

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MINUTES

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**Provincial Council Meeting
Provincial Office, Darien, Illinois
January 23, 2021
Minutes**

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

Opening Prayer

David McEvoy led the Council in an Opening Prayer entitled “A Marian Prayer for Vocations.”

Personnel Assignments

Kyrin Caggiano	Residence at Ashton Gardens, 3000 Ashton Gardens Drive, #408, Venice, FL 34292 (Effective February 1, 2021)
José Luis Torres P.	Residence at Transfiguration Priory, Torreón, Mexico (Effective February 1, 2021)

Position Open-Listed

Pastor	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Joliet, IL
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Financial Report

Brian Gawel, Director of Finance (in person) and Elias O’Brien, Provincial Treasurer (on Lifesize Video Conference) provided an update to the Council on the financial matters of the Province through the second quarter of the 2021 Fiscal Year. The following was discussed:

--A review of the balance sheet and the income statement as of December 31, 2020, and for the six month period ending December 31, 2020, respectively. Total assets of the Province have increased over the past quarter, primarily due

to the strong stock market performance in the last quarter. Actual cash receipts have been at best flat as compared to the prior year, but this is not unexpected based upon the pandemic and its effect on our communities and parishes. The results of operations for the six month period ending December 31, 2020, were positively affected by the investment return for the quarter. A continued reduction in discretionary spending where appropriate has also helped. The Province continues to provide subsidies to those ministries that need the assistance.

--Elias O'Brien cautioned that the quarter's financial results were primarily based upon an investment return that can certainly reverse and that the quarter's "increase" was on paper only and not actual cash received.

--Projected capital disbursements through the end of the fiscal year were reviewed with the Council. Projects in Arizona, Washington, DC, Florida, and in Darien and Chicago will require a capital investment of approximately \$600,000 by the Province.

Report on the Peruvian Commissariat

Raúl Maraví, newly elected Commisary Provincial of the Peruvian Commissariat (on Lifesize Video Conference), reported on the work of the Peruvian General Assembly in Lurín, Peru, January 12-14. Eduardo Rivero was elected First Councilor of the Commissariat and Gerald Payea, the Second Councilor.

Our Carmelite parishes in Peru are open, but operating at only 20-30% capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance is low. Our schools are currently closed for the summer break. It is questionable whether students will be able to return for in-person classes when the new school year begins in March.

Benjamín Constante has arrived from El Salvador to the parish in Pucusana. He will be helping with the Peruvian vocation effort.

The Peruvian Carmelites are looking forward to the January 31 arrival of Miguel Ángel Salinas Lopez, a Carmelite pre-novitiate student from La Paz, Bolivia, for the new school year. He will be residing at Casa San Elías.

Raúl stated that the potential cooperation of the Peruvian Commissariat with the Argentinian Delegation is in the first stages of initial dialogue. He described the Argentinian Delegation as a "complex reality" of approximately ten Carmelites, who are responsible for operating three parishes, two schools, and one formation

house. There is a possibility of one pre-novice from Argentina coming to study in Peru in 2022.

The current finances of the Peruvian Commissariat are stable due to rent income from our high school in Miraflores, Colegio Nuestra Señora del Carmen. A discussion was held concerning the possibility of sending more funds from the Peruvian Commissariat to the Indonesian Province in appreciation for the hard work of the three Indonesian Carmelites currently serving in Peru.

Approval of Mission Funding

The Provincial Council approved a donation of \$20,000.00 from the Carmelite Mission Office for a project for the elderly sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in San Pedro, Peru (near Sicuani). This congregation of over 1,000 sisters is headquartered in Mexico with provinces in California, Central and South America and in Burkina Faso in Africa. The purpose of this project is to provide a home for 200 elderly persons in the southern Andes region of Peru. The three sisters who will be operating this project have a wide experience of elder care from their time in Peru, Africa, and the United States.

Report on the December 21 Meeting of PCM Carmelites from Mexico:

The Provincial Council reviewed a report of the December 21, 2020, virtual meeting of the PCM Carmelites from Mexico. Carl Markelz and David McEvoy attended this meeting virtually, as did 25 PCM Carmelites from Mexico. The meeting was extremely fraternal and allowed the brothers to dialogue with one another. The Provincial Task Force appointed for Mexico of Edgar Lucio Lezama Aparicio, Mario Loya, "Chuy" Paz Acosta, and Gregorio Vázquez Solís, will continue to discern the shape of our expanding Carmelite presence in Mexico.

Personnel Form

The Provincial Council approved a one-page personnel form to be sent to the men of the Province, eliciting responses regarding each Carmelite's present situation. The document is confidential and will be used by the Prior Provincial and Vice Prior Provincial for visitations and conversations with the men of the Province.

