

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 #12 October 16, 17 & 18, 2019
Carmel at Mission Valley, Nokomis, Florida

Members Present: William J. Harry, O. Carm., Carl Markelz, O. Carm., Paul Henson, O. Carm., Quinn Conners, O. Carm., Emilio Rodriguez, O. Carm., and (via teleconference) Daryl Moresco, O. Carm.

The Provincial Council is very grateful to the community at Nokomis for their warmth and hospitality.

Personnel

The Provincial Council discussed a number of situations regarding members and ministries of the Province. A number of the situations are on-going and will be discussed again at future meetings. The Council also reviewed Myron Judy's *Healthcare Update* on various members who are suffering medical challenges. The Provincial Council, as always expresses its deep gratitude to Myron Judy for all the care and fraternal support he gives to our brothers. Several brothers request privacy regarding their health status.

Decisions affecting individual members include:

- Thomas Murphy: from Carith House to St. Cyril Community (effective: November 30, 2019);
- Leopold Glueckert: prior of the St. Cyril Community (effective: October 16, 2019);
- Ivan Cormac Marsh: moved to Sunrise Senior Living in Tucson (effective: October 1, 2019);
- Angelo Mastria: moved to Sunrise Senior Living in Tucson (effective: October 1, 2019);
- Rogelio García: assigned to Nuestra Señora del Carmen, Joliet, Illinois as associate pastor (effective February 1, 2020);
- Gregorio Vázquez Solís: assigned to Parroquia de La Transfiguración del Señor, Torreón, Coahuila, as associate pastor (effective February 1, 2020);
- David Fontaine: request for retirement approved (effective: June 30, 2020);
- David McEvoy: request for sabbatical approved (effective: June 30, 2020). The details of the sabbatical are still to be determined;
- Jose Luis Torres: request for two-month sabbatical approved;
- Stanley Makacinas: request for on-going studies at the International Continuing Theological Education's 12-week program at the North American College in Rome (Spring 2020) approved;

- Anthony Armstrong: assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tenafly, following ordination to priesthood;
- Edgar Lucio Lezama Aparicio: petition for Solemn Vows approved;
- Roger Stanley Melara Mondragón: petition for Solemn Vows approved;

Assignments made on August 26, 2019, and confirmed by the Provincial Council:

- Alfredo Guillén Sandoval: continuing prior of the Carmelites in El Salvador;
- Santos Cecilio Hernández: treasurer of the province in El Salvador;
- Luis Jesús Acosta Paz: formator of pre-novices in El Salvador;
- Santos Cecilio Hernandez Carranza: treasurer of Centro Xiberta;
- Alfredo Guillén Sandoval: formator of professed students in El Salvador;
- Benjamín Constante Quezada: treasurer of the professed community;
- Santos Cecilio Hernández Carranza: national coordinator of the Lay Carmelites;
- Benjamín Constante Quezada: director of the Finca San Elias;
- Benjamín Salas Achahuanco: on-going formation program for new formators; continuing as director of the Asociación de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo, a provincial fundraising project in El Salvador. However, he will be shadowed by Santos Cecilio Hernández Carranza, with Cecilio taking responsibility for the Association when Benjamín goes for the on-going formation course.

Open Listing for Ministries

- Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Fairfield, CA
- Pastor, Immaculate Conception / St. Joseph Parish, Leavenworth, KS

If interested, please write a letter of request to William Harry as soon as possible.

Reports from Commissions/Departments/Board Meetings of Affiliated Organizations

Lay Carmelite Convocation

July 19-21, 2019

A report to the Provincial Council by the Lay Carmelite Directors concerning the Lay Carmelite's 2019 Convocation in Chicago indicates that the event was, once again, a very positive gathering of the Lay Carmelites from around the USA and Canada. The Convocation was held at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in downtown Chicago in cooperation with the SEL Province. The theme was "Elijah: Inner Fire | Outward Zeal." Speakers included Fernando Millán, Nicholas Blackwell, Glenn Snow, and William J. Harry.

Although 500 participants were planned for, 350 actually attended. However, the comments were very favorable about the quality of the event and the speakers. Many commented that the hotel

was too costly so the Commission is taking that into consideration when planning the next gathering.

The Convocation is preceded by one day of training workshops for the leaders of the communities around the province.

Darien Campus Leadership Meeting

July 24, 2019 & August 13, 2019

Efforts continue to be made on the Aylesford Campus in Darien to see the various entities on the campus as a single ministry. Work on a single Mission Statement is really aimed at having the various leaders reflect on how their operation fits into the whole. The leaders, in turn, go back to their particular ministry and discuss this with their teams. It has been a struggle to keep the process from being hijacked as some just want to get something written down.

