

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MINUTES

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**Provincial Council Meeting
Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC
March 23-24, 2022
Minutes**

Present at Whitefriars Hall: Carl J. Markelz, O.Carm., David McEvoy, O.Carm., Daryl Moresco, O.Carm., Gregory Houck, O.Carm., Luis Jesús “Chuy” Paz Acosta, O.Carm., and Rolf “Nepi” Willemsen, O.Carm.

Opening Prayer

The Provincial Council Meeting on March 23 opened with “Pope Francis’ Prayer for an End to the War in Ukraine,” led by Daryl Moresco.

Assignments

Michael Joyce	Parochial Vicar, St. Therese Parish, Cresskill, NJ Provincial Vocation Promoter (Effective July 1, 2022)
David McGinnis	House Manager and Treasurer, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC (Effective July 1, 2022)
Santos Cecilio Hernández Carranza	Parish Administrator, Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador (Effective March 10, 2022)
Daniel Ulises González Cabrera	Director of the Asociación de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, El Salvador (Effective immediately)
Paul Henson	Prior and Residence at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory, Tucson, AZ (Effective April 1, 2022)
Edgar Lopez	Residence at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory, Tucson, AZ, (effective April 1, 2022)

Consolidation of Tucson Communities

After consultation with Carl Markelz, Paul Henson discussed with Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Tucson, AZ, the possibility of the Carmelites, who are serving at St. Cyril of Alexandria Parish and at Salpointe Catholic High School, residing together at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory at the Salpointe site. The Bishop approved this idea, as did the Provincial Council at this meeting, *ad experimentum*. Therefore, the Carmelites at St. Cyril of Alexandria Parish will relocate to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory as of April 1, 2022.

Approval for Simple Profession

After reviewing the nine-month evaluation of the novices in Middletown, NY, the Provincial Council approved the following novices for simple profession on June 13, 2022: Victor Hugo Andrade Aguilar, José Guadalupe Ayala García, and José Carlos Gordillo García.

Provincial Financial Report

Elias O'Brien, O.Carm., Provincial Treasurer, joined the Provincial Council for a discussion on the finances of the Province. Brian Gawel, Director of Finance, (via Zoom Video Conference) provided an update to the Provincial Council on provincial financial matters for the eight-month period ending February 28, 2022. The following was discussed:

A review of the income statement of the Province reflects a surplus of approximately \$225,000 related to member operations for the eight-month period. The expectation is that this will transition to a deficit by June 30, 2022, as the last quarter of the fiscal year typically results in more cash outflow than inflow.

A summary of the investment portfolio was provided to the Provincial Council. The portfolio through February 28, 2022, has incurred an approximate loss of 3%, which is quite good considering all that is happening globally. It is expected that the Province will be withdrawing \$1,000,000 from the portfolio in the last quarter of the fiscal year for cash flow needs. Through February 28, 2022, there has been a net cash outflow of \$1,836,120 from the portfolio.

A review of the capital expenditures and provincial projects of the Province was undertaken with the Provincial Council. To date, capital expenditures total \$356,125 and provincial projects total \$569,700. The largest active projects in the Province are at Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC, and at St. Cecilia's Parish, Englewood, NJ.

Both the Finance Commission and the Provincial Council recommend that the loan receivable on the books of the Province due from the Parish of La Transfiguración del Señor, Torreón, Mexico, totaling \$1,028,735, will be written off. It is not realistic that collection of this loan will be realized from the parish.

Plante & Moran, our audit firm, provided a draft report related to their services performed in El Salvador. Brian Gawel and Elias O'Brien will have a discussion with Plante & Moran concerning the report and the next steps to be taken, with a formal report to be provided to the Finance Commission at their next meeting in May.

Budget forms for the Fiscal Year 2023 will be sent to the members of the Province in early April.

March Priors' Meeting

The Provincial Council reviewed the minutes of the March 8, 2022, Priors' Meeting which was held via Zoom Video Conference. Topics discussed with the priors included the announcement of the canonization of Titus Brandsma, the establishment of our new foundation in Honduras, the schedule for the upcoming Regional Meetings in Tucson and Darien, the death of David Blanchard in El Salvador, the March Vocation Discernment Weekend at Whitefriars Hall, and ways to send funds to Carmelites in Poland to aid refugees from the war in Ukraine.

