

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
November 21, 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

Daryl led the Council members in an Opening Prayer with the theme of healing in response to the Church’s sexual abuse crisis.

Presentation by Page Gravely of Catholic Energy

Mr. Page Gravely of Mission Energy LLC joined the Provincial Council by Lifesize Video from Middleburg, VA. Mission Energy LLC serves as the Program Manager for Catholic Energies. Catholic Energies supports Catholic organizations to act on Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, by implementing sustainable projects that reduce energy costs and promote a lower carbon footprint. This is the company which coordinated the Province’s installation of solar panels at Whitefriars Hall and on the Darien campus.

Gravely focused on both short-term and long-term projects for the Province. Short-term possibilities include focusing on energy expenditures in those buildings owned by the Province, including our high school institutions. By conversion to solar energy and LED lighting, we can lower our carbon footprint and take advantage of overall lower utility expenditures. Once we have successfully made this conversion, we are in a better position to encourage changes in our parishes, and other ministries, leading by example.

Long-term possibilities include conversion of our plant boilers and HVAC systems as they gradually need replacing. Asphalt roofs can be replaced with “cool roofs” which reflect the sun and save on energy. Another example of more long-term possibilities includes the area of transportation. Use of public transport, bicycles, and most importantly electric cars can also greatly reduce our overall carbon footprint. Efficiency for electric and hybrid cars will only increase in future years.

The diversity of utility costs and different commitments to a lower carbon footprint in various states requires a case by case approach to lowering our Province's carbon footprint. We may be more successful, for example, in achieving our goals in Illinois or Washington, DC, than in Florida, where utility costs are currently less expensive and there are few government funded incentives.

Currently many Catholic entities have moved forward in implementing the goals of *Laudato Si'*, such as Catholic Charities of Washington, DC, and Las Vegas, NV, the Diocese of Richmond, VA, and various religious communities including the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Texas, and the Passionists and Presentation Sisters in New York.

Mission Energy LLC, working for Catholic Energies, offers feasibility studies for their potential clients at no cost. The Provincial Council, in dialogue with the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission (JPIC), will continue to dialogue with Mission Energy as we move forward, implementing a program that can be embraced by the Province.

Proposal from the Delegation of Argentina

The Provincial Council reviewed a recent communication sent to Carl Markelz from Nicolás Héctor Díaz, General Delegate of Argentina, requesting the initiation of a dialogue leading to the unification of the Delegation of Argentina with the Commissariat of Peru. This request has been undertaken with the approval of the Argentinian Carmelites, the Spanish Prior Provincial, Desiderio García Martínez, of the Province of Aragon, Castile, and Valencia, and the General Councilor of the Americas, Luis José Maza Subero.

The Council agreed to a dialogue with the Carmelites of Argentina on this issue, hoping to receive more information concerning the issues in Argentina leading to this request. The men of the Peruvian Commissariat also discussed this proposal in a virtual meeting on November 19, 2020. They expressed their agreement with beginning this dialogue, hoping to learn greater details of the expectations of our Argentinian brothers. A proposal was made to have a virtual meeting with the Carmelites in Argentina at the time of the annual gathering of the Peruvian Carmelites in January 2021.

Proposal from the Maltese Province Regarding Formation of Candidates from their Bolivian Mission

The Provincial Council reviewed a November 12, 2020, letter sent to Carl Markelz from the Maltese Prior Provincial, Joseph Saliba, inquiring about the

possibility of Bolivian candidates participating in the formation program in Peru. It is the opinion of the three solemnly professed Carmelites in Tarija, Bolivia, as well as the Maltese Provincial, that it would be more conducive to form their Bolivian candidates in Peru, rather than in their current formation program in the Rio de Janeiro Province. The Maltese Provincial cited the proximity of Bolivia to Peru and sharing the same Spanish language. Currently there is one Bolivian in the pre-novitiate program in Brazil preparing for the Novitiate and the possibility of one or two pre-novices applying for entrance into their formation program.

The Council agreed to dialogue with the Maltese Province and Bolivian Mission regarding this proposal. The men of the Peruvian Commissariat also discussed this proposal in a virtual meeting on November 19, 2020. They expressed their willingness to accept Bolivian candidates into the Peruvian houses of formation, but wanted more information on the current pre-novitiate program in Brazil. The Peruvian formators wanted to be clear that all students in formation in Peru would be following the principles of their Formation Manual, which has been prepared with great effort through the years and is continually updated. With the possibility of a Bolivian novice joining the Peruvian Novitiate in January 2021, communication must proceed on this proposal as soon as possible.

