

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MINUTES

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**Provincial Council Meeting
Darien, Illinois
December 4, 2021
Minutes**

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

Opening Prayer: Carl J. Markelz opened the Council Meeting with an Advent prayer.

Approval for Diaconate Ordination

Carl Markelz, in consultation with the Provincial Council, approved the following men for ordination to the diaconate: Santos Antolino Méndez Ramirez, Henry Mauricio Cienfuegos Ostorga, and Daniel Ulises González Cabrera. They will be ordained to the diaconate on January 29, 2022, in El Salvador.

Assignments

Santos Antolino Méndez Ramirez	Diaconal Ministry at La Transfiguración del Señor Parish, Torreón, Mexico, February 1-June 30, 2022.
Henry Mauricio Cienfuegos Ostorga	Diaconal Ministry at St. Agnes Parish, Phoenix, AZ, February 1-June 30, 2022
Daniel Ulises González Cabrera	Diaconal Ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Fairfield, CA, February 1-March 15, 2022; Diaconal Ministry at Nuestra Señora de Lourdes Parish, Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador, March 15-December 31, 2022.
José Arístides Menjivar Larios	Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Joliet, IL; effective February 1, 2022.

Honduras Foundation

The Provincial Council reviewed a correspondence from Bishop Walter Guillén Soto, SDB, of the Diocese of Gracias, Honduras, to Carl J. Markelz, welcoming the Carmelite community to our new foundation in Yamaranguila. The Council also reviewed a correspondence from Alfredo Guillen to Carl and to the other future members of the Yamaranguila community regarding his current activities in the parish.

Torreón, Mexico Financial Report

The Provincial Council reviewed a financial report from Roger Stanley Melara Mondragón regarding numerous projects undertaken at the Parish of La Transfiguración del Señor in Torreón, Mexico. Gregorio Vázquez began these renovations, and Roger shared with the Council a very thorough and detailed report. We thank him for his professionalism and good stewardship.

Donations

The Province sent \$10,000 to the Carmelite Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Philippines. We will also be considering a proposal soon from the Carmelites in East Timor.

Current Vocation Initiatives in the US and Canada

David McEvoy gave a brief presentation to the Provincial Council on present efforts to promote vocations in the United States and Canada. Two vocation prospects attended the “Into the Land of Carmel” retreat/seminar held in Darien, IL in July 2021. One of these candidates is associated with the OCD Reno, NV Carmel. David visited him in Reno, October 5-8, and he is serious in his discernment with us.

Since August, we have received approximately 75 inquiries, whose names we have received primarily from national services. Responses have been low after contacting these inquirers. A number of these men have visited the Darien campus and others have been in contact with us through video conference calls.

Roberto Mejia and Roberto Reyes, Vocation Commission members, have initiated a monthly video vocation chat on-line, called “Carmelite Heart to Heart.”

Plans are to have this chat take place on the first Saturday of the month for no longer than an hour. The first chat on November 6 introduced John Welch as a presenter. The second chat on December 4 introduced Filiberto Oregel as a presenter. Over 50 inquirers were sent personal e-mail invitations to each of these chats. One man attended the November chat and four the December one. These connections between inquirers and our men in formation are critical and we hope that this endeavor, patterned after the vocation efforts in El Salvador, will reap benefits in the long run.

A “Come and See” Weekend was held in Leavenworth and Scipio, Kansas, November 19-21. Both Roberto Reyes and Roberto Mejia met with the two inquirers attending the weekend from Houston, TX, along with David McEvoy, Jerry Williams, and David Simpson. A trip to Scipio was included with a presentation on Carmelite spirituality by David Simpson, and an opportunity to spend some time in prayer in the Carmelite hermitages there. The inquirers also had an opportunity to interact with parishioners in Leavenworth at Saturday and Sunday Masses.

Gregory Houck has been working for some time to unveil a new, more “vocation friendly” website that will be up and running soon. This website will include videos of our men that have been taped by Greg. Also, new vocation literature is being produced. All 14 US and Canadian pastors were notified of a new video presentation by Roberto Mejia for National Vocation Awareness Week, November 7-13, 2021. Every man in the Province will be receiving a vocation mailing by the end of the year.

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

Daryl gave a report to the Provincial Council regarding the recent activities at the Center for Carmelite Studies at Catholic University of America. Work has finally begun on the Center’s website, and the hope is for it to “go live” in February 2022. Daryl has been working with a student group of men and women at CUA called “Paths to Spiritual Maturity,” which has been proven to be very popular.

The Center for Carmelite Studies has formed a committee to celebrate the upcoming canonization of Blessed Titus Brandsma, and to promote his spirituality. The fact that Blessed Titus gave a lecture on mysticism at Catholic University in 1935 has animated the group to promote a number of events at CUA. More information will be forthcoming as the date for the canonization is announced.