Carmelite Vocation Retreat Weekend

David McEvoy gave the Provincial Council a report on the March 11-13 Carmelite Vocation Discernment Retreat held at Whitefriars Hall. Six men from Ontario, Massachusetts, Illinois, Florida, Georgia, and Texas attended the retreat, ranging in ages from 24 to 33. The team hosting the retreat included Michael Joyce, Roberto Mejia, and Roberto Reyes. The Whitefriars Hall community extended excellent hospitality to the retreatants.

Patron of the Yamaranguila, Honduras Community

The Provincial Council reviewed a letter from Thomas Jordan, Prior of the Carmelites in Yamaranguila, Honduras. At a house meeting on March 4, 2022, the community unanimously decided to be named the Blessed John Soreth community.

Elijah/Elisha Ongoing Formation Program

The Provincial Council reviewed information concerning the Elijah/Elisha Ongoing Formation Program for those Carmelites in their first five years of ministry after completing initial formation. This includes solemnly professed brothers having completed initial formation and priests following their ordination. Daryl Moresco will oversee this program. The program includes a mentoring relationship organized for those in their first two years of ministry after initial formation, as well as an annual gathering of those in their first five years of ministry.

St. Teresa of Avila, San Francisco, Community Energy Report

The Provincial Council reviewed an energy report from the St. Teresa Avila Community in San Francisco, CA. The Council affirms the efforts of the community to limit greenhouse gas emissions and lower overall energy costs in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*.

Carmelite Secondary Schools Sponsorship Study Report

The Provincial Council reviewed a report by Thomas Batsis regarding his study of sponsorship in Carmelite secondary schools. The study was requested by the Provincial Council in the summer of 2021 to evaluate the level of programming activities in our schools, specifically regarding sharing the Carmelite charism. For the purposes of this study, sponsorship was defined as the efforts of a religious community to infuse those ministries operated by the Order with the institute's charism. The Carmelite charism is embedded in the rich treasure of Carmelite values, symbols and writings, and exemplary lives of the Carmelite saints. The report states: "Where the decision has been made to hire lay staff as replacements for priests, brothers, and sisters, there has been a felt need to institute a program to educate lay members in the history, purposes, and charism of the sponsoring body. Thus, a program known as sponsorship was mounted to address this issue."

During October and November 2021, Tom visited the following six high schools: Mount Carmel High School, Chicago, IL (578 students); Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet, IL (596 students); Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein, IL (1087 students); Salpointe Catholic High School, Tucson, AZ (1250 students); Crespi Carmelite High School, Encino, CA (460 students); and St. Francis De Sales High School, Louisville, KY (350 students). (De Sales, which was originally a Carmelite high school, was turned back to the Archdiocese of Louisville in 1987. The administrators have indicated a desire to have some sort of affiliation with the Carmelites.)

Tom offered twelve recommendations after his study of these schools:

- 1) Develop a Province-wide sponsorship program for our high schools
- 2) Appoint a Director of Sponsorship
- 3) Develop written and electronic program materials related to the Carmelite charism that can be made available to schools
- 4) Develop a budget and identify funding to support a provincial office of sponsorship
- 5) Develop evaluation tools that help to assess the quality of the program
- 6) Appoint a Director of Carmelite Secondary Schools
- 7) Develop programming to increase greater awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion issues as they impact our high schools and emphasize the connectedness of these issues to the Carmelite charism
- 8) Encourage the Carmelite secondary school principals to engage in a monthly conference call
- 9) Promote a monthly conference call for Carmelite school advancement directors
- 10) Focus one of the yearly meetings of the Carmelite Schools Commission on Admissions and Communications
- 11) Schedule quarterly or semi-annual conference call meetings of the chairs of the Carmelite schools Board of Directors
- 12) Schedule a yearly gathering of student representatives from each Carmelite school.

Carmelite Secondary Schools Commission

Carl Markelz presented a summary of the Carmelite Secondary Schools Commission meeting, hosted by Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, CA, February 20-22, 2022. Presidents, Principals, and Directors of Advancement and Development of our Carmelite schools attended. Topics included school culture, advancement, curriculum, and sponsorship issues, leadership coaching, and strategic planning. A tour of the Crespi campus was given, including a visit to the new aquatic center.

May 15 Canonization of Titus Brandsma

The Provincial Council reviewed a letter from the Prior General, Míceál O'Neill, to Carl Markelz, thanking the Province for a gift of \$25,000 to help finance the canonization celebrations of Titus Brandsma. Funds from the PCM Province are being used to bring Carmelites from the Philippines and Colombia to Rome for the celebration, as these jurisdictions of the Order bear the name of our new saint. Funds from the Province's gift will also be used to finance an exhibition on Titus Brandsma and various publications.

