

## **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  
Provincial Office, Darien, Illinois  
September 10, 2021  
Minutes**

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

**Opening Prayer:** The Provincial Council meeting began with an opening prayer led by David McEvoy, reflecting on Article 139 of the 2019 Constitutions on the linkage of vocations and community life, followed by “A Prayer for Vocations” by Pope Francis.

**Honduras Initiative:** The Provincial Council, after a thorough discussion, agreed to accept the offer of Bishop Walter Guillén, SDB, Bishop of the Diocese of Gracias in Intibucá, Honduras, to administer the Parish of Santa Lucia in Yamaranguila, *ad experimentum*, for the next six years. In year five, 2026, there will be an evaluation and a decision about the future. After visiting the parish and meeting with Bishop Guillén and civic leaders, Alfredo Guillén and Chuy Paz presented their recommendations to Carl Markelz and the Provincial Council. Carl also received affirmation for this initiative from Prior General, Miceal O’Neill, and the General Council. Carl emphasized the importance of the founding members of this foundation to be committed to the Carmelite values of prayer, community, and ministry. It is our hope to begin this new foundation on February 1, 2022, with a possible symbolic beginning as preferred by Bishop Guillén on the Feast of St. Lucy, December 13, 2021.

**Assignments:**

Alfredo Guillén                      Pastor, Parroquia de Santa Lucia, Yamaranguila,  
Intibucá, Honduras; Effective February 1, 2022

Thomas Jordan                      Prior, Santa Lucia Priory, Yamaranguila, Intibucá,  
Honduras; Effective February 1, 2022

Gregorio Vazquez                      Parochial Vicar, Parroquia de Santa Lucia,  
Yamaranguila, Intibucá, Honduras  
Effective February 1, 2022

Edgar Lucio Lezama	Treasurer, Santa Lucia Priory, Parochial Vicar, Parroquia de Santa Lucia, Yamaranguila, Intibucá, Honduras; Effective February 1, 2022
David Dillon	St. Patrick's Residence, Naperville, IL Effective October 15, 2021
Rogelio Garcia	Pastor, Parroquia de la Transfiguración del Señor, Torreón, Mexico; Effective February 1, 2022
Emilio Rodríguez	Health Sabbatical, Mexico City, Mexico October 1, 2021---January 31, 2022 Director of Hispanic Ministries, St. Cecilia Parish, Englewood, NJ; Effective February 1, 2022
David Ulises García	Pastoral Associate, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Joliet, IL; Effective February 1, 2022
Jairo Hernández	English Studies, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC February 1, 2022
Tereso Benítez	English Studies, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC February 1, 2022

### **Departure from Internship**

Juan Esteban Rodríguez Benítez, serving a pastoral internship at St. Agnes Parish, Phoenix, AZ, left the Carmelite Formation Program on September 3, 2021, in good standing. Esteban hopes to pursue medical studies upon his return to El Salvador. Esteban was dispensed from his temporal vows on August 12, 2021 by Prior General Miceal O'Neill. The Provincial Council wishes him well in his future endeavors.

### **Mission Requests**

The Provincial Council approved four specific mission requests presented at this meeting.

The Provincial Council approved a loan of \$300,000.00 to the Carmelite Province of St. Thomas in India for their various educational institutions. The Province in

India will repay the loan at \$60,000.00 per year (plus 2% interest) over five years, from funds raised from their parish ministries in Mississauga, Ontario.

The Provincial Council approved a gift of \$6,000.00 for a water supply system and other improvements at the St. Teresa of Avila Carmelite Priory in Icó, Brazil. The priory houses Carmelites of the Pernambuco Province in northeastern Brazil.

The Provincial Council approved a gift of \$5,000.00 to the Carmelite Missionary Sisters at the St. Teresa of Avila Spiritual Center in Boko, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, for completion of a Carmelite Prayer Garden at the Spiritual Center.

The Provincial Council also approved a gift of \$20,000.00 from the Carmelite Mission Fund for the Immaculate Heart Sisters in Sicuani, Peru, for their Elder Care ministries.