PCM Formation Commission

The PCM Formation Commission met in Cresskill, NJ, on October 22, 2021. At each meeting the Commission reviews provincial vocation efforts in the United States and Canada, Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador, as well as receiving a report of the men in formation in Pre-Novitiate, Novitiate, Internship, and Theological Studies in the various regions of the Province. As of this meeting, there were 67 men in our Province's formation program, 30 at the Pre-novitiate level, 8 in the Novitiate, 11 on Internship, and 18 in Post-Novitiate Studies. Currently, 26 men in our formation program are in El Salvador, 21 in the United States, 13 in Peru, and 7 in Mexico. Of the 67 men in formation, 25 are from El Salvador, 22 are from Mexico, 7 are from the USA, 7 from Peru, 2 from Venezuela, and 2 from Nicaragua, and 1 each from Guatemala, and Honduras.

The Commission evaluated the Carmelite Studies Program held August 11-15, 2021, at Whitefriars Hall in Washington, DC, and discussed plans for the upcoming Carmelite Studies Program to be held January 6-9, 2022.

It was discussed that it would be helpful for the intern supervisors to have a zoom conference video discussion at some point in the future to discuss current issues of concern among the interns and their supervisors.

A great deal of this meeting was dedicated to making changes to the Formation Manual, and to be ready to present these modifications at the Inter-provincial Formation Commission meeting held October 23, 2021, in Harrison NJ.

Other topics addressed included a more creative format for future Formation Commission Meetings, novitiate options for Mexican Pre-Novices, issues regarding allowances for those in formation, the possibility of hosting a future Carmelite Studies Program in Latin America, and the need to identify and train future formators. It was noted that the International Carmelite "Generation Z Workshop" would be held, Monday-Friday, November 15-19, 2021. Little information had been received by Commission members at this time.

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission

The Provincial Council reviewed a summary from the JPIC of the numerous Laudato Si' discussions that were held throughout the Province in September and October 2021. It was noted that the men of the Province had taken a very serious look at their ability to implement concrete local changes to promote a healthier world environment. The Council also decided to extend an invitation to Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O.Carm., to attend the Pre-Chapter Regional Meetings

in Tucson, AZ and Darien, IL in 2022, to give in-person presentations to our men in regard to the challenges of climate change and Laudato Si'. It was the hope of the Council that Eduardo would be able to give presentations to other groups of Carmelites while in the United States.

November Priors' Meeting, (Community Life Commission)

Carl Markelz and David McEvoy met with the Priors of the PCM Province by Lifesize Video Conference on November 2, 2021. Carl introduced Aida Reynolds, the new Executive Assistant at the Provincial Office, to the priors. Aida, who is bi-lingual, was born in Guatemala, came to the United States as a child, and grew up in Chicago. She served in the US Air Force, where she met her husband of over 30 years. They have two adult children. Aida began her employment at the Provincial Office on October 25.

Carl reported to the priors that we now have 163 members in the PCM Province. Of this number approximately 33% are of Latino descent, and these are the youngest members of the Province. Currently our Retirement Trust includes only those from the United States and Canada. As our brothers in Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador begin to age, it will be important that they are also covered in our financial planning for our senior members. This will be a topic for future deliberations of the Retirement Plan Trustees Board.

Carl asked the priors to comment on the various community discussions that were held since the last Priors' Meeting regarding the JPIC's request to discuss the Carmelite NGO Document on "14 Little Changes of Behavior." Each of the priors gave a synopsis of their community discussions.

Carl reminded the priors that the June 6-9, 2022, Regional Meeting, previously scheduled for the Carmelite Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls has been moved to the Darien campus. The May 31-June 3, 2022, Meeting, scheduled at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, will remain the same. Carl stated that the spiritual centers in Darien and Niagara Falls were able to make these adjustments.

Carl informed the priors that Adriana Dominguez of Praesidium will be giving a three hour presentation at both of the Regional Meetings to help us fulfill part of our Praesidium requirements for ongoing accreditation. Carl also mentioned that the JPIC was suggesting a presentation be given by Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O.Carm. of Argentina, who was part of a committee that consulted with Pope Francis on Laudato Si'. The 2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission will also be

making a presentation. Carl also asked the priors to make suggestions of topics that they felt should be addressed at the Regional Meetings.

Health Commission

The Provincial Health Commission consisting of Carl Markelz, Joseph Atcher, and Marina Rosenbaum met at the Provincial Office in Darien, with Myron Judy joining by Zoom Video Conference on December 1, 2021. The members discussed the health status of over 20 men of the Province with 11 men currently in nursing homes.

