

## **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 #7 September 18 & 19, 2018 Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, ONT

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

The Provincial Council is very grateful to the community and staff at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre for their warmth and hospitality. As always, the food and friendliness of the staff was outstanding.

#### Statement on the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the USA Church

With much concern for the members of the province, the Provincial Council discussed how the sexual abuse crisis in the Church is impacting our lives and our ministries. We decided to write a statement addressing the crisis and, in addition, we are attaching the *Letter to the People of God* which Pope Francis wrote in response to the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report. We sincerely hope that this statement will be supportive to you and will be shared and discussed at your community meetings and in your ministries. We offer both for your prayerful consideration and for discussion at your community meetings and we welcome any feedback or responses that would like to share with us.

*The Council discussed the recurring and growing crisis in the Church, both locally and internationally. The recent Pennsylvania Grand Jury report has re-surfaced the problems of clergy sexual abuse of minors, vastly increasing the number of victims and perpetrators. However, there is also new evidence of sexual harassment of seminarians and young priests (Archbishop McCarrick and Bishop Bransfield), and a history of leadership that failed to focus on the survivors of the abuse and in many cases tried to cover it up. It is the first time we have data that reveals the extent of the “failed leadership,” to use the term that Bishop Persico of Erie, PA, has accurately used.*

*These revelations have had a powerful impact on many people. First, these revelations have brought back very difficult memories and feelings for the victims of clergy abuse. Those memories do not go away and get stirred up again when new information comes to the fore. Second, many lay men and women in the Church have reacted with understandable anger and sadness, and our Carmelites in our parishes have been trying to respond pastorally to their legitimate concerns. We value the fact that our brothers have preached about these issues and have offered “listening sessions” to give parishioners opportunities to be heard about their feelings toward the Church and its leaders. These are very difficult times in the Church, and our pastors and associates have borne the brunt of trying to respond with love and empathy. Third, these revelations have impacted the members of the Province. As religious and priests, we are impacted by the destructive actions of a few religious and priests. Such impact can be very discouraging. We need to support one another.*

*The Council also renewed our commitment as a province to transparency and accountability. We have utilized a Provincial Review Board to help us in the past and have done internal reviews of our files. We will explore ways to verify that transparency*

*and accountability by possibly looking to an external organization to review our files to help us to maintain this transparency and accountability. Meanwhile, we are reminded of Pope Francis' recent letter to The People of God, inviting us to pray and fast. We encourage members of the province to pray and fast for the victims, the perpetrators, for the leadership among the bishops and laity, and for all the People of God.*

A full copy of Pope Francis' *Letter to the People of God* is added for your convenience at the end of these minutes. This link will also take you to the Vatican website for your convenience: [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2018/documents/papa-francesco\\_20180820\\_lettera-popolo-didio.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2018/documents/papa-francesco_20180820_lettera-popolo-didio.html)

## **Reports from Commissions/Departments/ Board Meetings of Affiliated Organizations**

### **Parish Commission**

The Parish Commission has not met since June 18-19, 2018, however, Carl Markelz who is the Provincial Council liaison, addressed several concerns regarding the work of the commission and in particular with regard to the withdrawal from three parishes namely, St. Paul's, Gurnee, Illinois; St. Raphael's, Englewood, Florida; and St. Anastasia's, Teaneck, New Jersey.

The Council is deeply aware of the range and intensity of feelings surrounding these decisions.

In moving forward, the Provincial Council wants the Parish Commission to continue looking at personnel availability for parish ministry aware that we need to open list at least three parishes in the upcoming months and how this will impact the process of reviewing our parish ministry commitments.

The Provincial Council wants the Parish Commission to give serious consideration to the importance of parish ministry in the province to develop a statement supporting parish ministry underscoring its invaluable pastoral scope and significance for our province in the life of the Church especially given the enormity of the crisis the Church faces today.

We especially ask each brother's prayerful support, understanding, and professionalism during this important time especially for those entrusted with making these very difficult decisions on our behalf.

### **Finance Commission August 17, 2018**

Joe Atcher and 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 investment portfolio valuation at August 31, 2018 was provided to the Council for review. For the two-month period since June 30, 2018 the portfolio incurred an

approximate 1.6% return. (For fiscal year 2018 the portfolio had an approximate return of 7.5%).