### **Community Life Discussion**

The Provincial Council reviewed a number of correspondences from the men of the Province to Carl Markelz and the Provincial Council regarding the topic of placement of men in various communities when the host community is reticent to receive them. While admitting that each situation is unique, and some situations require more radical solutions than others, the Provincial Council wishes to uphold the value of fraternity in Carmelite community, realizing the inevitable challenges it presents. The Council felt that a community meeting of all members of the receiving community should be held to discuss any reticence in receiving a new member into that community. Also, the consensus of that community would be seen as consultative to the Provincial and the Provincial Council in making the final decision of a brother's placement.

### **Carmelite Studies Program and Solemn Profession—Whitefriars Hall**

Carmelites in all stages of formation from both the PCM and St. Elias Provinces attended the Carmelite Studies Program at Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC, from August 11-14. Men in formation in Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador attended the program virtually. At the conclusion of the Carmelite Studies Program, those attending were able to join in the celebration of the Solemn Profession of Roberto Mejia at St. Mark's Church in Hyattsville, MD on August 15. All six Provincial Council Members, Carl Markelz, David McEvoy, Daryl Moresco, Gregory Houck, Chuy Paz, and Nepi Willemsen were able to be present in person together for the first time since their election in 2020 for these events.

## **First FOCAM Meeting of American Carmelite Formators**

The First FOCAM (Carmelite Formators of America) Meeting was held virtually from August 26-28, 2021. Carmelites of the Latin American Region have been meeting for many years as FOCAL (Carmelite Formators of Latin America). This new initiative was meant to bring together both North American and Latin American formators for ongoing formation and discussion. This meeting included formators among the friars of the various American Provinces, Delegations, and Commissaries, as well as Carmelite nuns, sisters, and Lay Carmelites. Spanish, Portuguese, and English speaking formators met virtually over the course of these three days. Formators of the PCM Province in the United States, Mexico, El Salvador, and Peru participated.

## **Renovations of the “White House,” Darien, IL**

The Provincial Council reviewed information from Robert Colaresi, Prior of the St. Simon Stock Community, Darien, considering estimates received for potential renovations at the White House. The front columns on the existing building are in need of reinforcement to prevent their collapse. There are considerable issues needing attention on the exterior of the building including trim and siding. Some community members were interested in possible kitchen renovations as well.

The projected and substantiated costs for these projects were as follows:

Portico/Front Porch/Columns Project:	\$ 477,555.00
Exterior Renovation of the Whole House:	\$ 352,486.00
Total Cost of Time & Materials:	\$ 830,041.00

Because of the excessive costs in this bid, neither the St. Simon Stock Community nor the Provincial Council were in approval of accepting it.

Carl Markelz will visit the St. Simon Stock Community to discuss a possible course of action for the future.

## **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory, Joliet, IL**

The Provincial Council discussed the priory where our men are living at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Joliet, IL. The priory is owned by the Province, which makes it different from most of the priories connected to our parish ministries. The current priory is in need of a new roof and some interior changes. The

Council will review future plans for renovations and will help with the financial burden. Local community funds will also be used as necessary.

### **El Salvador Visitation**

Carl Markelz, visited the communities in El Salvador from August 17-25, 2021. Carl had the opportunity to visit both with the Pre-Novitiate Community at the Xiberta Center and the Professed Community at San Alberto de Jerusalén. Carl received the solemn vows of David Ulises García and Arístides Menjivar on August 21, 2021, and assisted at the Diaconate Ordination of Arístides Menjivar on August 22, 2021.

The Provincial Council made plans for the Council to visit our men in El Salvador, January 25--February 1, 2022. There is a possibility that three men will profess their Solemn Vows on Friday, January 28, 2022. Three men may be ordained to the diaconate and three men to the priesthood on Saturday, January 29, 2022. Finally, it is hoped that the three men newly ordained to the priesthood would celebrate their First Masses on Sunday, January 30, 2022. These dates are tentative based on approval at the House Chapter in October for the men involved.

### **Health Care Commission Report**

Carl Markelz presented information from the August 10, 2021, Health Care Commission Meeting at the Provincial Office in Darien. Twenty-five members of the Province with various serious health issues were discussed. The Provincial Council marked the passing of our brother, Henry Ormond, who died on August 30, 2021, in Oakland, CA.