The other major focus has been campus security and the development of a system for alerting employees on the campus when there is a dangerous situation. We can also use the system for occasional news.

For the past two years we have worked at getting employees to know each other through “summer picnics” once during the months of June, July, and August. For the fall, spring, and winter months we will have a “social” of some sort each quarter. The first social was held on October just before offices closed on the campus. Next event will be the annual Society of the Little Flower Christmas Party.

Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)

August 6-8, 2019

The gathering of the Major Superiors of Men was held August 6-8, at the Omni Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. With the theme of “Discerning Our Common Witness,” the presentations and discussions focused on the future of religious life in the United States. Focus points were 1) the impact of the last 20 years on religious life and leadership; 2) leadership formation; 3) the changing dynamics impacting religious life and leadership; and 4) balancing ministry demands and personnel resources. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI was a featured speaker. Some of the panels consisted of the Major Superiors and a young religious from their order or congregation. Mass at the historic Mission San José was celebrated by Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S.

Disalced Carmelite Father Adam Gregory Gonzales, prior provincial of the OCD’s western province, was elected president of CMSM.

Finance Commission

August 7, 2019

The Provincial Council unanimously approved the auditors’ report. The Commission raised a concern about how to determine a quorum for its approval of recommendations to the Council. It was decided after some further discussion by the Council to establish the standard quorum of 50% plus one for a recommendation to pass *regardless of the number of Carmelites members present at the meeting*.

Meeting with President of Carmel Catholic High School

August 12, 2019

The Provincial met with Dr. Brad Bonham to receive an update on the school. As a jointly sponsored school, the Provincial Council is not the Board of Member for Carmel in Mundelein. The administration has a history of actively participating in the Province's Carmelite Secondary Schools Commission and Dr. Bonham participates in the monthly conference call with the other presidents of the Carmelite schools.

The Province continues to own approximately a little more than 50% of the original school property. We also support the school through three members on the Board of Directors and three members on the Board of Members. As we do with the other schools, we purchase ads for the school's major fundraisers. We also gave 2% to the school's last capital campaign.

Provincial Vocation Commission

August 23, 2019

A report on the vocation ministry in Mexico was received. There are currently three students in the program. Two students are attending classes at the Pontifical University of Mexico in philosophy and the other goes to IFTIM for theology. Each student participates in a weekly ministry for three hours. Two help in a shelter where Carmelite sisters minister. This is a residence for those who cannot afford a hotel while dealing with the nearby hospital. The other student works with Mario Cadena doing ministry with people with disabilities (physical and mental).

A vocation discernment retreat is planned for November 8-10, 2019 at Casa del Carmen. Mario Loya, director of formation and vocation ministry in Mexico, informed us that eleven men are planning to attend the retreat. The Prior Provincial will attend the retreat and use the opportunity to interview each of the participants who is interested in moving into the application process.

Carmelite Secondary Schools Teleconference

August 26, 2019

October 2, 2019

The presidents of our five Secondary Schools in the US, along with the prior provincial, William J. Harry, continue to have their monthly conference calls where they network and share important information with one another. This is a good process of communication and collegiality.

The August teleconference call focused primarily on "Back to School" topics. All of the schools experienced increases in enrollments. Many of the schools are involved in capital campaigns and building renovation or expansion programs. Most of these projects will be completed during this school year with the exception of Joliet Catholic's Innovation Research Center.

Topics at the October call were employee drug/alcohol use, employees not wanting to attend school Masses, a preliminary agenda for the February 4-7, 2020 meeting of the Carmelite Secondary Schools Commission, and updates on the activities at the schools.

Provincial Archives

September 5, 2019

Robert Boley continues updating information into the database. He has reached the 1980s which is mostly related to deceased members of the Province and men who have left the Province and/or Order.

Robert Traudt continues working on two projects: Chapter History book for the 2020 Provincial Chapter and a multiple part article on the Life of Anastasius Kreidt, O. Carm., for *The Sword*.

Inaugural Meeting of the *Instituto de las Americas*

September 13, 2019

As part of Goal #3 of the Provincial Council's Strategic Goals, to promote the study and teaching of Carmelite spirituality, representatives from Peru, El Salvador, Mexico, and the USA met via teleconference to develop an *Instituto de las Americas* to serve those who speak Spanish. The Institute will be a depository of resources in Carmelite spirituality and history as well as a source for the development of new resources.