- The individual positions held within the portfolio were reviewed. As part of the rebalancing of the portfolio, we are in the process of liquidating our interest in the Crescent Capital High Income Fund, L.P. fund. In addition, we recently invested in the Grosvenor Institutional Partners, L.P. fund.
- At the August 2018 Finance Commission meeting, the investment policies for the consolidated investment fund, the retirement trust and the Monastery of Mt. Carmel Endowment were reviewed and updated.
- With regards to the financial results of the Province for the two-month period ending August 31, 2018, nothing unusual identified in terms of operations. There were two cash receipts in excess of \$200k that were received which were not budgeted for. The details of these transactions were shared with the Council.
- The Fiscal 2019 Operating Fund, General Fund, Senior Fund, and capital budgets were reviewed for final approval from the Council.

The Provincial Office financial statement audit is in process, as well as the agreed-upon procedure engagement for the Retirement Plan and Trust. The auditors were on-site the week of September 10. The audited financial statements will be available to the Council for approval at the December 2018 meeting.

Joe Atcher provided an update related to the Mahwah property. Since the anticipated closing of the sale fell through in July, the Province received the escrow funds (less attorney fees). The Province continues to seek buyers for the property.

William J. Harry moved that the two budgets, Operating Funds and General Funds for Fiscal 2019, be approved.

Quinn Connors seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

### **JPIC Commission Conference Call August 18, 2018**

The JPIC commission, at the request of the Provincial Council, offered several updates to its policies for grants. These recommendations were discussed by the Provincial Council and the following proposals were approved:

1. Carmelite Charity Fund

General Norm #4: This funding is limited to one year and cannot be repeated.

2. Carmelite Human Development Fund

General Norm #1: Projects should be self-sufficient within a two-year period and should not be dependent on CHDF for their ongoing survival.

The Provincial Council supported and approved a third fund for disaster relief which was proposed by the JPIC.

### 3. Disaster Relief Fund

Reserve monies from the CCF and CHD funds will be used to provide direct relief to victims of disaster or crisis, as situations arise.

Quinn Connors made the motion that we accept these recommendations.

Paul Henson seconded.

All were in favor

## **Darien Carmelite Spiritual Board**

**August 20, 2018**

It was a busy summer, especially compared to 2017. The Spiritual Center has been serving multiple groups and has had some new groups utilize it.

A review of the Fiscal 2018 operating results:

Total revenues approximated \$701,000

Total expenses approximated \$851,000

Approximate net loss was <\$150,000>

For Fiscal 2018, there was no provincial subsidy.

The beginning of Fiscal 2019 has resulted in a good start for the Spiritual Center, with a net income of approximately \$32,000 for the period July 1, 2018 through August 17, 2018.

## **Carmelite Media Meeting**

**August 20, 2018**

Carmelite Media's Electronic Media will be concentrating its efforts on:

- Update the Liturgical Calendar
- Write updated Carmelite saints' biographies to post on the website
- Develop content for Advent and Lent.

The Province's webpages are being updated by Piotr Dobaczewski in Poland. The intranet is the first one being updated. The new version will be ready for use by the province soon.

## **Provincial Archives**

**September 5, 2018**

The following work is being done in the archives:

- a) Search the Archives for deeds of property which PCM Province owns
- b) Updating information in the data base especially concerning members who have died or left the Province/Order.

Goals for the Next Quarter:

- a) Record the property deeds found in the Archives.
- b) Purchase a fire-proof four drawer file cabinet for the province's novitiate record book, property deeds, and other important papers.
- c) File correspondence of past PCM Provincials.
- d) "The Carmelite Review" (1978-1997) are in bound volumes.
- e) Continue updating the Data Base.

### **Teleconference of the Presidents of Carmelite Secondary Schools September 14, 2018**

The Prior Provincial, William J. Harry, as liaison to the Secondary Schools Commission, discussed with the Council a number of matters pertaining to the teleconference of the presidents of the Carmelite secondary schools in the United States. The following matters were discussed:

- Planning continues for the next Secondary Schools Commission meeting will be held in Peru, March 24-30, 2019. This will be the first time the Commission meets there. Each school will be visited with the program to be worked out. The San José treatment center in José Galvez will also be visited.
- All schools will be asked to develop Policies for Maintaining Ethical Behavior similar to the one developed at Salpointe Catholic High School, respecting local law.
- The Secondary Schools are encouraged to consider the public statements the province is taking on social justice issues. Each school will determine how best to take action.
- The Commission will be asked to develop a policy for the regular reporting to the Board of Members on Capital Campaigns.

### **Vocation Commission August 2018**

#### **From El Salvador**

Jesus Luis Paz Acosta (Chuy), O. Carm., reports on a variety of initiatives with the assistance of Benjamin Constante, O. Carm., and Lorena Canjura who work as a team. The community at Xiberta continues developing a vocation culture. This consists of giving talks in Catholic high schools to seniors, giving presentations on Carmelite life and our charism at various vocation events, on Facebook and through WhatsApp, visits by enquirers/discerners to the community and maintaining personal contact.