### **CARA Documents**

The Provincial Council discussed two documents recently published by CARA (The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) in Washington, DC. The articles were entitled “Evolution of Leadership in Religious Institutes in the United States” and “Cultural Diversity in Vocations to Religious Life in the United States, Findings from a National Study of New Religious Members.” The first article focused on the need for religious superiors to have prudential judgment, time management skills, conflict management/resolution and human resource management skills. Leadership teams need to have the ability to communicate in the language of their membership. The second article focused on the increasing

cultural diversity of religious vocations reflecting on the current reality of American society, and the challenges involved with new and old community members.

### **Sponsorship Documents**

The Provincial Council approved a set of interview questions presented by Thomas Batsis, in a Sponsorship Study of our Carmelite high schools. Those to be interviewed at the various schools would be the school's President, Principal, Campus Minister, Board Chair, Dean of Faculty, and Students.

### **2023 Visitation of the Relics of Sts. Therese and Louis and Zelig Martin**

Carl announced to the Provincial Council that the relics of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, and her parents, Saints Louis and Zelig Martin, have been approved to visit the United States. There are only two locations of veneration scheduled for this visit:

- The National Shrine of St. Therese in Darien, IL,  
September 15 to October 2, 2023
- The Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN,  
October 2-16, 2023.

The year 2023 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of St. Louis Martin, the 150th anniversary of the birth of St. Therese, the 100th anniversary of the beatification of St. Therese, and the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of the Little Flower in our Province.

### **Preparatory Commission for the 2023 PCM Provincial Chapter**

The Provincial Council approved the members of the 2023 PCM Chapter Preparatory Commission. Ronald Oakham and Gregory Houck will be the Co-Chairs for the Commission. Gregory will also be the Provincial Council Liaison. Other members include: Emanuel Franco, David Ulises García, Christopher Kulig, and Jorge Monterroso. The Provincial Chapter has been scheduled for June 18-23, 2023, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

## **Future 2021 Dates**

September 14	Priors' Meeting *
September 15-19	Provincial Visit to Florida Communities
September 21	Parish Commission Meeting *
September 22-27	Provincial Visit to Mexico City Community
September 23	Carmelitana Collection Board Meeting *
October 3	Dedication of the Robinson Aquatic Center, Crespi Carmelite High School, Encino, CA
October 12-14	2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission Meeting, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory, Tucson, AZ
October 18-21	Provincial Council Meeting, Avon, NJ
October 22	PCM Formation Commission Meeting, Cresskill, NJ
October 23	Interprovincial Formation Commission Meeting, Harrison, NJ
November 9-11	Lay Carmelite Commission Meeting, Darien, IL
November 15-19	International Carmelite Formation Meeting *
December 4	Provincial Council Meeting, Darien, IL *
December 7-9	Six-month Evaluation of Novices with Prior Provincial, Brandsma Priory, Middletown, NY

## **Future 2022 Dates**

January 4-7, 2022	Peru Annual Meeting
January 7	Simple Profession, Lurín, Peru
January 6-9	Carmelite Studies Program, Whitefriars Hall, DC
January 25-February 1	Provincial Council Visitation to El Salvador
March 4-6	Vocation Commission Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico
March 24-27	Provincial Council Meeting, Whitefriars Hall, DC

\*Via Lifesize Video or Zoom Conference

Respectfully Submitted,  
David McEvoy, O.Carm.



**Board of Members  
Salpointe Catholic High School, Tucson, Arizona  
September 10, 2021  
Minutes**

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

The Board of Members discussed communications from Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger, Bishop of Tucson, to Carl Markelz on August 15, 2021, to Kay Sullivan, Salpointe President, on August 16, 2021, to Carl Markelz on August 25, 2021, and from Kay Sullivan to Bishop Weisenburger on September 2, 2021.

Questions regarding Salpointe’s Catholic identity, certain cultural issues, and faculty and staff dynamics were topics for discussion.

Carl Markelz will visit with Bishop Weisenburger, Kay Sullivan, and Salpointe faculty and staff in October 2021 in Tucson to clarify these issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
David McEvoy, O.Carm.