Acceptance of Pre-Novitiate Candidates for Formation in El Salvador

The Provincial Council approved the acceptance of nine candidates as in-coming pre-novices for the Carmelite Formation Program in El Salvador, upon the recommendation of Luis Jesús Paz Acosta. Those approved for entrance are:

1. Henry Eduardo Carranza Hernández	Age 18	El Salvador
2. José Fermín Portillo Andaluz	Age 22	El Salvador
3. José Arnoldo Monge Landaverde	Age 25	El Salvador
4. Marlon Ernesto Miranda Parada	Age 25	El Salvador
5. César Raúl Aragón Herrera	Age 27	El Salvador
6. Luis Fernando Laínez Palacio	Age 26	Nicaragua
7. Tayron René Campos Cordoba	Age 32	Nicaragua
8. Edwin Ernesto Chiroy Lopez	Age 30	Guatemala
9. Luis Alberto Valeriano Meza	Age 42	Honduras

These nine men will be joining the six previously approved candidates for the Pre-Novitiate Program in El Salvador, thus totaling fifteen pre-novices. The new pre-novices are to arrive by January 25, 2021.

Acceptance of Candidates for the Novitate in Peru

The Provincial Council accepted the petition of four candidates to enter the Novitiate in Peru, upon the recommendation of Floristan Guerrero Cruz of the Peruvian formation program and of Mario Loya of the Mexican formation program. Those approved for entrance into the Peruvian Novitiate are:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Bertoliny Alexander Montes Ramos | Age 33 | Peru |
| 2. Geovanni de Jesús Velázquez Ramos | Age 30 | Mexico |
| 3. Héctor Tavárez Mendoza | Age 31 | Mexico |
| 4. Natanael Torres Núñez | Age 34 | Mexico |

These four men will be joining the three previously approved candidates from El Salvador for the Novitiate Program in Peru, thus totaling seven novices. The men are to arrive in Peru by December 28, 2020.

Simply Professed Brothers Returning for Formation in El Salvador

The four men currently in the Novitiate in Lurín, Peru, previously approved to profess simple vows, will do so in El Salvador on December 26, 2020. These men are:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Wilmer Ulises Ascencio Piche | El Salvador |
| 2. Tereso de Jesús Benítez López | El Salvador |
| 3. Daniel Edgardo Juárez Colocho | El Salvador |
| 4. Jairo Augusto Hernández Jiménez | Guatemala |

They will remain this coming academic year (2021) in El Salvador, continuing studies before beginning possible English training in the United States and any assignment for pastoral internship. This decision was made after consultation with our formators in Peru, Mexico, El Salvador, and the US. This policy change (allowing an additional year of studies after simple profession before beginning internship) will pattern the formation of our Latin American candidates more closely to the policy of our students in the United States and Canada. This also allows the men more time to prepare for English language studies in the US, application for visas, etc., upon returning from Peru.

Also returning to El Salvador in January 2021 for continuing studies is Geovanny Mauricio Martínez Morales, who is completing his two year pastoral internship at St. Thérèse Community and Parish in Cresskill, NJ. As a result, 15 simple and solemnly professed men in formation will be living in our newest house, San Alberto de Jerusalén, near the “finca” in El Salvador.

Training of New Formators

The Provincial Council discussed the importance of training new formation directors prior to their assignment as formators in the Province. Chuy Paz shared his experience in a very worthwhile on-line course he recently completed for formation directors through the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in Mexico. Benjamín Salas Achahuanco attended this course in person in Mexico.

A Reflection on an Alternative Model of Parish Leadership

The Provincial Council reviewed an article sent to us by Emmett Gavin entitled “*In Solidum, an Option for Religious?*” by David Szatkowski, SCH, JCD, a Sacred Heart priest and canonist. The article came from a 2018 book published by Liturgical Press entitled Priesthood in Religious Life: Searching for New Ways Forward. The article proposes that Canon 517.1 allows the appointment of a group of priests to serve as a team to administer a parish or parishes rather than a single pastor. The value of a collegial leadership model open to the input of younger priests could be a helpful approach for religious in parishes. The Parish Commission will be asked to discuss this model and see if it may fit within our structure of parish ministry.