After discussing various possibilities, it was decided to create a web page and develop a series of webinars in Spanish to begin with. Without duplicating work that is already being done in this area, the group discussed a reunion of *formandi* (men and women) in Spanish, digital materials of high academic level as well as a more popular level, a study of the cultural differences in living out the charism, efforts to strengthen the formation of the younger Carmelites, the publication of materials that would be useful with groups, and the publication of books.

The group will reconvene and work to further develop its program and offerings.

Endowed Carmelite Chair Inauguration and Installation

October 15, 2019

The entire event was considered by all who attended to be an outstanding success. On Monday, October 14 the Advisory Board consisting of 3 CUA faculty and 3 Carmelites met at Whitefriars Hall. This was the Board's second meeting which is primarily focused on advising and giving important input to Steven Payne, OCD, the first appointed Professor of the endowed Chair and Director of the Center for Carmelite Studies.

On October 15, Fernando Millán Romeral, O. Carm., who recently completed his term as Prior General of the Order, gave an excellent lecture on Titus Brandsma: Journalist and Scholar. This was followed by Mass in the chapel in Caldwell Hall, presided over by Prior Provincial, William Harry.

The Endowed Professorship Installation Ceremony took place in McMahon Hall attended by many professors from various faculties at the university who processed into the ceremony wearing their academic robes. Many Carmelites, both OCarm and OCD, and other invited guests attended. Remarks were given by the Dean of the School of Theology, the Provost, the President of Catholic University of America, the Prior Provincial, and finally, by Steven Payne, OCD, Professor of the Carmelite Chair and Director of the Center for Carmelite Studies. Steven Payne brings a wealth of experience to the center for Carmelite Studies and a breadth and depth in academic work with two doctorates – a PhD in Philosophy from Cornell University and a PhD in Theology from the Catholic University of America.

As the Professor of the Chair and Director of the Center for Carmelite Studies, Steven Payne specializes in Carmelite studies, spirituality and mysticism, philosophy of religion, and systematic theology. A respected and prolific scholar highly sought after throughout the two Orders, Steven begins this incredibly important endeavor and commitment by the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary at the Catholic University of America acknowledging such important contributions from previous Carmelites such as Roland Murphy, O. Carm., Romaeus O'Brien, O. Carm., Ernest Larkin, O. Carm., and Eamon Carroll, O. Carm., all of whom had been professors at The Catholic University of America.

To conclude the events, University President John Garvey hosted a wonderful dinner in Curley Hall.

Parish Commission

October 22 & 23, 2019

At its meeting in October, the Parish Commission will consider input received from the Pre-Chapter meetings, in particular, to consider listing parishes that we wish to remain in, rather than where we may leave.

The Provincial Council asked the Parish Commission to set a direction for the future regarding which “centers” (geographical areas of the province) and “anchor” communities (designated priory within each center) allow us to remain in parishes that can support community life and prayer as we continue to re-align the province.

Lay Carmelite Interprovincial Commission

October 9-11, 2019

The Commission, made up of members from both the SEL and PCM Lay Carmelites met at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls. Items discussed were a review of the evaluation of the 2019 Lay Carmelite Convention, the events of the Carmelite Institute, a discussion of technology and the Lay Carmelites, continuation of the revision of *Carmel's Call* and the Lay Carmelite statutes, and discrepancies in the community manual.

Following the conclusion of the Interprovincial meeting on October 11, the PCM members spent some time discussing various issues: the renovation of the Lay Carmelite website in order for it to be more dynamic, host more news and pictures, and formation materials; the development of a Strategic Plan; a review of governance legislation; and, tie into the web of other Carmelite resources.

Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation Commission

The Commission had two issues:

- 1) The policy is that the JPIC Grants require a Carmelite sponsor. What happens when there is no Carmelite in a Carmelite school? We accept the Commission's proposal that a Carmelite Board member be asked to serve as the sponsor.
- 2) The Provincial Council agreed to “sign” a letter developed by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) to President Trump imploring him to never use language that disrespects, dehumanizes, or demonizes others. The letter asked that he, and other leaders of the USA always be mindful of the common good and the dignity of each and every person. Finally, it encourages him to inspire the best of every one of us and asks

him to use this unique status to bring about healing and never seek to create division. The letter accompanies these minutes.

Communications

From the General Chapter

September 9-27, 2019

Various documents and pictures from the General Chapter were distributed to the members of the Province via internet. They were also posted on the Province's intranet. The Final Statement of the Chapter was distributed by itself to each member.