Prayer and Liturgy Commission

The Prayer and Liturgy Commission has announced the availability of Evening Prayer I and Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer II for the Sundays of Advent on the CarmelPrays website. Thanks to the Commission for making prayer opportunities available to the Carmelite Family. The link: www.carmelprays.com

Lay Carmelite Commission

The Lay Carmelite Commission met November 9-11, 2021. The Lay Carmelites have initiated a new organization of five newly appointed Provincial Visitation Coordinators to conduct a new visitation process with our Lay Carmelite Communities.

Monastery of Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Board

The Board of the Monastery of Mount Carmel met on November 11, 2021. Auditors from Letourneau & Hindo gave a presentation on Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, the Society of the Little Flower, and the Monastery Solar Corporation. Ted Disabato gave a presentation on the portfolio and the group voted on a proposed investment allocation that is managed by our Finance Commission. There were also updates on our current financial status and future capital improvements. The Monastery of Mount Carmel is in good financial shape even with the challenges of the pandemic.

International On-line Carmelite “Generation Z Workshop”

Daryl Moresco, Chuy Paz, and Nepi Willemsen all attended the on-line International Carmelite “Generation Z Workshop” held for three hours per day for five days, November 15-19, for Carmelites in Europe and the Americas. The program repeated the following week from November 22-26, for those in Asia, Africa, and Australia. Daryl, Chuy, and Nepi all felt the input was very good. Ken

Pino, Provincial Director of Marketing and Communications, coordinated the event around the world for both weeks. Because of the time zone differences the second week, a great amount of work was required in the early morning hours USA time. It was agreed that there was more input from Generation Z participants in the Asia, Africa, Australia component. Carl stated that the Curia need to realize that financial compensation for media experts during these programs should be taken into account for future undertakings of this sort.

Communications from the Curia in Rome

Carl Markelz shared a correspondence from Christian Körner in Rome, thanking the Province for the recent gift of \$50,000 from the PCM Province for immediate needs at both the Center for International Studies at San Alberto and at the Curia. Miceal O’Neill had written the Priors Provincial of the Order informing them that the next General Congregation would be held in Rome in September 2022. The specific dates in September, however, have not been set. With the approval of Pope Francis for the miracle of Blessed Titus Brandsma, the Order now awaits the announcement of the date of the canonization.

Future Dates:

December 7-9	Six-month Evaluations of Novices, Middletown, NY
December 10	2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission Meeting *
December 20	Annual Meeting of Carmelites from Mexico *
January 4-7	Annual Meeting of the Peruvian Commissariat
January 6-9	Carmelite Studies Program, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC
January 7	Simple Profession of Novices, Lurín, Peru
January 8	Diaconate Ordination of Roberto Mejia, Washington, DC
January 11	Priors’ Meeting *
January 14	2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission Meeting *
January 20	Annual Meeting of Carmelites from El Salvador *
Jan. 25-Feb. 1	Provincial Council Visitation to El Salvador
January 28	Solemn Professions—El Salvador
January 29	Diaconate and Priestly Ordinations—El Salvador
January 30	First Mass Celebrations—El Salvador
Feb. 1	Official Transfer of St. Lucia Parish, Yamaranguila, Honduras to PCM Province
Feb. 20-23	Secondary Schools Commission Meeting, Encino, CA

March 4 2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission Meeting *
March 4-6 Vocation Commission Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico
March 23-24 Provincial Council Meeting, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC
March 25 PCM Formation Commission Meeting, WFH—DC
March 26 Interprovincial Formation Commission Meeting, WFH—DC

*Via Zoom Video Conference

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.

Board of Members
Salpointe Catholic High School, Tucson, Arizona
December 4, 2021
Minutes

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

The Board of Members reviewed the minutes of the November 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors of Salpointe Catholic High School. Enrollment for the fall semester at Salpointe was 1248 students. The school projects an enrollment of 1239 by the end of the semester with various withdrawals and transfers. The projected 1239 number is still significantly higher than the budgeted number of 1170.

Salpointe’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is composed of about 20 faculty and staff members. Seven working groups are examining how the school lives out its mission statement, and specifically focuses on how it honors the dignity of every person.

Salpointe continues to follow guidelines recommended by public health officials in regard to COVID-19. Masks are required indoors, but are optional outdoors. There have been about 45 student COVID-19 cases and three outbreaks since August 9. About 30 percent of these cases have been in vaccinated students.

After opening the principal’s position this past fall, with the goal of filling the permanent position mid-year, Kay Sullivan and her committee (composed of 15 Salpointe faculty and staff members, a Board of Director’s member, a Carmelite, and a Diocese of Tucson representative), determined that it would be best to appoint another interim principal for the spring semester, while posting the opening nationally. Kay Sullivan proposes that Mr. Michael Urbanski be appointed to the role of interim principal for the Spring 2022 semester.

The Board of Directors approved the above proposal with the blessing of the Board of Members.

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.