Publications

With the change in office location and realignment of staff responsibilities at the Provincial Offices, the Provincial Council reviewed a proposal from Carmelite Media regarding Publications and the books distributed and sold, including *The Sword*. Since the Carmelite Gift Shop in Darien, IL, also sells books, it was proposed to merge the two operations and have one website for all books. Because these two operations, though, have different audiences, it was decided to keep both websites open to continue to promote our Carmelite Spirituality. The employees in the Gift Shop will now be in charge of distributing all the books produced by Publications, along with the books in the Gift Shop.

Vocations

The Provincial Council reviewed the minutes of the November 8, 2020 Vocation Commission Meeting. The expanded Vocation Commission includes four members of the Provincial Council, David McEvoy (Provincial Vocation Director, Darien, IL), Daryl Moresco (on site at Catholic University of America, Washington, DC), “Chuy” Paz Acosta (Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador), Gregory

Houck (Consultant to Vocations, Marketing and Communications, Chicago, IL) and Vocation Directors, Paul Henson (Tucson, AZ), Mario Loya (Mexico City, Mexico), José Jorge “Pepe” Villegas (Lurín, Peru), and student representatives, Roberto Mejia (Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC) and Roberto Reyes (Encino, CA).

Chuy Paz Acosta and Henry Cienfuegos in El Salvador presented a very professional Power-Point presentation on the vocation effort in El Salvador. Their very successful use of electronic and social media, coupled with extremely proactive vocation invitation among their students has created a very positive culture of vocations in El Salvador. There is much here to admire, emulate, and adapt to the US-Canadian vocation scene.

David reported that he had sent a letter to all of the men of the Province for the US National Vocation Awareness Week (November 1-7) with attached links to a vocation presentation in English and Spanish available on YouTube for vocation promotion on our parish websites. It was hoped that our Carmelite pastors were able to post this to their respective websites.

Various ideas were discussed for a greater utilization of our men in formation at Whitefriars Hall and on pastoral internships to promote vocations.

The Vocation Marketing Study by the Mission Advancement division of Christian Brother Services of Romeoville, IL, is in its initial stages of information gathering.

Carmelite Institute Symposium

The Carmelite Institute Symposium scheduled for July 2021 will not be held at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, as previously planned, but will be presented on-line due to COVID-19 restrictions. The new dates of the program will be announced soon.

2020 PCM Chapter of Affairs in June 2021

The 2020 Chapter Preparatory Commission met by video conference on November 8, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was the decision of the Preparatory Commission not to plan a gathering in Niagara Falls in June 2021, but to plan a virtual Chapter meeting from June 21-23 with designated times each day.

Prayer and Liturgy Commission

Carl Markelz reported that the Prayer and Liturgy Commission is still on target for the November 29 availability of an app for Compline (Night Prayer) to be used during the Season of Advent and beyond.

Monastery of Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls, Ontario Board

The Monastery of Mount Carmel Board met on November 12. Michael Wastag has been appointed to the Board as he is the new Prior of the Mount Carmel Monastery community. Marc Bell will remain on the Board. Elias O'Brien, Provincial Treasurer, will continue to participate as a guest. The newly constituted Board now has six Canadians and six members from the US. The minutes of this Board meeting will be discussed at the Provincial Council meeting in December.

Provincial Council Goals

A Provincial Council sub-committee of Carl Markelz, David McEvoy and Nepi Willemsen met on November 14, 2020 to refine the tentative draft of the Provincial Council goals that were discussed at the September and October Provincial Council meetings. The goals focus on Vocations, Fraternal Integration of all Carmelites of our Province, Community Life, Ecological Stewardship, and Carmelite Spirituality. The Council hopes to be able to publish these goals after our December 19 Provincial Council Meeting.

List of Members with Credible or Public Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor

The Provincial Council discussed the List of Members with Credible or Public Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor that was shared as part of the documents for this meeting and will be shared with the men of the Province, and then be on the Provincial Website on November 22, 2020. Council members shared their sadness and anger regarding this issue in our Province and the Church. They also shared their satisfaction in completing this endeavor, recognizing, though, that misconduct issues still continue with additional recent allegations against some of our men. The Council would like to encourage all communities to discuss their feelings and insights around the issue of sexual abuse and the distribution of our web list.

Carl is available to discuss this and meet with any community if necessary by Lifesize Video conference. Let us continue to pray for the victims of sexual abuse and pray for our brothers who have allegations against them.