Overall, there was a great experience of fraternity, along with well-planned liturgies and prayer services throughout the Chapter. Recreation each day was lively and a great way to meet and get to know Carmelites from around the world. Revising the Constitutions was no doubt the major focus of the work of the Chapter. It was clear that vocations and growth of the Order is largely concentrated in Asia (including Timor Leste), South America and Africa, areas with very limited funds. A more centralized approach will be taken by the General Curia as we deal with finances in the developing world. This applies particularly to the plight of the Carmelite communities in Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in areas such as Zimbabwe and Burkino Faso where the political situations are particularly volatile.

The Order remains very Euro-Centric with 15 Provinces and several delegations in Europe and 10 other provinces and commissariats existing in the rest of the world. This will be a major challenge for the Prior General and the General Council as the Order in the northern hemisphere diminishes and the newer and emerging realities require more assistance, particularly with finances, formation, and education.

A major highlight of the General Chapter was the private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican. A sad point of the meeting was listening to the report on the *Domus Carmelitana*. As was announced earlier, the *Domus* is closed and a large hotelier in the Rome area will spend one year developing the building so it will become a regular hotel. The Curia will receive a set amount each year but will have no responsibility for managing the hotel. It was discovered that since 2007 the *Domus* director's contract set an exaggerated salary, not allowing the repayment of the loans on the building. It was also found that taxes had not been paid, nor were other regulations apparently followed.

Before the Chapter concluded, the *gremiales* listened to an explanation of the living conditions in Venezuela and the project of the Congolese Commissariat to build a hospital in the country's war zone. Our Province's response to these is explained below under Carmelite Missions.

From the Peruvian Commissariat

Minutes from the Commissary Council's meetings of July 19 and September 2, 2019, were received and reviewed by the Provincial Council.

The Prior Provincial, in accordance with the agreement between the Province and Commissariat, approves the Commissary Council's decision to assign Raul Maraví to the Casa San Elías.

To understand better the financial practices and to become familiar with the personnel working in the financial area of the Commissariat of Perú, the Provincial Director of Finance, Brian Gawel, will visit Peru in January during its annual meeting.

From the Province of St. Thomas, India

Very Rev. Matthew Neendoor, O. Carm., the prior provincial of the St. Thomas Province in India, wrote to the PCM prior provincial formally informing him that the Province of St. Thomas has accepted responsibility for two additional parishes in Canada: Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Laval, Quebec, and St John Fisher Parish in Pointe-Claire, Quebec in the Diocese of Montreal, totaling 4 parishes they serve in Canada. We had been informed about these parishes before they accepted responsibility for them.

Community Visits

Provincial Visit to St. Cecilia Englewood, New Jersey

August 14-16, 2019

In order to move the project of changing the former convent on the property at St. Cecilia's parish into a conference center and a living area with four suites, the Prior Provincial and Mr. Ryan Anderson met with the architect of the project. (Mr Anderson is our representative on any capital or remodeling projects on provincial properties.) They held a meeting with the community, including any Carmelites in New Jersey, to discuss the project. Steps were taken to settle on the design of the suites and to put in motion the next steps for the project.

They also investigated the three heating systems on the property, the project to weatherize the sunroom in the priory, and generally familiarized themselves with the condition of the property since it belongs entirely to the province. In accordance with the policies (7.3) of the province, this allows the Province to ensure that appropriate contracts and materials are being used in these projects and that the Province is protected.

Following these construction meetings, the prior provincial spoke individually with several members of the community at length. He also met with the pastoral team, two-thirds of which are new to the parish, about their plans for the parish pastoral programs. He also met with members of the community in Cresskill.

Provincial Visit Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC

August 16-18, 2019

Because of his commitments in New Jersey, the prior provincial was not able to attend the entire student gathering program at Whitefriars Halls. The students appeared to enjoy the various

lectures while he was there. There is a good spirit in the house. As required by hosting so many people over a period of days, there was a great deal of cooperation and people assisting on their own initiative. He spoke privately with several of the students when time allowed.

The final night of the gathering was dedicated to the “culture night” which allows each group, including participants via internet from Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador, to demonstrate some aspect of their culture – usually song or dance.

On Sunday morning, the community travelled to the crypt church of the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the solemn vows of Jeffrey Lima. He was ordained to the diaconate on September 7, 2019.

Provincial Visit to El Salvador

August 20-28, 2019

The prior provincial arrived in El Salvador in mid-afternoon and was able to meet with a few of the students individually shortly after he arrived. Students were in classes during the day as well as having a practice for the ordination of Santos Cecilio Hernandez on August 22. However, there was opportunity at meals to speak with different community members and then continue meeting individually as their time permitted.