Several serious candidates are in discernment and six young men have moved into the application process.

They are also preparing over 100 young people for World Youth Day to be held in Panamá in January. Carmelite Vocations will be present at the Vocations Festival. The group will begin their journey after some days in El Salvador.

#### **From USA/Canada**

Paul Henson has been very busy and energetically promoting vocations. He currently has 11

(maybe 12) men who will be attending the Vocation Discernment Retreat at Carith House, October 6-8, 2018.

## **Communications**

### **From the Carmelite Curia**

A letter from the Prior General announcing the Convocation of the General Chapter 2019 was received September 8, 2018 and subsequently sent to all members of the Province. The theme of the General Chapter is:

**You are my witnesses (Is 43:10);**

**From one generation to the next: called to be faithful to our Carmelite charism**

A date for the election of delegates will be held as soon as possible.

### **From the Peruvian Commissariat**

Minutes from the Peru Commissary Council Meeting held on August 10, 2018 were reviewed by the Provincial Council.

Provincial Commissary, Miguel Bacigalupo informed us that all but two documents for the laicization of Adolfo Medrano have been signed. These will be sent to Rome as soon as all documents have been signed.

The Council thanks the Commissariat for the minutes of their meetings and keeping the Council informed of situations and events in the Commissariat. But Provincial Council requests that the minutes from these meetings be more detailed for historical and archival purposes.

With regard to creating policies for the Peruvian Commissariat, the Provincial Council requests that these be written and formalized for consistency and transparency.

## **Community Visits**

### **Vice Provincial Report**

Vice Provincial, Carl Markelz recently spent two weeks at St Joseph/Immaculate Conception, Leavenworth ministering in the parish for David McEvoy, O. Carm. He has also been keeping a close watch on the renovations at Crespi (OLMC) Priory.

As Director of Interns, he has eight interns in the US/Canada region to visit. Each place he visits, he takes the opportunity to meet with or visit our brothers in that area.

Carl reports that the Crespi (OLMC) Priory renovations are some weeks behind schedule at this point and that there are some unexpected overages that were not included in the budget requiring an increase in funding.

**Archdiocese of Los Angeles Meeting Major Superiors of Men's Communities  
August 28, 2018**

Carl Markelz attended this meeting. The main topic of discussion was an update by Archbishop José Gómez on the sexual abuse crisis. His presentation was very open and honest about the three issues that he highlighted which were: 1) the promotion and the rise of now Archbishop McCarrick, 2) the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report and 3) the letter from Archbishop Viganó. He stated that this was not a time for denial and blame but time for a process of change in the Church begun at Vatican II and the need to rely on more collaboration with the laity and to rid ourselves of clericalism.

**Provincial Visit to Whitefriars Hall - Washington, DC  
April 6-8, 2018**

The focus of this visit was to preside at the Mass and to receive the Solemn Profession of Gregorio Vasquez. The ceremony was in the house chapel of Whitefriars Hall.

Gregorio's parents, his sister and nephew were able to travel to be with him for his solemn profession.

It was a joyful celebration with many Carmelites, members from other religious communities, family and friends present.

**Provincial Visit to Carith House – Chicago  
April 18, 2018**

Three students from Carith House have petitioned and were accepted to enter the novitiate in June 2018. They are:

- Filiberto Oregel Alvarez – 35 years old – native of Guadalajara, Mexico; studied at Loyola University in Chicago; holds a Diplomado Superior in Liturgy and in Formación Humana; has taken philosophy and theology at CTU during this past year. Talented with technology.
- Ryan-Joseph Resurrección – 32 years old – from Los Angeles; holds a BA in philosophy; taught religion and was campus minister; currently studying at CTU.
- Benito Martinez Alvarez – 32 years old – from Cuauhutemoc, Mexico; certificate from La Facultad de Filosofia y Letras del Seminario Diocesano de Tacambaro; has 86 credits in theology and 6 credits in Latin from IFTIM.

In addition:

- Roberto Carlos Reyes Castillo -35 years old – from Mexico City, Mexico was accepted to enter the novitiate in June 2018. He did his pre-novitiate at Casa del Carmen in Mexico City. He has a Bachelors of Science in Biology from Macquarie University, NSW, Australia. Roberto was a seminarian for a number of years and has completed most of his studies towards ordination.



