

Provincial Council Meeting

Lifesize Video Conference

August 22, 2020

Minutes

Present: Carl J. Markelz, O.Carm., David McEvoy, O.Carm., Daryl Moresco, O.Carm., Gregory Houck, O.Carm., Luis Jesus “Chuy” Paz Acosta, O.Carm., and Rolf “Nepi” Willemsen, O.Carm.

Opening Prayer

The members of the Provincial Council opened our August meeting with a prayer prepared for us by Gregory Houck: the Prayer of Pope Francis in a Time of Pandemic. It was first prayed by Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square in May 2020.

Age and Country Listings of our PCM Members

Carl shared with the Council a listing of the men of the Province by both age, country of service, and country of origin.

The listing of Carmelites from Mexico, El Salvador, and Peru led to a lengthy discussion concerning their future role in our Province. Where will our many new Hispanic vocations be serving in the future? How do we foster discussion among our brothers, particularly regarding the future of the Order in Mexico and El Salvador? Do we see ourselves as one Province? How do we move beyond discussion to concrete action for the future in regard to expanding ministries?

The idea of forming two Task Forces for the future of our Provincial presence in Mexico and El Salvador will be discussed at our September meeting.

Personnel Assignments:

Terrence Cyr	St. Patrick’s Residence, Naperville, IL
Michael LaFay	St. Patrick’s Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation, Farmingham, MA
Dominic Saganich	Sabbatical for six months with residence at St. Elias Priory, Joliet, IL

Appointment of Priors

Having received nominations for the office of prior from our various communities, the Council approved the following men as priors:

Mt. Carmel Monastery & St. Patrick Priory, Niagara Falls	Michael Wastag
Centro Xiberta & San Alberto de Jerusalen San Salvador	Alfredo Guillen, Prior; Luis Jesus Paz, Sub-Prior
Transfiguration Priory, Torreon, & Casa del Carmen, Mexico City	Emilio Rodriguez
St. Agnes Priory, Phoenix	Bradley Peterson
St. Therese Priory, Phoenix	Ronald Oakham
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Priory, Tucson	Paul Henson
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Priory, Encino	John Sprissler
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Priory, Fairfield & St. Teresa of Avila Priory, San Francisco	Michael Greenwell
Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC	Quinn Connors
Carmel at Mission Valley, Nokomis	Adrian Wilde
St. Cyril Priory, Chicago	Leopold Glueckert
St. Simon Stock Priory, Darien	Robert Colaresi
Titus Brandsma Priory, Darien	Peter McGarry
St. Elias Priory, Joliet	Jeffery Smialek
St. Boniface Priory, Scipio & Immaculate Conception—St. Joseph Priory, Leavenworth	David Simpson
St. Therese Priory, Cresskill, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Priory, Tenafly, & St. Cecilia Priory, Englewood	Samuel Citero, Prior Daniel O'Neill, Sub-Prior and Bursar for St. Cecilia Community

Future Housing for New Jersey Carmelites

The Council decided that we would no longer pursue the possibility of remodeling the third floor of the St. Cecilia Parish convent in Englewood, NJ to create suites for senior Carmelites.

Daniel O'Neill was given permission to pursue the purchase of a house in Bergen County, NJ with the assistance of Jim Brooks, a realtor from Tenafly. Those senior Carmelites to be occupying this house will be Eugene Bettinger, Emmett Gavin, and Daniel O'Neill.

Funds received from the sale of our property at Mahwah will be used for this purchase, as well as for future updating of the parking lot at St. Cecilia's in Englewood and adjacent buildings.

Health Care Issues

The Council reviewed a listing of Professional Licensed Health Care Coordinators located near our US priories, compiled by Myron Judy, Provincial Director of Health Care. Myron wishes to continue this ministry as long as possible.

Peruvian Commissariat

The Council reviewed the August 7, 2020 Minutes of the Peruvian Commissariat meeting of Miguel Bacigalupo, Floristan Guerrero, and Rodolfo Aznaran. The members met via Zoom conferencing due to the COVID-19 restrictions. There remains serious concerns about their finances as they navigate through the pandemic.

Vocations

David McEvoy gave the Council a review of our Provincial Vocation efforts (US/Canada) since our last Council Meeting of July 22. Since that time, David has moved from Leavenworth to Darien and has recently occupied a new office in the Provincial Office building. Both Carl and David have met a number of times with Gregory Houck, Ken Pino, Director of Communications, and Jorge Mora, Director of Social Media, brainstorming for a new vocation campaign to include emphasis on social media. The Vocation team of David McEvoy, Paul Henson, and Gregory Houck will be meeting in person in Darien, and with Daryl Moresco by Lifesize video conferencing, September 5-8. This group will meet with the larger Vocation Commission at a later date.

Luis Jesus "Chuy" Paz Acosta reported that there are currently 59 vocation prospects in dialogue with our Carmelites in El Salvador. Henry Cienfuegos and Benjamin Salas have been instrumental in this effort. The question of arriving at a desired maximum

number of pre-novices that can be accepted yearly brought about much discussion. One very successful vocation effort implemented in El Salvador involved having virtual meetings with vocation prospects each Sunday. This format allows for a brief presentation by a Carmelite followed by open questions from the inquirers. The format is COVID safe and allows vocation promotion through on-going contact with interested men

Pre-Novices

Four new pre-novices have recently been accepted into the Carmelite formation program in Mexico, as well as four new pre-novices for the Carmelite formation program in El Salvador.