On August 22, the community travelled to Santa Tecla, and the parish of Inmaculada Concepción for the ordination of Santos Cecilio Hernandez. The very large church was filled to overflowing. Discalced Carmelite Bishop Oswaldo Escobar celebrated. A number of diocesan priests concelebrated. The youth choir from Nuestra Señora de Lourdes provided the music. Following the ceremony, the Carmelites and other clergy were hosted for dinner at the *comedor* of the parish that serves several hundred people each day.

On August 23, Alfredo Guillen, Benjamin Constante, and the prior provincial visited Bishop Constantino Barrera Morales of Sonsonate to discuss possible ministries in the Diocese of Sonsonate. They discussed possible ministries in the diocese, with the bishop mentioning two parishes and a retreat center as possibilities. He will discuss this with his counselors.

On August 24, the community celebrated the solemn vows of Benjamin Constante at the hospitalito where St. Oscar Romero was assassinated. Benjamin is the third Salvadorian to make solemn profession in the Order. A simple repast of sandwiches and drinks were provided for the guests afterwards. Benjamin is responsible for the Finca San Elías and our projects with the neighbors there.

On Sunday, August 25, the community and many of the people from the area traveled to Metapan in the northern part of the country near the border with Guatemala. Santos Cecilio Hernandez celebrated his First Mass with his family and friends in his home parish. The ceremony was held outdoors to accommodate the crowd. It was also broadcast over the internet and the parish radio station. Following the Mass and reception, the Carmelites, family, and local clergy were treated to a luncheon at a local school, hosted by the Franciscan sisters.

On August 26, the provincial visited the Finca San Elias to see the progress made there with cleaning up the land and improvements made to the public areas. He also examined the clearing

where the new formation house will be constructed. There were a few items that needed to be clarified about the building. He believes the design of this house will serve the members living there very well and will be a tremendous space for us to work with the people of the area.

Centro Xiberta is completely full, with four candidates visiting from Nicaragua sharing one room. During the provincial's visit, the community looked for a rental property where some of the professed students could live until the second house is constructed. The new house, when completed, will have 15 rooms for pre-novices and prospective candidates on extended visits.

In the afternoon the provincial met formally with all the professed students to discuss the immediate steps they needed to take since they would be dividing the community into two. These decisions are contained above under "Personnel" as they were clarification of roles and were confirmed by the Provincial Council at this meeting of the Council.

Provincial Visit to Niagara Falls, Ontario

October 9-12, 14, 2019

The Interprovincial Lay Carmelite Commission met in Niagara on October 9-12 and the PCM members of the commission met separately on October 12. Reports on those meetings are above under commission reports.

During his stay the provincial had an extended talk with one of the members and shorter talks with two other members. He never saw the other members. Communication and presence in the community continues to be problematic.

Michael Wastag has completed his first four months as administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Peace Parish. From the provincial's own conversations with Michael and others, including a few parishioners, people are very happy with the new leadership in the parish. Daily Masses are held at the chapel of the Monastery with increased attendance.

Provincial Visit to Mississauga, Ontario

October 12-13, 2019

The prior provincial was invited to attend the installation of the new pastors of St. John of the Cross parish and St. Martin of Tours parish, parishes of the St. Thomas (India-Syro Malabar) Province. Fr. Joyson George Pottackal, O. Carm., was installed at St. John and Fr. Gijo Muthanattu, O. Carm., was installed at St. Martin of Tours. It was a great opportunity to support the Indian Carmelites. Joyson serves on the Board at the Monastery of Mount Carmel.

From the Vice Provincial

Carl Markelz has been making longer visits to various places in the province. He spent three weeks in Kansas which gave David McEvoy an opportunity to take some vacation time since the recent death of his mother. He visited OLMC in Fairfield to provide support to our men there following David Fontaine's stroke and to reassure the parishioners.

As Director of Interns, he also attended the Carmelite Studies program (CSP) on the Rule at Whitefriars Hall which culminated in the Solemn Profession of Jeffery Lima. During this time, he took the opportunity to meet with each of the five of the interns who attended the CSP. He will be visiting all eight interns at their communal and ministerial placements soon.

New Business

Our Lady of Grace Parish, Encino, California

Over the sixty years we have ministered at Crespi Carmelite High School, our brothers have always thought it would be a good idea to also have responsibility for serve at Our Lady of Grace Parish, across Alonzo Avenue from Crespi.

At John Coleman's funeral, Carl Markelz had a discussion with retired Auxiliary Bishop Jerry Wilkerson, first discussing how important John Coleman was to the Archdiocese of LA, and then the conversation moved into talking about Our Lady of Grace Parish. Bishop Jerry Wilkerson, who serves on the Board of Directors at Crespi, sent Carl a letter in August, offering us the possibility of informing Archbishop Gomez if we are seriously interested in serving at Our Lady of Grace. The commitment would be for 15 years.

