

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
Centro Xiberta, Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador
January 26-27, 2022
Minutes**

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

Opening Prayers: The Provincial Council Meeting on January 26 opened with a prayer by Daryl Moresco, and on January 27 with a prayer by Gregory Houck.

Assignments:

Luis Jesús Paz Acosta	Prior and Formation Director, Centro Xiberta, Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador
Rodolfo Aznarán	Prior and Formation Director, Casa San Alberto de Jerusalén, Huizúcar, El Salvador
Benjamín Salas Achauanco	Assistant Formation Director, Treasurer, and Director of the Finca San Elías, San Alberto de Jerusalén, Huizúcar, El Salvador
Santos Cecilio Hernández Carranza	Parochial Vicar, Nuestra Señora de Lourdes; Treasurer and Residence at Centro Xiberta, Ciudad Delgado, El Salvador
Jairo Augusto Hernández Jiménez	Internship, Parroquia Transfiguración del Señor, Torreón, Mexico
Tereso de Jesús Benítez López	Internship, Parroquia Nuestra Señora del Carmen, José Gálvez, Peru
Jeffrey Smialek	Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Darien, IL (effective July 1, 2022)

Gregory Houck

Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Darien, IL (effective July 1, 2022)

Anthony Armstrong

Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Osprey, FL (effective July 1, 2022)

Approval for Solemn Profession

After receiving a written evaluation from Raúl Maraví, Peruvian Commissary Provincial, the Provincial Council approved in a canonical votation, Evir Jesus Zambrano Rios for profession of Solemn Vows on March 19, 2022, in José Gálvez, Peru.

Visiting International Carmelites

Bruce Clark, O.Carm., of the Australian Province, will be coming to the United States to engage in a 90 day sabbatical program in Colorado, followed by a period of time at St. Boniface Priory, Scipio, KS.

Onesmus Muthini Muthoka, O.Carm., of Kenya, will be arriving at Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC on July 1, 2022 to begin advanced studies.

Update from Matthew Gummess, O.Carm.

Carl Markelz received a communication from Matthew Gummess, O.Carm., while the Provincial Council was in El Salvador. Matthew is currently a visiting PhD student at the University of Cambridge for the spring semester, working with Professor Jacob Stegenga, on a project in theological anthropology. Stegenga is an expert in the philosophy of medicine and biology. Matthew is living at the Cambridge University Chaplaincy ministering to an international Catholic community there. His address is Fisher House, Guildhall Street, Cambridge, CB2 3NH, United Kingdom.

Discussion with Formation Team in El Salvador

The Provincial Council met with Rodolfo Aznarán, Cecilio Hernández, Jesús “Chuy” Paz, and Benjamín Salas to discuss the formation program in El Salvador. Rodolfo was welcomed as the new formator for the professed students at Casa San Alberto de Jerusalén. Each formator was given an

opportunity to share his vision for Carmelite formation in El Salvador. The discussion included issues of clerical and Carmelite formation, the value of religious fraternity, the need for a variety of role models for our men in formation as opposed to leadership from only one person, the challenge to educate our men in fiscal responsibility, and the goal of future sustainability for the El Salvador project. Future dreams for a Carmelite parish, retreat center, and school were discussed. The challenge for our Carmelites to work as a team was a theme most mentioned. Chuy expressed the hope that the Carmelites in El Salvador will soon have leaders from El Salvador, who have completed initial formation and have returned to minister in their country.

Discussion Regarding Finances in El Salvador

The Provincial Council met with Cecilio Hernández regarding the finances of our communities and ministries in El Salvador. The discussion centered around understanding the various expenses for maintaining the physical plants at both Centro Xiberta and Casa San Alberto de Jerusalén, vocation and formation expenses, car expenses, operational expenses of the Finca San Elías, etc. While income is primarily coming from the Province with funds received from both the American and Canadian Society of the Little Flower, some local income is generated from stipends and sale of products from the Finca. A local accountant charged with periodic financial reviews of our various bank accounts is working in conjunction with Brian Gawel in our Provincial Finance Office to oversee our Provincial finances in El Salvador. The Provincial Council approved an expenditure of \$30,000 to drill for a sufficient water source at Casa San Alberto de Jerusalén.

Regional Meeting of Carmelites from El Salvador

The Provincial Council reviewed the minutes of the January 20, 2022, Regional Meeting of the Carmelites of El Salvador, which took place prior to the arrival of the Provincial Council in El Salvador. Carl Markelz, participated in this meeting via Zoom conference from the United States. Carl communicated the joy of the entire Province in so many upcoming professions and ordinations. He stated that the Provincial Council seeks the integration of all regions of the Province and the presence of brothers from El Salvador in all parts of the Province is an indication of this goal. One day we hope to achieve the establishment of a Carmelite Province in Central America.

The Carmelites of El Salvador discussed the importance of continual vocation efforts, the challenges of initial formation, the work of JUCAR (Juventud

Carmelita) with the youth of the region, and work needed with the Lay Carmelite Third Order. It was agreed that more work needs to be done in the area of ongoing formation. Other discussions were held concerning the Asociación Nuestra Señora del Carmen as a fund raising entity, and an evaluation of the Finca San Elías with ideas to improve control of production, expenses, and costs.

Elijah-Elisha Mentorship Program

Carl Markelz stated that the Elijah-Elisha Mentorship Program for those leaving initial formation also needs to be established in Latin America for the newly solemnly professed and newly ordained from Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador. Steps were taken to ensure this program exists in all parts of the Province.

