

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MINUTES

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Provincial Council Meeting
Provincial Office, Darien, Illinois
March 27, 2021
Minutes

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

Opening Prayer

Daryl shared a prayer, calling upon the intercession of Blessed Titus Brandsma. After the opening prayer, David McEvoy gave the Council an update on his stay in the hospital and the ICU. He is happy to be continuing his recovery from Covid-19 at home while still on oxygen.

Personnel Assignments:

David McGinnis	Sabbatical July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022
Gregory Houck	Vocation Promoter, Carmelite Media, and Retreat Team, Darien, IL, July 1, 2021
Elias O’Brien	Director of the Carmelitana Collection, Washington, DC, April 1, 2021
Herman Kinzler	Dean of Southwest Bergen, Deanery 6, for five years ending March 1, 2026
Stephan Rochefort	Whitefriars Hall, Theological Studies CUA, June 1, 2021
Adrian Flores	Whitefriars Hall, Theological Studies CUA, June 1, 2021
Adrian Hernandez	Whitefriars Hall, Theological Studies CUA, August, 1, 2021
Barry Dineen	Joliet Catholic Academy, Faculty, July 1, 2021

Ramon Coutiño Lopez

Salpointe Catholic H.S. Faculty, July 1, 2021

Luis Alberto Sibaja Casas

St. Agnes Parish, Pastoral Team, July 1, 2021

Regional Issues

There was a discussion about our provincial presence in both Mexico and El Salvador and a need for new Formators and other necessary changes in ministries and leadership positions. No decisions were finalized but cooperation among our regions is necessary to keep all of our men fresh and engaged.

Initial Formation

Many of our men in Formation will be celebrating important events soon. Michael Joyce will profess solemn vows in Washington, DC and Roger Stanley Melara will be ordained a Deacon in El Salvador on April 10, 2021. Stephan Rochefort, Adrian Hernandez, and Manuel Perez will renew their vows while at their internship sites during late May/early June. The Priors will receive their renewal of vows. All students have been working on summer plans that include variations of CPE, language studies, and retreats.

Ongoing Formation

Two ongoing Formations programs were discussed and supported by the Provincial Council. Both deal with our men who are finishing initial formation. These include:

- A. **ANNUAL GATHERING for those in their first FIVE years of ongoing formation in the Province - USA/Canada/Peru/Mexico/El Salvador.**
 - FOR WHOM & WHEN: This will be MANDATORY, loosely structured and organized by members in the group with some input from outside the group of Under 5's. This gathering will take place in the summer.
 - PURPOSE: The purpose of the time together is to process their experience of COMMUNITY and MINISTRY in the last year(s) and to listen to their concerns and struggles, joys and hopes.

- MENTORS: Two mentors from the province – preferably not Formators – one older and one younger (40's), will be assigned to be with them as a supporting, fraternal presence.
- TIME: The gathering will be over FOUR days which includes two travel days.
- LOCATION: Either Mt Carmel, Niagara Falls, or OLMC Priory, Tucson would be suitable venues (depending on pandemic restrictions this year).

B. ELIJAH/ELISHA MENTORING PROGRAM for those men in the first two years of community/ministry after initial formation.

- Training and support for the mentor would be offered as needed or requested on an ongoing basis. The Provincial, after consulting with the mentee, approves the mentor for each person.
- It is important that the monthly telephone conversation is scheduled at each meeting.
- Scheduling an annual meeting of the mentors to discuss strengths and weaknesses and to support their efforts much like a peer supervision session.
- If a brother wishes to continue beyond the two years, he is encouraged to do so.

Priors Meeting- Community Life Commission

The Priors met on Lifesize on Tuesday, March 9 and Quinn Connors gave a presentation on *Strategies to Help Well-Being During the Covid-19 Pandemic*, which included topics such as burn-out, resilience, peer support, and balance. These meetings have been helpful to stay connected and provide communication. The next Priors meeting will be May 4, 2021.

Secondary Schools Commission

The leadership from our Carmelite schools in the USA met on Zoom for a two-day workshop on March 17-18, 2021. This workshop included sessions on *Best Practices for High School Leadership*, *What Makes a Carmelite a Carmelite*, *Creating and Leading Accountable Teams*, along with a one hour session on the second day on Catholic Identity, Admissions, Athletics, Finances, Human Resources, Student Life, Advancement, Academics, Technology, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). This was a great occasion for our Carmelite Administrators to be better connected and share in our charism.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission

The JPIC Commission submitted the 2021 grant request to the Provincial Council. The Council approved the grants recommended by the Commission. A list of the grants is included in Appendix A of these minutes. The grants will be distributed in late April.