The council discussed this possibility and believes it would be a good idea to open the discussion to the Province. The Council weighed the fact that we have left five parishes in the past two years, but this parish gives us the opportunity to have the men serving there live at the priory at Our Lady of Mount Carmel which was recently renovated. They could build a dynamic, prayerful, communal, and ministerial life together. The regional meetings also highlighted the need to take on something new to energize the province and to give new life to one of our Centers (Los Angeles) and Anchor communities (OLMC Priory, Encino).

To move this process forward, we need to identify a pastor and parochial vicar before we commit to this new parish. The Archdiocese is asking that the pastor speak Spanish, as there is one Spanish mass and a growing Latino population. As a result, if anyone is interested in being the pastor or parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Encino, CA, please inform Bill and Carl by November 15, 2019.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish – Fairfield, California

Following David Fontaine's stroke, the Provincial Council discussed steps that needed to be taken. We decided that David would remain as pastor and asked that others step up to help keep the parish moving forward. Carl Markelz went to the parish on a weekend and addressed the congregation, and was available for conversation before and after Masses. David is now back working as pastor, although he will retire in June 2020.

Assistance to the Carmelites in Venezuela

At the General Chapter, the Order became aware of the humanitarian crisis occurring in Venezuela and in particular its impact on our friars. Two young members at the Chapter spoke of the difficulties they are facing especially as they struggle to find food not only for themselves but

also for their neighbors. Each community survives on \$200 for food, with current salary of \$2 a day which not enough to buy an egg.

The members of the JPIC Commission and the Provincial Council unanimously agreed to provide \$5,000 to our Carmelite brothers in Venezuela from the JPIC Emergency & Disaster Fund, and \$10,000 dollars from the Province. This money is to purchase food for the Carmelites and the people they work with.

Finding ways to get this money to the friars is very problematic, so the funds will be sent to the General Curia which has ways of getting the funds to our Carmelite brothers in Venezuela.

The delegate of the Congo Commissariat also spoke about the work of the Commissariat in building a hospital in the war zone of their country. It was not clear however what the needs are. However, we will contact representatives from the Congo to see if the Province might be able to assist with this project.

Carmelite Missions Funding

The Province has received three funding requests from other provinces. Two of these were approved by both the Carmelite Mission Office and the Provincial Council. The third was not approved because it appears to be outside the reason the Mission Office is raising funds.

Those funding requests approved are:

- Betica (Spain) Province: \$6,600 annually for five years for the support of four students (two in Burkina and two in Venezuela). The Provincial Council raised this to US\$ 10,000 for five years.

- Australia-East Timor Province: \$16,000 annually for three years for the support of one Timorese student in Australia.

- Kenya: we renewed this commitment of \$6,000 monthly for 5 years. We had the same commitment from 2014-2019.

Our thanks to Joseph O'Brien and those who speak in the parishes on behalf of Carmelite Missions. This is a major assist to our own Province as well as others in the Order. We are also more grateful to those who give so generously to the appeals.

Continuing Business

Formation Issues

In preparation of the next Formation Commission meeting's work on the Formation Manual, the section on the Pre-Novitiate Program was re-written to reflect that the program is now located at Whitefriars Hall with the professed students.

The Provincial Council began an initial discussion of possible assignments for those who will be interns beginning in January 2020 (novices in Peru) and June 2020 (students in Whitefriars). There is a possibility of 10 interns for the coming year.

A very brief discussion of ESL options in the USA was held. The Formation Commission will discuss this further to make a recommendation to the Provincial Council for a decision.

2020 – 2026 Strategic Plan Update

The Provincial Council continued working with Larry Fidelus, O. Carm., to develop a Provincial Strategic Plan for 2020-2026. Following the Provincial Council meeting, the sub-committee consisting of William Harry, Paul Henson and Larry Fidelus will meet again in late October for two days to continue working on the draft copy. Once El Salvador has its Pre-Chapter meeting in January 2020, the Final Draft will be completed in time for the Provincial Chapter in June 2020.

Finance Office Report

Brian Gawel (Director of Finance) provided an update to the Council on the financial matters of the Province since the last Council meeting held in July. The following was discussed:

- The preliminary draft audited financial statements for the Provincial Office were reviewed. The auditors (Crowe LLP) have completed their fieldwork and will be reviewing the draft financial statements with the Finance Commission at the November meeting.
- The actuarial report for the Carmelite Retirement Plan was reviewed. The report is completed every third year as it is needed for the audit of the Retirement Plan and gives a snapshot of the funding level of future estimated plan obligations. Because of the favorable market conditions during the past three years, the Plan remains at an acceptable level for future plan obligations.
- The investment portfolio valuation at September 30, 2019 was provided to the Council for review. There was no unusual activity within the investment portfolio during the first quarter of Fiscal 2020.