## **Provincial Visit to Centro Xiberta Formation Program/Universidad Central America - El Salvador**

**July 3-8, 2018**

The purpose of this visit was for the six-month visit, to dedicate the new chapel and conference center at the San Elías Finca, and to attend the ordinations to priesthood of two members of the community. It was also an opportunity to meet individually with each member of the community as well as Mrs. Tezak, a long-time supporter of the initiatives of David Blanchard, O. Carm. Due to a recent illness of Blanchard, Bill was not able to meet with him individually they saw each other at the ordinations.

Over the last couple of years, the efforts of the formation community of Centro Xiberta to be a more self-sustaining community with the production of their own food has moved forward with considerable success including the Finca de San Elias. On July 6, 2018, the Carmelites of El Salvador hosted neighbors and local and national leaders for a Mass and blessing of a new chapel and gathering space at the finca in Huizucar (San Salvador).

The Archbishop of San Salvador, Mons. Jose Luis Escobar Alas, ordained Carmelites Luis Jesus Paz and Benjamin Salas to the priesthood in a ceremony in the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Holy Savior on Saturday, July 7, 2018.

In El Salvador, there are now three priests, 5 simply professed members, and 5 pre-novices (for a total of 13 in the community). Four simply professed Salvadorans are currently on internship in the USA.

There are three new pre-novices— one is a police officer, the others are younger students. They joined two other pre-novices from the previous year.

A brief meeting was held with Archbishop José Luis Escobar following the ordination to update him on the community and to renew our request that the Province be considered in the near future for a parish near our current student house or finca if possible. He appreciated the possibility of us being more involved in the archdiocese.

## **Provincial Visit to Carmelite Novitiate Program – Lurín, Perú Celebrations of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel July 14-19, 2018**

This was an opportunity to visit the various ministry sites and each Carmelite as well as participate in the First Mass of Benjamin Salas, O. Carm.

At the novitiate in Lurin, the Provincial met with each of the novices individually. Two are from Mexico. Two are from El Salvador. One is from Peru. A meeting with Jerry Payea, O. Carm and Jorge (Pepe) Villegas, O. Carm., the program's directors, indicated that there are some difficulties between the cultures which, while not unusual, are being worked through.

There were various celebrations of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. At Carmelitas in Miraflores, the Provincial was present for a school assembly where 4 short talks were given on aspects of the Carmelite values. Two Carmelites, Miguel Bacigalupo and Floristan Guerra as well as two lay people spoke. Then followed a whole school Mass in the *auditorio*. Miguel Bacigalupo gave the homily which addressed the meaning of the feast in our daily lives.

The Provincial then traveled to our school in Barranco and met with the administrators. Between classes, the students assembled in the tiny central area of the school for prayer. Following this visit, he then went to the *Colegio* in Jose Galvez where he viewed the renovations that have occurred and spoke informally with some of the faculty and staff. He also traveled to the parish residence for lunch and conversation with the Carmelite staff there.

On July 17th the Provincial celebrated the Eucharist and had breakfast with the pre-novices in Casa San Elias. There are four students: two from Peru and two from Venezuela. Following the Mass and during the meal, there was an opportunity to talk.

Two Carmelites live in the house with pre-novices, namely, Floristan Guerero Cruz and Rodolfo Aznaran.

The Provincial also met with the vocation team for the Commissariat. There were representatives from each of the schools. Each is charged with working to build up a “culture” of vocations in their ministry site. During the meeting, each member explained what their work consists of, the challenges, as well as the successes.

The Provincial also met with Jorge Remuzgo who was recovering in Miraflores from a hospitalization.

On July 18, Benjamin Salas celebrated his “First Mass” in Peru. The parish church in Miraflores had parents, many family members, and friends as well as the local Lay Carmelites and some religious sisters attend. He preached a very good homily. Most of the Carmelites from the Commissariat were present at the Mass. A reception followed upstairs in the parish hall.

### **Provincial Visit to Whitefriars Hall – Washington, DC August 15-19, 2018**

Most of the students of the Province (as well as the SEL Province) gathered at Whitefriars Hall on August 15-19, 2018, for the semi-annual Carmelite Studies Program. The theme was “Leadership in the Carmelite Tradition.” Three speakers presented on leadership in Scripture, leadership in Carmelite life, and practical points for leadership in ministry.

Seventeen students from PCM were physically present. All of the presentations were recorded in Spanish and English and made available on the Internet. Because of distance, cost, and classes, the students from Mexico (Casa del Carmen), El Salvador (Centro Xiberta), and Peru (Casa del Carmen) will have the opportunity to view the presentations when they are free.