Some Future Dates

- December 2 Priors Meeting *
- December 11 Carmelitana Board Meeting *
- December 14 Diaconal Ordination of Edgar Lucio Lezama Aparicio in El Salvador
- December 16 Society of the Little Flower Board Meeting *
- December 19 Provincial Council Meeting *
- December 21 Mexico Regional Meeting *
- December 26 Simple Profession of Vows—Peruvian Novitiate
- January 12-15 Peru Commissariat Meeting
- January 23 Provincial Council Meeting *

*Meeting via Lifesize Video Conference

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.

MOUNT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL
Chicago, Illinois
Board of Members Meeting
November 21, 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.

Carl shared the letters sent out by the current President of Mount Carmel High School, Ned Hughes, to announce that this would be his last year as President. The Board of Members wants to thank Ned for his five years of service and leadership at Mount Carmel. The finances of the school are in better shape and his leadership during the pandemic has been exceptional.

In the By-Laws of the school, the Board of Members is charged with the duty of hiring the President. In the past, the model used by the Board of Members was to set up a Search Committee of two persons from the Board of Members, two persons from the Board of Directors, two Faculty/Staff persons, and two Parents/Alumni. We will use the same model this time. From the Board of Members, it was decided that Carl Markelz and Daryl Moresco will serve on the Search Committee. Donal Barry, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, will also serve, and the other five positions will be decided soon, with an emphasis on including women and African-Americans on this committee.

The Board of Members will use a professional, non-profit executive search firm called the Moran Company. The school used this company to hire members of the Advancement Office, so they know the culture of the school. This will be a national search, but with a more targeted approach in the areas of Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and of course, Chicago. We hope to hire the next President by March 2021, beginning the job on July 1, 2021.

May Our Lady of Mount Carmel guide the Search Committee during this time.

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.

Addendum #1:

November 16, 2020 Letter of Prior General Miceal O'Neill to the Priors Provincial, General Commissaries and General Delegates



PRIORE GENERALE DEI CARMELITANI

VIA GIOVANNI LANZA, 138
00184 ROMA - (ITALIA)

To the Prior Provincials, General Commissaries and General Delegates

Rome, 16th of November 2020

Prot. 407/2020

Dear Brothers,

By way of keeping alive our communication with the provincials, commissaries and delegates of our Order, we offer you this letter. It is our intention to write to you in this way after each of the plenary sessions of the general council, normally four each year. This is in response to an interest that was expressed by one or other provincial in conversation with us. We welcome your reactions, observations and feedback.

The global Plan

We begin with the Global Plan that you have just received. We hope that by now all our members have had the opportunity to read the plan and find something in it that may help them see the direction our Order will take in the next six years. Again, we welcome your reactions, observations and feedback. The plan has already kicked in as each one of the commissions and taskforces has, with the use of the Internet, begun its work. We will be reporting on this work as time goes on.

Our most recent plenary

This meeting took place between the 28th of September and the 7th of October as the second wave of Covid-19 was beginning to make itself felt. One of the positive effects of Covid is the amount of time we have been able to spend together as a council. This has taken much of the hurry out of our meetings which means that we can pause and reflect a little more on the issues with which we have to deal and the vision we want to formulate and pursue.

The major topics

Like in all meetings of the order, there are the usual permanent points on the agenda: minutes of the last meeting, matters arising and reports. We are grateful always to our Secretary General for having the minutes ready in good time. After one year of being together as a General council, we devoted time in this plenary to an evaluation of our experience and work throughout this first year. The evaluation was very positive in

so far as it allowed us to recognise the benefits of our time together in getting to know one another, and in studying together the reports of the life and activities of the order. Naturally, we all have felt the restrictions on travel. We would be much happier to be out and about doing the normal things that a General Council does. Hopefully that day will not be too far away.

The New Constitutions

It is hard to believe that it has taken all this time to finalise the text of the 2019 Constitutions in the three languages of the Order. That work is all but complete right now and we are just about ready to go to print. We will make the publication available in both digital and paper form. We hope that as well as guiding the life of the order, the text will provide good spiritual reading both for the friars and for the wider Carmelite family.

The Carmelite Nuns

The person who is the Delegate for the Nuns has a busy life. The General council provides the services of the Procurator General to the nuns which means there is a constant flow of communication between the nuns around the world and the General Council. Added to that is the need at the moment to appoint a new Delegate for the Nuns to replace Mario Alfarano. We know the kind of person we want and we have a number of names in mind, but it hasn't been possible just yet to make the appointment. Also with regard to the nuns, the General council has written a policy for the use and management of the special fund for the nuns. This fund has been built up over many years, and serves the needs of the nuns, particularly in relation to new foundations and weaker foundations. We will publish this policy very shortly.