Intern Conference Calls

David McEvoy, Provincial Intern Director, reported on conference calls he had made with eleven of our twelve Carmelite interns serving in the US and Mexico from August 7-11. The purpose of these calls was to introduce himself, have a brief discussion with each intern and their supervisor, and to give the intern information regarding the upcoming Carmelite Studies Program at Whitefriars Hall, the deadline for submitting the annual internship contract, and hopes for future in-house visits.

Whitefriars Hall

The Council reviewed the guidelines currently in place at Whitefriars Hall to maintain safety during the pandemic. All communities in the Province should discuss the critical issues regarding staying home and staying safe.

The Carmelite Studies Program for our men in formation was successfully held at Whitefriars Hall from August 12-16. The formandi from both the Most Pure Heart of Mary (PCM) and St. Elias (SEL) Provinces were engaged — the majority through Zoom — in the United States, Mexico, El Salvador, and Peru.

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission (JPIC)

The Council received recommendations from the JPIC Commission for the Province's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan to include concrete proposals in regard to climate change.

The Council reviewed the amount of current funds in the JPIC Emergency Fund. As a grant of \$38,500 was previously approved for assistance to the Carmelites in the Philippines, the current balance of surplus funds in the JPIC Emergency Fund has been reduced to \$20,500.

Finance Commission

The Provincial Council reviewed the May 20, 2020 Minutes of the Finance Commission. The newly organized Finance Commission met on August 12 to continue to monitor all of our finances. Our investment portfolio has rebounded since its low point in March.

Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls

The Council reviewed information sent to us regarding a discussion about the Haden Institute Program by Carmelites at the Spiritual Centre and by Director, Steve Bridges. Some complaints had been received regarding the Catholicity of the program, specifically liturgies celebrated at the monastery. The Centre sees itself as providing an ecumenical and interfaith retreat experience, and acknowledges that these groups using the Centre will be following their own liturgical norms. A suggestion to uncouple the Haden Institute from the Carmelites was put forth, so that any references to the Centre, which implied an endorsement of the Haden Institute program by the Centre or the Carmelites, would be removed. Further discussions between Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre and the Haden Institute will continue until the matter is resolved.

Provincial Properties

Carl discussed that currently the main property projects in the Province involve the new formation house in El Salvador, the property at St. Cecilia Parish, Englewood, NJ, roof repair at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Priory (Salpointe) in Tucson, the Avila Hall demolition at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, and issues with the White House at Darien and the University Avenue property in Chicago. Joseph Atcher continues helping in this area with Ryan Anderson, our Director of Provincial Properties.

Instituto de las Americas

The Provincial Council approved the following members for the Instituto de las Americas:

William Harry, Chair

Luis Jesus Paz Acosta

Rogelio Garcia

Floristan Guerrero

Jorge Monterroso

Proposal from the Philippine Carmelite Province of Blessed Titus Brandsma

The Council reviewed correspondence from Rico Ponce, Provincial of the Philippines Province, thanking the PCM Province for our recent monetary gift. Rico requested the initiation of discussions regarding the possibility of the Filipino Province establishing a parish in the United States. The Council suggested to first have one member of the province come over to work in one of our parishes before any long-term commitment was made. This topic will continue to be discussed at our future meetings.

2021 PCM Provincial Chapter

The Provincial Council re-appointed the current 2020 Chapter Preparatory Commission to organize our Chapter of Affairs in Niagara Falls, Ontario, the week of June 21-25, 2021. Those on the Commission include:

Michael Wastag, Chair

Luis Jesus Paz Acosta

Daryl Moresco

Glenn Snow

Rolf Nepi Willemsen

As the SEL Province will be conducting their 2021 Chapter the same week, the Preparatory Commission will help to coordinate the attendance of Prior General Miceal O'Neill with the SEL Province.

2020-2023 Strategic Plan and Provincial Council Goals

A Provincial Council sub-committee of Carl Markelz, David McEvoy, and Rolf Nepi Willemsen will meet to discuss an updated Provincial Strategic Plan and Provincial Council Goals. A proposed draft will be submitted to the Provincial Council for discussion at our September 26 meeting.

Future Dates

September 5-8 Provincial Vocation Team Meeting, Darien

September 8 Mount Carmel High School Board of Directors Meeting

September 9 Peruvian Commissariat Council Meeting

September 12 Neil Conlisk Solemn Profession, Washington, DC
(COVID-19 Restrictions—only 36 people in attendance at the Crypt Chapel of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC)

September 21 Carmel Catholic High School Board of Members Meeting

September 25 Salpointe Catholic High School Board of Directors Meeting

September 26 Provincial Council Lifesize Meeting

September 29 Crespi Carmelite High School Board of Directors Meeting

September 30 Joliet Catholic Academy Board of Members Meeting

October 5-7 Lay Carmelite Commission Meeting

October 16-17 Formation Commission Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

David McEvoy, O.Carm.