On Saturday night, the cultural evening provided an opportunity for all the students to gather together via Internet. Each group presented an aspect of their culture: a song, dance, music, or food. Only El Salvador and the novices in Peru did not participate although El Salvador joined to present various members of the community before they headed out for ministry.

The program concluded with a Mass in the Upper Church of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception near the campus of Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

## **Provincial Visit to Carmelites in Phoenix August 23, 2018**

All three Carmelites at St Agnes Priory – Bradley Peterson, Glenn Snow, and Antolino Mendez (Intern) are enjoying both community and ministry.

It was a positive visit to the Mariposa Community with James Mueller, Mario Lopez, and Kevin McBrien. Kevin Lafey was away.

Tiernan O’Callaghan is residing in a very nice assisted living facility, not far from St. Agnes. He has established some friendships among the other residents. He remains in touch with parishioners from St Agnes who visit.

## **New Business**

### **Process for Updating the Strategic Plan for 2020-2020**

One of the current Provincial Council’s specific strategic action items is to develop a process for creating a revised strategic plan (2020-2026) for presentation at the Chapter of 2020. To that end a meeting was held with Larry Fidelus, O. Carm in August 2018, with the Provincial Council’s Strategic Planning Sub-Committee, where a four-step process was created for discussion at this meeting. Larry presented the process to the Provincial Council for its approval and implementation. The approved process will engage members of the province at various levels including the U.S., Canada, Mexico, El Salvador and Peru.

The four-step engagement process consists of (1) strategic listening sessions to be held at all forthcoming regional pre-chapter meetings. (2) strategic input sessions with all provincial commissions (3) strategic input from all communities of the province, and (4) individual strategic input from members of the province via an online **questionnaire**. These four steps should be completed by July 2019 and the input from all four steps will guide the creation of the new 2020-2026 provincial strategic plan.

### **Pre-Chapter Meetings**

Five Pre-Chapter meetings – two for US/Canada - will be held throughout the province in preparation for the Provincial Chapter:

1. USA/CAN at Picture Rocks Retreat House - Tucson, Arizona – June 3-6, 2019
2. USA/CAN at Mt Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, ONT – June 24-27, 2019.

Each member of the province is encouraged to attend one of these meetings.

The meetings for Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador will take place when the Provincial Council holds meetings in those areas of the Province.

## **Planning for the Pre-Chapter Meetings**

Carl Markelz and Daryl Moresco were asked by the Provincial Council to plan these meetings in USA/Canada. Topics for the meetings will be:

1. Praesidium Accreditation – every member must participate in this 3-hour accreditation education workshop every three years.
2. Chapter Preparatory Commission Update
3. Strategic Planning
4. Parish Commission
5. JPIC (Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation) Update
6. General Chapter

Prayer & Reflection based on the General Chapter theme will begin each day.

## **Appointment of Prior**

Paul Henson, O. Carm., was nominated and appointed prior by the Council for the community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory, Tucson, AZ., following the appointment of Brian Henden, O. Carm. to St Thérèse Priory, Cresskill.

## **Carmelite Missions**

Carmelite Missions recommended approval of funding for the construction of the parish hall in the parish of Nuestra Señora del Carmen, in José Galvez, Peru.

William J. Harry moved to approve the donation of US\$8,000 to the Peruvian Commissariat for the construction of a parish hall in the parish of Nuestra Señora del Carmen, in José Galvez.

Emilio Rodriguez seconded the motion

All were in favor

## **President of the Region**

The Provincial Council appointed Daryl Moresco, O. Carm., as president of the North American Region, replacing Robert Ciulli, O. Carm (SEL). This requires the consent of the SEL Provincial Council.

## **Offer of Property**

Two Discalced Carmelite hermits offered 80 acres of land in the State of Washington, to the province. This included several buildings and a pool on the property. The land would have to be retained by the province following the death of the two hermits or given to a religious organization that would retain the land until it be passed to another religious organization. The hermits had already offered the land to the Discalced Carmelites Province in the West. They declined the offer.

Following a discussion, the members of the Provincial Council declined the offer since we have no foundation near the location.

## **Continuing Business**

### **Society of the Little Flower**

Thomas Schrader, O. Carm., is settling in well as the Assistant Director for the Society of the Little Flower.

Dedication of the new Shrine Chapel of St. Thérèse will be Monday, October 1, 2018.

### **Funding of Continuing Education - Ongoing Formation**

The Provincial Council agreed that it was necessary to develop a policy for members who choose or who are asked to undertake further studies.

The provincial office will continue to financially assist members of the province who desire to pursue further education. Financial support includes payment of fees, tuition, room and board (if needed) supplies, books, travel etc.