Carl also announced that the Province will be funding two Carmelite “Scrilli” sisters (Istituto di Nostra Signora del Carmelo) from Washington, DC, to attend the canonization in Rome.

Center for Carmelite Studies

Daryl Moresco gave the Provincial Council an updated report on the Center for Carmelite Studies. The Center has enjoyed some remarkable activity in the past several months sponsoring and co-hosting various activities and programs. With the exciting news that Blessed Titus Brandsma will be canonized on May 15, the Center organized three lectures called the “Brandsma Lecture Series.” In addition, the brothers at Whitefriars Hall have hosted a series called “Paths to Spiritual Maturity” which focused on various Carmelite saints and Carmelite *Lectio Divina* as part of an ongoing program for students on campus.

The Certificate in Carmelite Studies continues to make its way through the approval process which will enable doctoral students at Catholic University to receive an academic qualification in this field and identify promising candidates for financial support for studies in the Carmelite tradition. We have also become the recipient of a generous benefactor who is contributing to a newly established scholarship.

Several courses are already being taught now and more will be available in the next academic year. In addition to the two Carmelite History courses, offerings will be on John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, and Elijah. Steven Payne is also teaching a course on Mystical Theology.

The Center for Carmelite Studies’ new website will be launched soon.

Through the generosity of the Carmelitana Collection at Whitefriars Hall, and various other sources, including donations from the Elysburg Carmel, The Center has been the beneficiary of many Carmelite books.

Steven Payne and Daryl Moresco also related that they are often approached to give Carmelite presentations both on and off campus. Most recently Steven is giving several virtual talks entitled “The Carmelite Mystics during Lent.” Daryl has given classes on Spiritual Direction in the Carmelite Tradition and continues to participate in the spiritual direction practicums.

Sr. Libby Dahlstrom Retirement

Sister Libby Dahlstrom, O.Carm., Associate Delegate for the Lay Carmelites, will be retiring April 30, 2022, from her position with the Lay Carmelite Office in Darien, IL, after completing 25 years of service to the Order and to the Province. The Provincial Council thanks Libby for her ministry these many years, and wishes her every blessing as she returns to the sisters in Louisiana.

Construction at La Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, El Salvador

The Provincial Council approved funding of \$100,000 for improvements at the Nuestra Señora de Lourdes Priory in Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador. This construction of four bedrooms and four bathrooms will be part of a second floor renovation to the present priory, allowing for the presence of a Carmelite community at the parish site.

Changes in Canon Law

The Provincial Council reviewed a correspondence from Emmett Gavin, O.Carm., concerning a new “motu proprio” (some revised norms in Canon Law), recently promulgated by Pope Francis. The document, *Competentias Quasdam Decernere*, concerns issues of departure, dismissal, and exclaustation.

Minutes of the Ninth Annual Assembly of the Peruvian Commissariat

The Provincial Council reviewed the minutes of the Ninth Annual Assembly of the Peruvian Commissariat, which was held in Lurín, Peru, January 4-7, 2022. Eighteen Carmelites in solemn vows attended the assembly including Carl Markelz and Chuy Paz. This year marks 73 years since the first PCM Carmelites arrived in Lima to minister there. Currently members of the Commissariat minister in three parishes, three secondary schools, a retreat center, and two houses of formation.

Minutes of the Inter-Provincial Lay Carmelite Commission Meeting

The Provincial Council reviewed the minutes of the Inter-Provincial Lay Carmelite Meeting of November 9-11, 2021. This meeting, by Zoom video conference, brought together Lay Carmelite leaders from both the PCM and SEL Provinces, residing in New York, Florida, Illinois, North Dakota, and California. All statutes in the revised *Carmel's Call* were approved by both Provincial Councils of the PCM and SEL Provinces. Plans are already underway for the next Lay Carmelite Convocation scheduled for June 27-29, 2025, at Catholic University of America in

Washington, DC. The Theme for the Convocation will be *“The Carmelite Family: A Timeless Tapestry.”*

Since Sister Libby Dahlstrom, O.Carm., who is retiring from the Lay Carmelite Office on April 30, 2022, is no longer doing visitations in the PCM Province to Lay Carmelite communities, a Provincial Visitation Council has been formed serving as a liaison between the Regional Coordinator and Regional Formation Coordinator teams and the Lay Carmelite Office. The members of the Provincial Visitation Council are Kathleen Richardville, chair (Florida), Doug Buschman, co-chair (Washington, DC), Lourdes Crabtree (Canada), Linda Thomas (Texas), and Patty Whitlock, (South Carolina).