The Carmelite Charity Fund will distribute \$64,505 while the Carmelites Human Development Fund will grant \$59,263. Each fund has \$75,000 to distribute. This year, at the request of the Commission, the funds not used will be placed into a new JPIC Emergency Fund. The Finance Office will open a new checking account for this purpose. Therefore, \$10,415 from the CCF and \$15,737 from the CHDF will be added together for a total of \$26,152. This emergency fund will then remain in this account and “roll-over” into future years.

Carmelitana Board

The board of the Carmelitana Library met on March 12, 2021, and submitted an executive summary of their meeting to the Provincial Council. They discussed the insurance for the collection, the library software, duplicates/doubles of books stored at Whitefriars Hall, finances, and a sub-committee to write up a new comprehensive document describing the overall operation, a new charter for the Rogge Fund, and an expense plan for the Rogge Fund and Carmelitana Fund 2 (The investment of \$2 million from the proceeds of the sale of the Mahwah Retreat Center). The Provincial Council also appointed Elias O’Brien as the Director of the Carmelitana Collection, which includes being in charge of new acquisitions. Their next meeting will be June 18, 2021.

Carmelite Chair and Center for Spirituality- CUA

Daryl updated the Provincial Council on the Chair & Center for Spirituality of CUA. The Advisory Council had a meeting on March 26, 2021, and would like to propose expanding the course offering in Carmelite Studies. Currently the courses in History offered include, one from our Origins till the 15th Century, and the other is the 15th Century to the Present. Hopefully future course offerings may include, John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, and also an Independent study course. All of this would need approval from the university. The planning and discussions will continue.

Changes in Commission Members

The Council made some changes to their membership on commissions. Nepi will replace Carl as liaison to the Finance Commission and Carl will replace Nepi as liaison to the Secondary Schools Commission. As Director of Formation for the Province, Nepi was appointed as the Chairperson of the Formation Commission.

Chapter 2020

Carl reported that ballots were sent to all solemnly professed members of the Province so they could vote as to whether the 2020 Chapter is over and complete. Those ballots are due to the Carmelite Sisters in Hudson, WI by April 16, 2021. After this vote is completed, the Convocation Committee will make some decisions and finalize the schedule for our online gathering from June 22-24, 2021.

Sexual Abuse and Adult Boundary Issues

Carl shared a list of pending issues regarding sexual abuse and adult boundary issues. Carl met recently with our lawyers, Susan Overbey and Nora Flaherty, to review all the issues in this area. Nora will be leaving the law firm of Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C. at the end of May to deal more closely with her family. She has been with us since 2003. We thank her for her service to our Province. We are left in the good hands of Susan Overbey as she will continue to provide sound advice and wise procedures.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Issues

Carl shared an article by Meg Bolger on *What's the Difference between Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity?* The Council talked about these issues with attention to our diversity as represented by our Province in the five countries: Canada, United States, Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador. The Council also referred to the booklet including the Strategic Plan and the Council Goals which includes the goal, "To Enhance the Fraternal Integration of all Carmelites of our Province."

Some members do not feel included in decisions or believe their talents and skill are not welcome. Everyone wants their opinion represented "at the table" so the Council will continue to strive for inclusivity and equity in our lives together.

Future Dates

- April 10 Diaconate Ordination, Roger Stanley Melara Mondragón, El Salvador
- April 10 Solemn Profession, Michael Joyce, Washington, DC
- April 12 Selection Committee Meeting, President Search, Mount Carmel H.S.
- April 13 Parish Commission Meeting (Lifesize)
- April 17 Vocation Commission Meeting (Lifesize)
- April 19 Board of Members Meeting, Carmel Catholic H.S.
- April 19 Carmelite Institute Meeting
- April 23 Aspire Campaign Dedication, Salpointe H.S, Tucson, AZ
- May 1 Diaconate Ordination, Michael Joyce, Washington, DC
- May 4 Priors Meeting (Lifesize)
- May 8 Provincial Council Meeting (Lifesize)
- May 20 Finance Commission Meeting (Darien, IL/Lifesize)
- June 3 Board of Members Meeting, Carmel Catholic H.S
- June 5 Provincial Council Meeting (Lifesize)
- June 9 Board of Members Meeting, Joliet Catholic Academy
- June 13 North American Region Meeting, Middletown, NY
- June 13 Reception of Novices, Middletown, NY
- June 15-17 Lay Carmelite Commission Meeting, (Darien, IL/Lifesize)
- June 22-24 Provincial Convocation
- July 3 Carmelite Hermits 30th Anniversary, Christoval, TX
- July 24 Provincial Council Meeting (Lifesize)

Submitted by:
Lizette Lee
Administrative Assistant

Mount Carmel High School
Chicago, IL
Board of Members Meeting
March 27, 2021

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

Carl shared with the members the process and update of the Presidential Search. The Search Committee met on several occasions after the Moran Company interviewed 19 of the 47 applicants. The Moran Company brought 10 candidates to the Search Committee of Donald Barry, Board of Directors Chairperson, John Mulherin, Mount Carmel Educational Foundation President, Janice Dobrinich, Board of Directors Human Resource member, and Carl Markelz as Board of Members Chairperson. Ned Hughes, outgoing president, and Denise Carey, Administrative Assistant, also sat in on these discussions.