Our property

Not surprisingly, our property was on the agenda of our recent plenary. Right now, all the work on the creation of the new hotel to replace the Domus Carmelitana has been halted. This is partly due to the difficulties of Italian legislation and due even more to the collapse of the hospitality industry because of Covid. While, a little like everybody else we are suffering a loss, we are also enjoying the advantage of not having had to manage the Domus and face the demands of staff in response to Covid. Work continues in the building to separate gas, heating and electricity between CISA and the hotel section. In the meantime, on this side of town, we have been looking at the possible uses of Palazzo C, that section of the Curia complex that has been lying idle for some time. We are looking at three possibilities, that it might be used as a source of income, that it might be used for a charitable purpose, for example, providing accommodation for the needs of immigrants, or that it might be used for our own purposes, meeting rooms, guest rooms, and a formation house.

Relationship with the provinces

We have been doing our best with the internet since the Covid crisis began. Unfortunately, a number of Provincial Chapters could not be celebrated in 2020 and have been postponed into 2021. However, it has been possible to conduct elections in each of these Provinces and to confirm the newly elected leaders in their respective offices. It was possible to attend two provincial chapters in September, in the Neapolitan province and in the Netherlands. Both chapters were complete successfully, although the chapter in the Dutch provinces could only deal with the elections, leaving the business of the province to another time.

We are looking at a very heavy schedule of provincial chapters in 2021. It is the desire of the Prior General and the General Councillors to attend as many of the chapters as possible, but of course, it may not be possible to cover every one of them. In the meantime, the General council is beginning to look at dates for canonical visitations. Again, here we have to deal with the restrictions imposed by the virus.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be a particular concern of the General Council. With the publication of the Vademecum by Pope Francis, on the 16th of July 2020 we have the definitive guidelines on the basis of which our practices and our guidelines must be judged. There are a number of issues that we must study arising from this Vademecum, among them the issue of the Order's responsibility for its members who are not facing charges, are not under surveillance, but may be a danger to vulnerable people, if and when they are separated from the Order. There is a small group tasked with examining this issue on behalf of the General Council.

Commissions

With the launch of the Global Plan, you have become aware of the names and composition of the various general commissions and taskforces that have been appointed. The commissions and task forces have been appointed on the basis of expertise, and are smaller in the number of the members, for reasons of economising. We are now able to report that each one has begun its work. One change had to be made to the General Finance Commission. The Council appointed Mr. Nixon Jacobus Silfanus, a layman and financial expert from Jakarta, Indonesia, to take the place of Adailson dos Santos of the Province of Rio de Janeiro, who resigned earlier due to pressure of commitments. While it is obviously very efficient for these commissions to work via ZOOM and other services, we look forward to the time when the members can meet together in the same room.

The Postulator General

Dr Giovanna Brizi, has had a lot to do this year with the celebration of the 8th centenary of the death of St. Angelo of Sicily. The Order proclaimed a Jubilee for this occasion, which will continue until December of next year. The Jubilee began on the 5th of May, with a worldwide celebration of the saint's feast. In August 2020 the relics

of the saint were transferred from the Cathedral in Agrigento to the shrine of St. Angelo in Licata as part of a whole day of celebrations in the places associated with his life. This centenary provided the occasion for the return of the Carmelite friars to Licata, an initiative that was approved by the General Chapter last September. There are many hopes and dreams beginning to form around this project in Licata. It is not limited to the friars, but of course, without friars, there will be no project so I urge all provincials, commissaries and delegates to keep Licata in mind and encourage members of the Order to spend short or longer periods serving at the shrine.

The other news from the postulator General is that the cause of Titus Brandsma is moving, albeit, somewhat slowly. All causes at the Congregation of the Saints have suffered delays due to Covid. Right now, the cause of Titus Brandsma is in the hands of the team of doctors who are examining the miracle that has been attributed to him. First indications are positive. If the doctor's approve the miracle the cause will then pass to the theologians, followed by Cardinals and bishops and finally to the Pope. I know we would all be happy to finally see the day of his canonisation be proclaimed.

The Discalced Carmelites

A last point has to do with our relationship with the Curia of the Discalced Carmelites. Due to Covid we have not been able to meet in 2020. We look forward to resuming our biannual meetings as soon as possible. We have joined together in writing a letter to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the proclamation by Pope Pius IX of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. That letter will reach you shortly.

Yours in Carmel,



Fr. Micheal O'Neill, O.Carm.
Prior General