If a brother chooses to pursue further studies (or is asked to pursue further studies) such as degrees, certificates, or course work related to ministry, then the following steps are to be taken:

1. Approval from the Prior Provincial is required,
2. An annual budget covering all costs associated with the course of studies is to be submitted for approval six months prior to registration.

### **Funding for Contracted Services**

If a brother's ministry involves a contract whereby payment and/or royalties are received, then the following step is to be taken:

3. Where a brother needs financial assistance for work contracted and which benefits the province financially, expenses incurred such as equipment, travel, supplies, room and board, etc., will be subsidized by the province. The brother will submit a yearly operating budget for his work.

### **Membership**

Santos Cecilio Hernandez Carranza, O. Carm., petitioned and was approved for Solemn Vows after the Provincial Council read and discussed the results of his community's chapter and David Blanchard's written opinion.

William Harry motioned that Santos Cecilio Hernandez Carranza be accepted for Solemn Vows.

Paul Henson seconded the motion.

All were in Favor

Cecilio also petitioned for Ordination to the Diaconate. This was discussed by the Council along with input from the solemnly professed Carmelites in El Salvador. All were in favor.

Cecilio was called by the Prior Provincial to ordination to the diaconate. He will be Solemnly Professed on January 16, 2019 and ordained a deacon on January 18, 2019.

Alfredo Guillen was approved by the Provincial Council at the request of the Archbishop to be the Vicar General for the National Police in El Salvador on an interim basis. He will continue as formator at Centro Xiberta.

### **Update on Health of Members September 13, 2018**

Myron Judy, O. Carm., continues taking good care of the our brothers and reports that:

Hank Ormond underwent successful right hip surgery.

Gus Carter & Matt Ewing are doing well in Skilled Nursing at Villa Scalabrini in Sun Valley, CA

Tiernan O'Callaghan is doing well at Morning Star Assisted Living in Phoenix.

Bishop Michael LaFay is doing well at Avila of Needham Memory Care, Needham, MA.

Joseph McGowan continues to do well at Sunshine Assisted Living in Cresskill, NJ.

Paul Schweizer requests prayers as he undergoes treatment again for serious skin cancer.

Stephen Cooley is declining physically and mentally.

Several brothers request privacy regarding their health status.

## **Co-Sponsored Schools**

### **Joliet Catholic Academy**

Carl Markelz , O. Carm., John Welch, O. Carm., and William J. Harry, O. Carm., serve as members of the Board of Members along with three Joliet Franciscan sisters.

The new chapel dedicated to *Mary, Our Sister*, in keeping with both the Franciscan and Carmelite traditions, was dedicated on Friday, September 14, 2018.

Enrollment in the freshmen class for 2018-2019 Academic year increased by about 18%.

A faculty and Board of Directors picnic was held for the start of the school year.

\$1- 2 million is needed for the renovation of the former chapel for Information & Technology.

## **Carmel Catholic High School**

Carl Markelz, O. Carm., Daryl Moresco, O. Carm., and Robert Colaresi, O. Carm., serve on the Members of the Corporation along with three Sisters of Charity, BVM.

President, Dr. Brad Bonham and the new Principal, Jason Huther have begun the new school year well.

## **Upcoming Events Around the Province and Order**

October 1, 2018	Dedication Ceremony for National Shrine to St. Thérèse, Darien, Illinois   10 AM
October 4-20, 2018	Prior General Visitation of the Province: Kansas, Arizona, California
November 6-11, 2018	ALACAR Congress: "Mártires de ayer para el Carmelo Latinoamericano de hoy: Tito Brandsma, Edith Stein y Mons. Romero" Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
January 15-18, 2019	The Need to Preach & the Art of Preaching: A Carmelite Approach Fatima, Portugal
January 16, 2019	Solemn Profession of Santos Cecilio Hernandez Carranza, O. Carm.
January 18, 2019	Deaconate Ordination of Santos Cecilio Hernandez Carranza, O. Carm.
June 3-6, 2019	Pre-Chapter Meeting Picture Rocks Retreat Center   Tucson, Arizona
June 24-27, 2019	Pre-Chapter Meeting Mt. Carmel   Niagara Falls, Ontario
Sept 10-27, 2019	General Chapter of the Carmelite Order Sassone, Italy
June 21-26, 2020	PCM Provincial Chapter Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, ONT

## **Upcoming Provincial Council Meeting Dates and Places**

### **2018**

December 18-20 Mexico City – Casa del Carmen & Pre-Chapter Meeting

### **2019**

April 9-11 San Francisco – St Teresa of Avila

July 13-15 Peru – Villa Carmelitas & Pre-Chapter Meeting

October 15-17 Florida – Carmel at Mission Valley

### **2020**

January 21-24 El Salvador – Centro Xiberta & Pre-Chapter Meeting

April 21-23 Kansas



**Board of Members  
Salpointe Catholic High School  
September 19, 2018**

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

A letter from Salpointe president, Kay Sullivan, regarding a capital campaign focused on improving the Fine Arts, athletic facilities, and additional classrooms at the school was discussed and the following items were approved:

1. The Aspire Capital Campaign with the Guaranteed Maximum Price to be raised from \$9 million to \$10 million due to rising costs resulting from the current economic climate.

