

## **PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

If members of your community do not have access to email, please consider printing a set of these minutes for their benefit. But please remember that these minutes deal with confidential matters and are intended to be seen by members of the PCM Province only. If you are printing these minutes out, please make sure they are kept in a secure place.

**Provincial Council Meeting  
Provincial Office, Darien, Illinois  
June 5, 2021  
Minutes**

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

**Opening Prayer**

The Provincial Council meeting began with an opening prayer by Chuy Paz.

**Meeting with Carmelites of El Salvador**

The Provincial Council met with the solemnly professed (and soon to be solemnly professed) members of the Province from El Salvador through Lifesize video. Those present were Alfredo Guillén Sandoval, Santos Cecilio Hernández Carranza, Edgar Lucio Lezama Aparicio, José Arístides Menjivar Larios, Ulises García Hernández, and Henry Mauricio Cienfuegos (simply professed; representing Vocations), all from the community of San Alberto de Jerusalén, Luis Jesús “Chuy” Paz Acosta and Benjamín Salas Achahuanco from Centro Xiberta, Roger Stanley Melara Mondragón presently in Torreón, Mexico, and José Benjamín Constante Quezada from Pucusana, Peru. Jorge Mora, Digital Media Specialist, present at the Provincial Office in Darien, IL, provided the necessary translations.

Chuy Paz presented information on four vocation candidates who are applying for entrance into the Pre-novitiate program in El Salvador. The four men who were accepted to enter the Pre-novitiate in El Salvador are: Walter Vladimir Díaz Romero (24), Dimas Alejandro Rodas Marroquín (22), Luis Antonio Rodríguez López (21), and Daniel Adalberto Valiente Tobar (23). These four men will be joining 14 other pre-novices at Centro Xiberta this August. Henry Cienfuegos then left the meeting.

Elias O’Brien, Provincial Treasurer, (on Lifesize video from Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC) and Brian Gawel, Director of Finance, (in person at the Provincial Office in Darien, IL), joined the Provincial Council and the men from El Salvador in a discussion about current finances regarding our efforts in El Salvador. A decision was made that a follow-up meeting would be held on June

8, 2021, with Carl Markelz, Elias O'Brien, Brian Gawel, Cecilio Hernández, Benjamín Salas, and Jorge Mora (translator) to discuss the current status of all accounts in El Salvador and to make plans for future budgeting. Elias O'Brien and Brian Gawel then left the meeting.

A discussion was undertaken by the Provincial Council and the men of El Salvador concerning a number of pertinent topics. With so many vocations entering the formation program in El Salvador, there was a discussion about the need to surface future formators. Although the Carmelite Formation *Ratio* recommends that Carmelites have five years of pastoral ministry before entering formation ministry, this is not always possible to achieve. We also need to be searching for future ministries in El Salvador for our men. It was acknowledged that it is difficult for a newly ordained Carmelite priest or newly solemnly professed Carmelite brother assigned to ministry to continue to live in a formation community. It is also not our intention to train Carmelites from El Salvador to minister exclusively in other countries, although we may for a time need Carmelites from El Salvador to serve in Peru, Mexico, or in Hispanic ministries in the United States. The long-range dream to expand Carmel into other Central American countries was also addressed.

Chuy Paz and Arístides Menjivar will be attending the Carmelite Studies Program at Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC, August 11-15, in person.

Carl Markelz will be visiting El Salvador this summer to attend the solemn profession of Ulises García and Arístides Menjivar on August 21. Carl will make an effort to visit each member of the community in El Salvador. Jorge Mora (translator) then left the meeting.

### **Provincial Health Commission**

Carl Markelz gave a summary of the recent meeting of the Provincial Health Commission on June 2, 2021. Those attending at the Provincial Office included Carl Markelz, Joseph Atcher, and Marina Rosenbaum, and Myron Judy by phone. Carl reviewed the list of 24 men in the Province with serious illnesses. He also stated that all Carmelites, who are over the age of 80 and are still driving, will be tested in upcoming months by representatives of the Christian Brothers Services.

### **Colegio Nuestra Señora del Carmen, Miraflores, Lima, Peru**

The Provincial Council reviewed a financial profit and loss statement for the period January 1 to April 30, 2021, for Colegio Nuestra Señora del Carmen in

Miraflores, Lima, Peru. Actual net income was higher than budgeted for the first four months of this calendar year.

### **Approval for Entrance into the Novitiate in Middletown, NY**

The Provincial Council approved the following four men for entrance into the Novitiate in Middletown, NY: Victor Hugo Andrade Aguilar, José Carlos Gordillo García, José Guadalupe Ayala García, and Luis Felipe Ventura Medina. These four men arrived at Whitefriars Hall from our Pre-novitiate community in Tlalpan, Mexico City, Mexico, in February, and have been studying English this past semester. They will be received into the Novitiate on Sunday, June 13, 2021, along with Schafer Knostman of the St. Elias Province.

### **Approval for Diaconate Ordination**

The Provincial Council approved the request of Arístides Menjivar to be ordained a deacon in El Salvador on August 22. Carl Markelz will be attending the diaconal ordination.

### **Sponsorship Proposal**

The Provincial Council reviewed a proposal by Thomas Batsis, O.Carm., to restart the Province's sponsorship efforts in our Carmelite high schools in a document entitled "Sharing the Charism: A Program of Sponsorship for Ministries of the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary." Carl Markelz suggested that a starting point would be to undertake a charism study in the academic year 2021-2022. This would involve 1) visiting each of the high schools, 2) conducting interviews with key personnel, and 3) writing a report that the Provincial Council would use to determine the next steps regarding sponsorship. Thomas Batsis was named the "Sponsorship Study Coordinator" to launch this study.