The Search Committee interviewed six candidates on March 22-23, 2021 and will pass on the final two resumes and names to the Selection Committee. This group will be made up of two Board of Members (Carl & Daryl), two from the Board of Directors, two faculty/staff members, and two parents. The Selection Committee will make their choice on April 12, 2021. The Board of Members will meet to approve the final candidate on April 13, 2021. An announcement to the school community will be made thereafter.

Submitted by:
Lizette Lee
Administrative Assistant

JUSTICE, PEACE, & INTEGRITY OF CREATION COMMISSION [JPIC]

LIFESIZE MEETINGS: Feb 6, 13, 2021

Present: Jane Remson, Mike Kwiecien, Luis Jesus Paz Acosta (liaison), Jeffrey Lima, Dave Semmens

The commission met two Saturdays to discuss the 2021 JPIC Grant Applications.

Resources:

CCF Policies ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

CHDF Policies ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

[JPIC Grant Applications 2021 Summary](#)

[JPIC Grant Applications 2021](#)

JPIC Commission Recommendations in red (Grant 13 below is still pending – see comments)

ID	CCF Summary	Request	JPIC	Council	Comments
1	Salpointe Cares, Franco Gómez	\$15,000	\$15,000		
2	St. Cecilia Office of Concern, Belizario	\$6,000	\$6,000		
3	St. Simon Stock - food, Kissane	\$5,000	\$5,000		
4	El Salvador, Internet, education equip, Guillen	\$5,500	\$5,500		
5	Lima - Food, Geaney	\$8,085	\$8,085		
6	Timor Leste, Advancing Girls/womens education, Moresco	\$10,000	\$10,000		
8	El Salvador, Oscar Romero Clinic, O'Sullivan	\$5,000	\$5,000		
9	OLMC St. Vincent de Paul, Gavin	\$6,000	\$6,000		
10	El Salvador, Evangelization Equipment. Melara-Mondragon	\$4,000	\$4,000		Moved from Human Dev to Charity
13	El Salavador, housing project, Blanchard	\$5,000	\$0		Moved from Human Dev to Charity. We support the grant, but policies require a follow-up report for grants to be given in the future. No report given for 2018 grant from David Blanchard. David Blanchard was notified. If the grant is resubmitted by Feb 19 by a different sponsor and follow-up report person, JPIC recommends support.
	CCF Total	\$69,585	\$64,585		

	CHDF Summary	Request	JPIC	Council	Comments
7	Carmel Catholic - Youth Justice and Equality Symposium, Colaresi	\$7,000	\$7,000		Moved from Charity to Human Dev

11	Torreon Solar, Vazquez-Solis	\$7,425	\$7,425	Budget is 7425, the cost of equipment and installation is 5877. More information: (cost details, email thread). Asked about ownership of community house, if lease length of lease, no answer given to these questions. Cost Details Email
12	Torreon Community Dining Room, Rodriguez	\$12,338	\$12,338	Project Information
14	El Salvador Formation House Solar, Salas	\$15,000	\$15,000	As is formation house, responsibility of the province formation budget as opposed to JPIC? Talked with Carl and JPIC commission agreed. JPIC/Province should work together to achieve council JPIC goals
15	JCA Zyane Williams Memorial Scholarship	\$2,500	\$2,500	
16	NGO, Indonesia Climate Video, Remson	\$5,000	\$5,000	
17	Carmel Catholic - Carmel 2050, Colarisi	\$10,000	\$10,000	
18	Timor Leste - volunteer teachers, Moresco	\$9,660	\$0	CHDF General Norm 2: Projects should address institutions/structural change in places served by the PCM Province
19	MCHS - Impact, Dillon	\$5,000	\$0	CHDF General Norm 1: Projects should be self-sufficient within a two-year time period
TOTALS	CHDC Total	\$73,923	\$59,263	
	CCF + CHDC Total	\$143,508	\$123,848	
	Emergency Fund \$150K - CCF +CHDC	\$6,492	\$26,152	