William J. Harry moved the motion to approve raising the GMP to \$10 million.

Paul Henson seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

2. A gift from the PCM Province to the Capital Campaign in the amount of 2% of the total cost of the campaign based on the estimate of \$9 million which is \$180,000, not the revised \$10 million.

William J. Harry moved the motion to approve this request.

Carl Markelz seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Daryl Moresco, O. Carm.  
Secretary  
September 23, 2018

**Board of Members  
Mount Carmel High School  
September 19, 2018**

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

**Appointment to the Board of Directors**

Board of Members approved the appointment of Mr. John T. Murphy to the Board of Directors.

Paul Henson moved the motion

Quinn Connors seconded the motion.

All were in Favor

**President Evaluation**

The Board of Members discussed the recent actions and letters received regarding the performance of the school president. The Board of Members will instruct the Board of Directors to follow the policy statement in the Secondary Schools Policy Manual regarding: A. General Powers #15. "Perform annual evaluations of the president of the school." The Secondary Schools Policy Manual continues on p. 31C. "Materials required to be exchanged include:" #6. "Annual evaluation of the president to the Board of Members in June." As a result, an evaluation of the president will take place by the Board of Directors over the next few months.

The Board of Members will be scheduling a visit to Mt Carmel as part of our evaluations of each wholly-owned school every three years. The last evaluation took place in April 2017.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Daryl Moresco, O. Carm.  
Secretary  
September 23, 2018

## Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis

### To the People of God

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it” (*1 Cor 12:26*). These words of Saint Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons. Crimes that inflict deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also in their family members and in the larger community of believers and nonbelievers alike. Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated. The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults.

#### 1. If one member suffers...

In recent days, a report was made public which detailed the experiences of at least a thousand survivors, victims of sexual abuse, the abuse of power and of conscience at the hands of priests over a period of approximately seventy years. Even though it can be said that most of these cases belong to the past, nonetheless as time goes on we have come to know the pain of many of the victims. We have realized that these wounds never disappear and that they require us forcefully to condemn these atrocities and join forces in uprooting this culture of death; these wounds never go away. The heart-wrenching pain of these victims, which cries out to heaven, was long ignored, kept quiet or silenced. But their outcry was more powerful than all the measures meant to silence it, or sought even to resolve it by decisions that increased its gravity by falling into complicity. The Lord heard that cry and once again showed us on which side he stands. Mary's song is not mistaken and continues quietly to echo throughout history. For the Lord remembers the promise he made to our fathers: “he has scattered the proud in their conceit; he has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty” (*Lk 1:51-53*). We feel shame when we realize that our style of life has denied, and continues to deny, the words we recite.

With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives. We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them. I make my own the words of the then Cardinal Ratzinger when, during the Way of the Cross composed for Good Friday 2005, he identified with the cry of pain of so many victims and exclaimed: “How much filth there is in the Church, and even among those who, in the priesthood, ought to belong entirely to [Christ]! How much pride, how much self-complacency! Christ's betrayal by his disciples, their unworthy reception of his body and blood, is certainly the greatest

suffering endured by the Redeemer; it pierces his heart. We can only call to him from the depths of our hearts: *Kyrie eleison* – Lord, save us! (cf. *Mt 8:25*)” (Ninth Station).

2. ... all suffer together with it

The extent and the gravity of all that has happened requires coming to grips with this reality in a comprehensive and communal way. While it is important and necessary on every journey of conversion to acknowledge the truth of what has happened, in itself this is not enough. Today we are challenged as the People of God to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit. If, in the past, the response was one of omission, today we want solidarity, in the deepest and most challenging sense, to become our way of forging present and future history. And this in an environment where conflicts, tensions and above all the victims of every type of abuse can encounter an outstretched hand to protect them and rescue them from their pain (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 228). Such solidarity demands that we in turn condemn whatever endangers the integrity of any person. A solidarity that summons us to fight all forms of corruption, especially spiritual corruption. The latter is “a comfortable and self-satisfied form of blindness. Everything then appears acceptable: deception, slander, egotism and other subtle forms of self-centeredness, for ‘even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light’ (*2 Cor 11:14*)” (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 165). Saint Paul’s exhortation to suffer with those who suffer is the best antidote against all our attempts to repeat the words of Cain: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (*Gen 4:9*).