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

Daryl Moresco reported that the Center for Carmelite Studies has made a lot of progress in recent months. The mission at the Center is to make the resources of our rich Carmelite heritage available to the contemporary Church and world, by fostering scholarly study and research in the history, culture, and spirituality of the Carmelites. One of these activities is to establish a group of "scholars"—both graduate and faculty—officially associated with the Center, who will collaborate with other scholars and scholarly organizations involved in Carmelite Studies and share information about their activities and resources. Additionally, scholars at the Center will help promote our mission and activities and give the Center a

higher profile. We hope to have our first graduate scholars committed by the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester and soon after several faculty scholars.

This summer, the Center is co-sponsoring the Carmelite Institute of North America Virtual Symposium which was to be held in person at Catholic University but is now a virtual event. Both Steven Payne, OCD, and Daryl Moresco, O.Carm., are involved with the Symposium. For a full list of recent activities at the Center, please go to this link: <http://bit.ly/CUA-CCS>

### **Carmelitana Board**

The Provincial Council reviewed the minutes of the May 11, 2021, Board meeting of the Carmelitana Collection. Those attending by Zoom video conference included Quinn Conners (chair), Elias O'Brien (library director), Gregory Houck (Provincial Council liaison), Daryl Moresco, and Patricia O'Callaghan. A decision was made to use the Enterprise level of Lucidea GeniePlus Software for digitizing the collection's catalog and making that catalog readily available to the public. The next meeting of the Carmelitana Board will be June 18, 2021.

The Provincial Council approved the replacement of Quinn Conners by Nepi Willemsen, Prior of Whitefriars Hall, as the new Chair of the Carmelitana Board.

### **2020 Provincial Chapter Dispensation**

The Provincial Council reviewed the May 26, 2021, letter of Prior General, Míceál O'Neil, O.Carm. to Carl J. Markelz, O.Carm., dispensing the PCM Province from completing its 2020 Provincial Chapter and declaring the Chapter concluded. This dispensation was due to the COVID-19 situation, the instruction by the Holy See in relation to Chapters which cannot be celebrated online, and after receiving the votation of the men of the PCM Province.

### **Formation for Carmelite Formators in the Americas (FOCAM)**

The Provincial Council reviewed a May 14, 2021, letter from Luis José Maza Subero, O.Carm., General Councilor of the Americas, in regard to the reorganization of FOCAL (Formation for Carmelite Formators in Latin America) to FOCAM (Formation for Carmelite Formators in the Americas). This group of men and women formators in the Carmelite Family in Latin America will now be expanded to include formators in North America as well. An online meeting is to be held August 26-28. Our PCM formators in the United States will now be invited to join with our PCM formators in Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador in this Carmelite program.

## **North American Region Meeting**

The Provincial Council reviewed the agenda of the upcoming North American Region Meeting in Middletown, NY, on June 13, prior to the Reception of Novices at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Luis Maza Subero, General Councilor of the Americas, will be present by Zoom video for the meeting. Luis Maza will be speaking about the Global Plan for the Order by the Curia and specifically how that might impact us in North America. Daryl Moresco, North American Region President, Carl Markelz, and Nepi Willemssen will be present in person, with David McEvoy present by Zoom video.

## **2021 PCM Convocation**

The Provincial Council reviewed the agenda and schedule for the upcoming PCM Convocation, June 22-24, 2021, by video conferencing. All members of the Province are encouraged to attend each of the sessions, which begin at 3:00 PM EDT for two hours each day.

## **2022 Regional Meetings**

The Provincial Council scheduled the dates and places for the 2022 Pre-Chapter Regional Meetings in the United States and Canada. Carmelites may attend either meeting at the time and place of their choice.

May 31-June 3	Redemptorist Renewal Center, Tucson, AZ
June 6-9	Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada

## **Future 2021 Dates**

June 13	Meeting of the North American Region, Middletown, NY
June 13	Reception of Novices, Middletown, NY
June 18	Carmelitana Board*
June 22-24	PCM Provincial Convocation*
July 9	Priors' Meeting*
July 11-16	"Into the Land of Carmel" Retreat/Seminar, Darien, IL
July 19-21	Carmelite Institute Virtual Symposium*
July 24	Provincial Council Meeting, Darien, IL*
August 11-14	Carmelite Studies Program, Whitefriars Hall, DC
August 15	Roberto Mejia Solemn Profession, Whitefriars Hall, DC

August 21	Ulises García and Arístides Menjivar Solemn Profession --El Salvador
August 22	Aristides Menjivar Diaconate Ordination, El Salvador
September 10	Provincial Council Meeting, Darien, IL.*
September 11	Vocation Commission Meeting*
October 18-21	Provincial Council Meeting, Avon, NJ
October 22	PCM Formation Commission Meeting, Cresskill, NJ
October 23	Inter-Provincial Formation Commission Meeting, Harrison, NJ
December 4	Provincial Council Meeting, Darien, IL*

\*Via Lifesize video conference

Respectfully submitted,  
David McEvoy, O.Carm.

**Board of Members  
Mount Carmel High School, Chicago, Illinois  
June 5, 2021  
Minutes**

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

The Board of Members unanimously approved the appointment of Scott C. Tabernacki, M.Ed., to the Board of Directors of Mount Carmel High School as a non-voting member.

No other business was taken at this time.

Respectfully submitted,  
David McEvoy, O.Carm.