As a result of a conversation at the last Finance Commission meeting, Crowe LLP recommended that another level of internal control be enacted to mitigate the business office's inherent issue of a small staff. Carl Markelz on a quarterly basis will review the cash receipts and disbursements from the main cash accounts of the province and will be able to ask questions for any transaction that appears unusual in nature. This procedure was performed for the first quarter ended September 30, 2019.

Capital Improvements Projects

Ryan Anderson (Director of Provincial Properties) provided an update on the various capital projects that are currently underway. These include:

St. Cecilia Parish and Priory – Englewood, New Jersey

The plan to remodel the former convent at St. Cecilia into a conference center with four suites for Carmelites on the top floor continue to move ahead. In the meantime, activities continue to be held on the first floor.

The Charter School located in the high school building has requested that the Province pay half of the cost to replace the windows in the building. They estimate the cost to be \$150,000, however, the current contract holds the charter school responsible for this upgrade. The prior provincial and representatives of the Carmelites at St. Cecilia will meet with the president of the charter school. We would like to establish some more formal regular contact with the school to ensure that provisions of the contract are followed by both parties.

The Provincial Council approved the decision to commence the renovation of the former convent as quickly as possible.

Keystone, Colorado Property

In addition, Ryan has been doing work to urgent improvements to the Keystone property, upgrading it to a high standard rental property when it is not being use by members of the province. These include new carpeting, appliances updated, and completely repainted.

University Avenue, Chicago

Major work has been done to the University Ave property in Hyde Park (formerly Sant' Angelo Priory) which is being rented from us by the OFM Franciscans. Extensive improvements to the grounds, including the replacement of the wrought iron fence around the perimeter, have made this an attractive looking property once again in the neighborhood. One major concern is extensive water damage to the interior caused by poor work previously done which will be resolved as soon as possible. The contract is also being renewed.

White House, Darien

The front porch of the house is collapsing and work will be done to install footings that are apparently missing and allowing the porch to sink and crack. Further work on the outside, the basement, etc., has been delayed and the funding, previously approved, has been re-directed towards other projects.

Update on Member File Audit and Timeline for Online Publishing

William Harry and Carl Markelz met with Mr. Robert Walsh to receive the results of his review of files in the archives and provincial office dealing with all of our members since 1950. He also reviewed all correspondence of the prior provincials, minutes of the Review Board, and the results of investigations of those accused of committing child sexual abuse or involved in a boundary violation with an adult. In an additional meeting, Mr Jim Geoly, the provincial lawyer, met with William Harry, Carl Markelz, and Mr. Robert Walsh to begin moving forward to create our "list" of members who have committed child sexual abuse or who have a credible allegation against them.

The Provincial Council stressed the need to be transparent and also to realize that this is a pastoral act as we continue to reach out to victims. The council encourages William Harry, Carl Markelz, Robert Walsh, and Jim Geoly to sensitively create this list for publication in the near future.

Society of the Little Flower

Concerns were raised regarding interference in the way one particular protocol has been handled at SLF-Canada in direct contradiction to a Board decision and in violation of Canadian law. This may result in an investigation by Revenue Canada and a financial penalty against the Monastery. The Provincial will address the situation with those concerned.

Vocation Report: Mexico

In October 2019, a Vocation Discernment Retreat was held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory in Tucson, AZ. Five men from across the USA/Canada attended. Paul Henson informed the Council that another retreat is planned for the Spring at Whitefriars Hall.

The Peruvian Commissariat welcomed 13 young men to a vocation retreat at Casa San Elias in Lima. They ranged in age from 21-35. The Peruvian Vocation Office, led by Rodolfo Aznarán continues to work with young men throughout various parts of Peru.

Co-Sponsored Schools

Carmel Catholic High School

Carl Markelz reported on the Board of Members meeting in June and the recent Board of Directors meeting on October 10, 2019. Currently the school has initiated a program called Carmel 2.0, which is an extensive programmatic updating of all departments, along with physical changes that are more conducive to 21st century learning.

The funds for these changes, \$4.4 million, are coming from the endowment fund, which sits at \$46.7 million as of September 30, 2019. About one-third of this endowment fund is to repay a bond issuance from past campaigns. The school is in good shape financially, but with fewer Catholic grammar school students in Lake County, the school is preparing for a lower enrollment in the near future. Carmel Catholic is competing with excellent public schools in its area, thus the need to update its programs and buildings. The Provincial Council agrees with these efforts and is happy to support school leadership in these endeavors.