I am conscious of the effort and work being carried out in various parts of the world to come up with the necessary means to ensure the safety and protection of the integrity of children and of vulnerable adults, as well as implementing zero tolerance and ways of making all those who perpetrate or cover up these crimes accountable. We have delayed in applying these actions and sanctions that are so necessary, yet I am confident that they will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and future.

Together with those efforts, every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does. For as Saint John Paul II liked to say: “If we have truly started out anew from the contemplation of Christ, we must learn to see him especially in the faces of those with whom he wished to be identified” (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 49). To see things as the Lord does, to be where the Lord wants us to be, to experience a conversion of heart in his presence. To do so, prayer and penance will help. I invite the entire holy faithful People of God to a *penitential exercise of prayer and fasting*, following the Lord’s command.[1] This can awaken our conscience and arouse our solidarity and commitment to a culture of care that says “never again” to every form of abuse.

It is impossible to think of a conversion of our activity as a Church that does not include the active participation of all the members of God’s People. Indeed, whenever we have tried to replace, or silence, or ignore, or reduce the People of God to small elites, we end up creating communities, projects, theological approaches, spiritualities and structures without roots, without memory, without faces, without bodies and ultimately,

without lives.[2] This is clearly seen in a peculiar way of understanding the Church's authority, one common in many communities where sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience have occurred. Such is the case with clericalism, an approach that "not only nullifies the character of Christians, but also tends to diminish and undervalue the baptismal grace that the Holy Spirit has placed in the heart of our people".[3] Clericalism, whether fostered by priests themselves or by lay persons, leads to an excision in the ecclesial body that supports and helps to perpetuate many of the evils that we are condemning today. To say "no" to abuse is to say an emphatic "no" to all forms of clericalism.

It is always helpful to remember that "in salvation history, the Lord saved one people. We are never completely ourselves unless we belong to a people. That is why no one is saved alone, as an isolated individual. Rather, God draws us to himself, taking into account the complex fabric of interpersonal relationships present in the human community. God wanted to enter into the life and history of a people" (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 6). Consequently, the only way that we have to respond to this evil that has darkened so many lives is to experience it as a task regarding all of us as the People of God. This awareness of being part of a people and a shared history will enable us to acknowledge our past sins and mistakes with a penitential openness that can allow us to be renewed from within. Without the active participation of all the Church's members, everything being done to uproot the culture of abuse in our communities will not be successful in generating the necessary dynamics for sound and realistic change. The penitential dimension of fasting and prayer will help us as God's People to come before the Lord and our wounded brothers and sisters as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion. In this way, we will come up with actions that can generate resources attuned to the Gospel. For "whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 11).

It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion.

Likewise, penance and prayer will help us to open our eyes and our hearts to other people's sufferings and to overcome the thirst for power and possessions that are so often the root of those evils. May fasting and prayer open our ears to the hushed pain felt by children, young people and the disabled. A fasting that can make us hunger and thirst for justice and impel us to walk in the truth, supporting all the judicial measures that may be necessary. A fasting that shakes us up and leads us to be committed in truth and charity with all men and women of good will, and with society in general, to combatting all forms of the abuse of power, sexual abuse and the abuse of conscience.

In this way, we can show clearly our calling to be “a sign and instrument of communion with God and of the unity of the entire human race” (*Lumen Gentium*, 1).

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it”, said Saint Paul. By an attitude of prayer and penance, we will become attuned as individuals and as a community to this exhortation, so that we may grow in the gift of compassion, in justice, prevention and reparation. Mary chose to stand at the foot of her Son’s cross. She did so unhesitatingly, standing firmly by Jesus’ side. In this way, she reveals the way she lived her entire life. When we experience the desolation caused by these ecclesial wounds, we will do well, with Mary, “to insist more upon prayer”, seeking to grow all the more in love and fidelity to the Church (Saint Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises*, 319). She, the first of the disciples, teaches all of us as disciples how we are to halt before the sufferings of the innocent, without excuses or cowardice. To look to Mary is to discover the model of a true follower of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit grant us the grace of conversion and the interior anointing needed to express before these crimes of abuse our compunction and our resolve courageously to combat them.

FRANCIS

*Vatican City, 20 August 2018*