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission Meeting

The Provincial Council reviewed the minutes of the February 5, 2022, meeting of the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission. A summary of JPIC grants for 2021 was reviewed. \$64,585 in Carmelite Charity Funds (CCF) were granted, with \$59,263 in Carmelite Human Development Funds (CHDF) granted, for a total of \$123,848. \$26,152 remained for the JPIC Emergency Fund.

The 2022 JPIC grants, approved by the Provincial Council, included \$57,600 from the Carmelite Charity Fund, and \$42,300 from the Carmelite Human Development Fund, totaling \$99,900 in allocations. This will leave \$50,100 in this year’s Emergency Fund. Please see **Appendix A** for information on specific grants.

2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission Update

Gregory Houck, Co-Chair of the 2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission gave the Provincial Council an update on plans for the 2023 Chapter to be held in Darien, IL, June 20-23, 2023. The Theme for the Chapter will be “Who is my neighbor?” “Quien es mi prójimo?” A trifold “pamphlet with information on the Chapter will be distributed at the Tucson and Darien Regional Meetings. Registration for the Chapter will be available on-line as of January 1, 2023.

World Youth Day 2023

Chuy Paz informed the Provincial Council of plans for members of JUCAR (Young Carmelites) of El Salvador to attend the 2023 World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, August 1-6, 2023. A pilgrimage is being planned from July 18-August 9, including visits to Madrid, Segovia, Avila, Salamanca, Lisbon, and Fatima.

Brandsma Lecture at Catholic University

The Provincial Council closed our meetings by attending a lecture by Diane M. Traflet, JD, STD, on March 24 at the Catholic University of America, entitled “Generous Love in a Dark Tunnel: The Priestly Ministry of Prisoner Fr. Titus Brandsma.” The presentation was the second in a series of lectures on Titus Brandsma sponsored by the Center for Carmelite Studies.

Future Dates:

April 5	Parish Commission Meeting*
April 25-27	Inter-Provincial Lay Carmelite Commission Meeting, Darien, IL
April 28	Retirement Trust Board Meeting, Darien, IL
May 5	Diaconate Ordination of Evir Zambrano, José Gálvez, Peru
May 6	Provincial Council Meeting, Darien, IL*
May 10	Priors’ Meeting, Darien, IL*
May 12	Monastery of Mount Carmel Board Meeting, the Solar Corporation Board Meeting, and the Monastery Cellars Corporation Board Meeting, Niagara Falls, ON
May 14	Priestly Ordination of Michael Joyce, Darien, IL
May 15	Canonization of Titus Brandsma, Rome
May 24	Carmelite Institute Board Meeting, Washington, DC
May 31-June 3	Regional Meeting, Tucson, AZ
June 6-9	Regional Meeting, Darien, IL
June 12	North American Regional Meeting of PCM & SEL Councils, Middletown, NY
June 12	Reception of Novices, Middletown, NY
June 13	Simple Profession, Middletown, NY
July 9	Priestly Ordinations of Antolino Mendez & Henry Cienfuegos, Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador
July 10-15	“Into the Land of Carmel” Symposium, Darien, IL
July 22	Provincial Council Meeting, Darien, IL*
August 17-21	Carmelite Studies Program, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC

*By Zoom Conference Call

The Provincial Council thanks the Whitefriars Hall community for their gracious hospitality to us during our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.

Board of Members
Salpointe Catholic High School, Tucson, Arizona
March 23, 2022
Minutes

Present at Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC: Carl J. Markelz, O.Carm., David McEvoy, O.Carm., Daryl Moresco, O.Carm., Gregory Houck, O.Carm., Luis Jesús “Chuy” Paz Acosta, O.Carm., and Rolf “Nepi” Willemsen, O.Carm.

The Board of Members reviewed a March 12, 2022, correspondence from Salpointe Catholic High School President, Kay Sullivan, to Carl Markelz and the Board of Members.

Since the departure of Sister Helen Timothy, IBVM, in December 2019, two interim principals have served at Salpointe Catholic High School, Mr. Keith Gibalski and Mr. Mike Urbanski. An 18-person selection committee was organized to hire a new full-time permanent principal to start on July 1, 2022. The Committee included Fr. Paul Henson, O.Carm., Ms. Sheri Dahl, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Tucson, Ms. Tracy Cracchiolo, Vice Chair of the Salpointe Board of Directors, representatives from all ten academic departments, as well as leadership in Student Services and Advancement.