Upcoming Meetings & Events Around the Province and Order

2019

November 1	Ordination to the Priesthood – Anthony Armstrong Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tenafly, NJ
November 3	Mass of Thanksgiving – Anthony Armstrong Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tenafly, NJ
November 14-15	Board of Members Evaluation Salpointe Catholic High School
November 19	Board of Members Evaluation Crespi Carmelite High School
December 16-20	Annual Meeting of Mexico – Tlalpan, CDMX

2020

January 7-10	Annual Meeting of the Peruvian Commissariat
January 9	Reception of Novices – Lurín, Peru
January 9-12	Carmelite Studies Program Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC
January 10	First Profession of Vows – Lurín, Peru
January 18	Ordination to Priesthood – Gregorio Solís Vazquez Zacatecas, Mexico

January 22	El Salvador Pre-Chapter Meeting Centro Xiberta, Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador
February 7-9	25th Anniversary of Carmelite Presence in Mexico Torreón, Mexico
February 18	Board of Members Evaluation Mount Carmel High School, Chicago, IL
May 23	Ordination to the Priesthood – Jeffrey Lima – Washington, DC
June 7	Reception of Novices – Middletown, New York
June 8	First Profession of Vows – Middletown, New York
June 21-26	PCM Provincial Chapter Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, ONT

Upcoming Provincial Council Meeting Dates and Places

2020

January 23-24	Provincial Council Meeting Centro Xiberta, Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador
April 21-23	Provincial Council Meeting Immaculate Conception/ St Joseph, Leavenworth, Kansas
June 8	Joint SEL/PCM Council Meeting

Board of Members
Salpointe Catholic High School
Tucson, Arizona
October 18, 2019

Members present: William J. Harry, Carl Markelz, Paul Henson, Quinn Conners, Emilio Rodriguez, Daryl Moresco

Quinn Conners and Paul Henson reported on the Board of Directors meeting in September 2019. The new Chair for the Board of Directors is Patrick Lopez. A Draft of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan continues to be a work in progress and approval will be requested at the Board's next meeting.

Patrick Lopez reminded the Board of Directors that its role is to review policies, not to micro-manage or administer and that school policies should be consistent with the Carmelite Secondary School's Manual request that the BoD policies should not be confused with school policies.

Respectfully submitted by
Daryl Moresco, O. Carm.
Secretary
October 18, 2019

Board of Members
Mount Carmel High School
Chicago, Illinois
October 18, 2019

Members present: William J. Harry, Carl Markelz, Paul Henson, Quinn Conners, Emilio Rodriguez, Daryl Moresco

Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting were reviewed and accepted by the Board of Members.

Mount Carmel High School continues its renovation and refurbishment of the 1924 school buildings which is nearing completion. The dedication is set for October 21, 2019.

The school has \$10.6 million in its Endowment Fund. The current enrollment is 603 this year while the budget set the projected enrolment at 580. Mount Carmel, for its second year in a row, finished the previous year in the black.

A major concern was discussed at length by the Board of Members addressing a letter received from a member of the Advancement Office who had recently resigned. Her letter which was widely distributed raised several serious issues concerning the leadership of the school and, in particular, her critique of the President, Mr. Edward Hughes. At the school's evaluation on February 18, 2020, the Council will meet and discuss these concerns with the President in light of the above.

Respectfully submitted by
Daryl Moresco, O. Carm.
Secretary
October 18, 2019

Board of Members
Crespi Carmelite High School
Encino, California
October 18, 2019

Members present: William J. Harry, Carl Markelz, Paul Henson, Quinn Conners, Emilio Rodriguez, Daryl Moresco

A draft of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting was reviewed and accepted by the Board of Members.

Principal, Dr. Liam Joyce introduced Mr. Jim Julio Murcia, the new Executive Director of Student Services and College Counseling who joined Crespi in July 2019.

Following the school audit, it was reported that Crespi is in good financial standing and that records accurately reflect operations. Overall, Crespi is in good financial shape.

Funds raised for the Aquatics Center total \$7,716,662. Crespi has the ability to borrow (loan) no more than \$7million and with a funding gap of \$2,268,470 there is still the need to fundraise and work hard to procure donations, grants, etc. to finance this project.

On November 19, 2019, the Board of Members will conduct its triennial evaluation of the school, focused on the area of purpose, philosophy, and mission. The Members will also meet with the Board for a discussion and with representatives of the group working on the school's strategic plan.

Respectfully submitted by
Daryl Moresco, O. Carm.
Secretary
October 18, 2019