL
Board of Members Meeting
September 26, 2020

Present: Carl J. Markelz, O.Carm., David McEvoy, O.Carm., Daryl Moresco, O.Carm., Gregory Houck, O.Carm., Luis Jesús Paz Acosta, O.Carm., Rolf Nepi Willemsen, O.Carm.

The Board of Members met and reviewed the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Directors. Carl was very grateful that since Mount Carmel High School is the only Chicago Archdiocesan High School currently having the majority of students on campus five days a week, that there have been no COVID-19 cases to date.

Beginning enrollment at Mount Carmel is 600 students, 90 of whom have opted for e-Learning. Approximately 25 students transferred in from schools offering only remote learning. Classroom and lunchroom modifications were made following guidelines from the CDC.

Mount Carmel has been approached by the Chicago Planning Department to participate in a five phase development plan for the Woodlawn neighborhood. A committee from Mount Carmel has been formed to participate in this planning.

The Board of Members approved the Board of Directors' motion to appoint Janice S. Dobrinich to the Board of Directors. Janice has over 30 years of Human Resource experience, has had many personal ties to Mount Carmel, and was instrumental in conducting the 2016 Executive Search at Mount Carmel for the new President.

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.