As of March 10, 2022, Ardemis Teresa Martin was chosen by the Board of Directors to be Salpointe’s new principal. Ms. Martin is a practicing Catholic, has her principal certificate, has a MA degree in Education Leadership, has four years of experience as a principal, two years as assistant principal and three years as an instructional coach at Legacy Traditional School, a K-8 school of 1370 students. Prior to that she taught science at St. Cyril of Alexandria School in Tucson for six years.

Having reviewed the above information, the Board of Members unanimously approved the appointment of Ardemis Teresa Martin by the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.

APPENDIX A

Approved 2022 Grant Applications

ID	CCF	Request	JPIC Recommendation	Comments
1	Paradise Transitional Housing program, Nelson Belizario	\$5,000	\$5,000	For hats, coats, socks, undergarments, hygiene, client travel
2	Salpointe Remedial Education, Emmanuel Franco Gomez	\$15,000	\$10,000	Commission supported this new initiative for 10,000 not the full 15,000 requested. The funding deficit for this program is 17,500 so the 10000 will reduce this deficit significantly.
4	St. Agnes, Lunch and tuition assistance, Brad Peterson	\$5,000	\$5,000	For cost of uniforms
5	Unidad de Salud, Santa Lucia, Alfredo Guillen	\$12,000	\$12,000	Coordinate with health unit of city joint education and medical campaigns
6	Food for the neighborhoods, Parroquia la Inmaculada Concepcion, Jim Geaney	\$10,000	\$10,000	Repeat of 2021 Charity grant application. Commission decided to approve the application because of the ongoing need. The report for the 2021 grant showed the monies were used as indicated in the 2021 application. Report for the 2021 Grant
7	Soup Kitchen, parroquia de la Transfiguración del Señor, Rogelio Garcia	\$3,100	\$3,100	Follow up of 2021 Human Development Grant, this time as a Charity grant. The report for the 2021 was detailed indicating the monies were used as requested. The report indicates development of the soup kitchen. Report for the 2021 Grant Detailed Information
8	OLMC St. Vincent de Paul, Patrick Gavin	\$7,500	\$7,500	Repeat of 2021 Charity grant application. Commission decided to approve the application because of ongoing need. The report for the 2021 grant was detailed and showed the monies were used as indicated in the 2021 application. Report for the 2021 Grant Detailed Budget Info
9	Our Lady Guadalupe Monastery, Items for the Homeless, Ron Oakham	\$5,000	\$5,000	Basic needs for homeless: socks, gloves, hygiene items, hot meal
	CCF Total	\$72,600	\$57,600	

ID	CHDF	Request	JPIC Recommendation	Comments
10	Carmel Catholic - Carmel 2050 tuition grants, Bob Colaresi	\$10,000	\$10,000	2cnd year of human dev. Grant - provided 10000 last year and the report indicated money used according to grant 2021 Grant Application Report for the 2021 Grant
11	Crespi HS. Composter on campus, Johh Sprissler	\$5,000	\$5,000	The composter is an "industrial sized composter" and will be leased. WHIP Food waste composter V3 2021 2022 Equipment Lease Program Leasing a Terra Forma onsite food composter.
12	St. Agnes school, 2cd Step program, Brad Peterson	\$4,800	\$4,800	 Second Step Elementary And Middle School Second Step K – Grade 5 Bundle
13	CRISPAZ, Psycosocial Accompaniment & Social Healing, Nelson Belizario	\$5,000	\$5,000	Accompaniment of people of El Sal
14	Parroquia Santa Lucia, System of Catechisis, Alfredo Guillen	\$6,000	\$6,000	Reestablish the Catechisis system in the 53 communities that make up the parish.
15	Franciscan Reneal Center, trauma training, Ron Oakham	\$1,500	\$1,500	train spiritual directors to minister to individuals with trauma - recently from pandemic
16	Carmelite NGO, addition to website for LS education, Jane Remson	\$10,000	\$10,000	funds used to expand website for university level LS education Detailed Information about program
	CHDF Total	\$42,300	\$42,300	
	CCF + CHDF Total	\$110,400	\$99,900	
	Emergency Fund (\$150K - CCF +CHDF)	\$39,600	\$50,100	