Health Care Concerns

The Provincial Council reviewed a report by Myron Judy, Provincial Director of Health Care, regarding members of the Province experiencing health challenges. Myron stated that many of the men of the Province who are living in senior living facilities are subject to strict anti-COVID-19 restrictions. These restrictions of isolation and confinement can be very difficult. Our men in such situations are to be commended for their contribution of voluntary isolation to beat back the virus. Men in such facilities include: Augustine Carter, Michael LaFay, Ivan Marsh, Blaise McInerney, Tiernan O'Callaghan, and Henry Ormond. Other Carmelites living in more independent sections of retirement communities still have some restrictions in their living situations. These include: Emil Agostino, Thomas Batsis, Peter Liuzzi, Kevin McBrien, and John Sprissler.

Vocation Commission Report

The Provincial Vocation Commission met virtually on January 16, 2021. Those attending included Paul Henson, Gregory Houck, Mario Loya, Raul Maraví, David McEvoy, Roberto Mejía, Daryl Moresco, Chuy Paz, and Roberto Reyes.

As a result of our vocation efforts, eleven new pre-novices are joining provincial formation programs in Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador in January 2021.

A "Carmelite Vocation Chat" conference call was organized on December 13 for vocation prospects participating from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Texas, and California. Carmelites hosting the experience included Paul Henson, Michael Joyce, David McEvoy, Roberto Mejía, and Ryan Resurrecion. Our men in formation were able to share their experiences of Carmelite formation with the vocation inquirers.

A Carmelite Vocation Retreat has been scheduled for April 1-4, 2021, at Whitefriars Hall in Washington, DC. The retreat will begin on Holy Thursday and conclude on Easter Sunday. Inquirers will be able to join the Whitefriars Hall community for the Triduum liturgies and meet the student community both informally, as well as through retreat presentations on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Appropriate COVID-19 precautions will be in place. Please pray for the success of this retreat!

Secondary Schools Commission Report

Carl Markelz reported that the presidents from our five Carmelite high schools, as well as De Sales High School in Louisville, KY, met virtually on January 20 for a presentation by Mr. Page Gravely of Catholic Energies to discuss ways to reduce our carbon footprint, such as utilization of solar energy in our high schools. This conversation was the first step, as each school will work with Catholic Energies to continue our promotion of Pope Francis' *Laudato si'*.

PCM Endowed Chair and Center for Carmelite Studies at Catholic University of America

Daryl Moresco reported that the Center for Carmelite Studies has a robust program planned for Spring 2021. The CUA student body is returning to the campus for spring semester classes. Keith Egan will be presenting a lecture on February 11 entitled "What Makes a Carmelite a Carmelite—An Evolving and Dynamic Charism." This will be a virtual presentation and there is no need to pre-register for the event. The link to participate is: cua.zoom.us/j/83952943828 Passcode: 875242. Other plans are for the unveiling of a Lenten Series of talks in spirituality, as well as a seminar on St. Joseph in the Carmelite Tradition.

Chapter Preparatory Commission

The Provincial Council reviewed a report from the 2020 Chapter Preparatory Commission. As the Congregation for Consecrated Life in the Vatican has forbidden any future online chapters, we are unable to hold a formal Chapter of Affairs on-line in June 2021 as previously planned. The Preparatory Commission will submit the Acts of the Chapter, recording the 2020 elections of Provincial officers, along with the results of the voting on the sixteen pieces of legislation. This will conclude the work of the Chapter Preparatory Commission.

The Preparatory Commission asked for direction from the Provincial Council regarding the way forward for any type of virtual gathering of the men of the Province in 2021.

The Provincial Council decided that a Provincial "Convocation" would be held on-line Tuesday-Thursday, June 22-24, 2021. The Council is asking that the members of the Preparatory Commission continue to meet in order to plan the 2021 Convocation.

Discussion of the Carmelite Shield

The Provincial Council discussed the issue of the variety of Carmelite shields in use throughout the Province and in use in our provincial advertising and media. While the Council feels it is impossible to mandate an “official” shield throughout the Province, it was decided that the current shield projecting on an angle would be replaced by the more commonly used front-forward shield in our future publications and on our website.

Approval of Provincial Council Goals, 2020-2023

The Provincial Council approved the final draft of our 2020-2023 Goals. A document entitled “Being Authentic Witnesses to our Carmelite Charism: Strategic Plan Objectives 2020-2026 and Provincial Council Goals 2020-2023” will be sent to the members of the Province shortly.

Some Future Dates

January 26	Priors' Meeting *
February 20	Provincial Council Meeting *
March 12	Carmelitana Board Meeting *
March 19	PCM Formation Commission Meeting *
March 20	Intra-Provincial Formation Commission Meeting *
March 27	Provincial Council Meeting *
April 1-4	Carmelite Vocation Retreat, Whitefriars Hall, DC
April 13	Parish Commission Meeting *
April 17	Vocation Commission Meeting *
April 24	Provincial Council Meeting *

*By Lifesize Video Conferencing

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.