Discussion with the General Councilor for the Americas, Luis Maza

The Provincial Council met with Luis Maza, General Councilor for the Americas, who was in El Salvador for the various upcoming celebrations. Luis stated that he would be making fraternal visits to the Province in 2022, and that the Prior General, Miceal O'Neill, and he would be making canonical visitations to our communities in the United States, Canada, Peru, Mexico, El Salvador and Honduras in 2023. Luis will be attending the Provincial Chapter of the Province of Saint Elias in June 2022, and then will be in the United States in July and August, 2022, visiting our communities and pursuing some English studies.

Luis thanked the Provincial Council for the Province's aid to the Carmelites of Bolivia. He discussed some of the ongoing on-line formation opportunities for the Carmelite Family in the Americas, with monthly presentations. These presentations were originally in Spanish and Portuguese, but are now also available in English. He very much would like to see the Carmelite Youth Program, JUCAR, expand into English-speaking North American Carmel. He sees the possibility of planning for the 2023 World Youth Day in Portugal based on JUCAR associations rather than individual parishes and schools. Luis stated that the Prior General, Miceal O'Neill, would like to open the Carmelite NGO to greater participation from Lay Carmelites.

Luis also stated that there are discussions underway in the General Curia to support the possibility of an international Carmelite community in the Amazon by 2024. Plans are underway for an "Encuentro" in Brazil, regarding the Amazon, May 1-7, 2022. Members of the Discalced Carmelites will be invited to dialogue with our Carmelites at this meeting. Brazilian Carmelite Bishop Wilmar Santin currently serves in the Prelature of Itaituba in the Amazon. The General Council

has also considered the possibility of having international Carmelite communities form in Cuba and Haiti.

Report from the Center for Carmelite Studies at CUA

Daryl Moresco gave a report to the Provincial Council regarding an upcoming lecture series on Blessed Titus Brandsma, as the Order prepares for his canonization. As Titus Brandsma gave a lecture series on mysticism at Catholic University in 1935, this is a special opportunity at CUA to celebrate his canonization. Three lectures are scheduled:

- On February 17, Fr. Michael Driscoll, O.Carm., of the SEL Province will speak of his cure of terminal cancer, the approved miracle for Titus' canonization. Fr. Mario Esposito, O.Carm., SEL Prior Provincial and Vice Postulator of the Cause for Brandsma's canonization, will speak on the canonization process.
- On March 24, Dr. Dianne Traflet, JD, STD, of Seton Hall University, will present a lecture entitled "Generous Love in a Dark Tunnel: The Priestly Ministry of Prisoner Fr. Titus Brandsma."
- On April 21, Fr. Leopold Glueckert, O.Carm., PhD, will present a lecture entitled, "That Dangerous Little Friar" based on his book, *Friar Against Facism*.

2022 PCM Regional Meetings in Tucson, AZ and Darien, IL

The Provincial Council discussed the schedule of events and topics for the 2022 Regional Meetings to be held in Tucson, AZ, from Tuesday, May 31--Friday, June 3, and in Darien, IL, from Monday, June 6--Thursday, June 9. Topics will include presentations by Adriana Dominguez of Praesidium and Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O.Carm. of Argentina on "Laudato Si". Those attending will hear reports on the current Provincial Council goals, as well as reports from the various provincial commissions. The Provincial Council discussed the possibility of including a process of synodality among the men of the Province at the Regional Meetings, in the spirit of Pope Francis' desire for a listening Church.

Convocation of the 2022 General Congregation

On January 24, 2022, Prior General Miceal O'Neill formally convoked the next General Congregation which will take place September 5-16, 2022, at the Villa Aurelia-Rome, Generalate House of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, not far from the Vatican. The theme for the General Congregation will be "The Radical Witness of Consecrated Carmelites in the World of Today. 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples' (John 13:35). (Please see Appendix A to these minutes.)

Initial Planning for the 2023 Provincial Chapter

Gregory Houck, Co-Chair of the 2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission, stated that after reviewing the responses to the Chapter Survey, the Preparatory Commission decided that the 2023 Provincial Chapter would take place at the Spiritual Center in Darien, IL, from June 20-23, 2023. The Chapter would begin on Tuesday morning, and conclude by Friday noon.

St. Cecilia Parish, Englewood, NJ Property

The Provincial Council reviewed a proposal for Phase I of a three-phase process regarding the replacement of windows, mini-split air conditioning units, and rough-in piping in the former high school building, now rented by a charter school. Phase I will cost \$950,787 and the work will be done by Malanga Construction Company, Inc., of Fairfield, NJ. Phase II and Phase III are for 2023 and 2024 and will have similar costs. The council approved this project overall. The money from the sale of Carmel Retreat in Mahwah, NJ, is providing the funding for these present and future costs.

Diocese of Tucson Proposed Policies for Catholic Schools

The Provincial Council reviewed a January 3, 2022, letter from Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger, Bishop of Tucson, to Catholic school principals and their pastors, regarding a proposed policy on "Guidelines and Policy Statements Regarding Gender Identity and Same-Sex Attraction Issues for Integration into School Policy Handbooks." Salpointe Catholic High School administrators will be kept informed as these guidelines are modified and then implemented.

Models of School Sponsorship

The Provincial Council reviewed a document forwarded to Carl Markelz from Sister Jeanne Bessette of the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. The document by the Resource Center for Religious Institutes presented two articles on models for the sponsorship of Catholic schools by religious institutes.

Climate Change Discussion

The Provincial Council reviewed an article by Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O.Carm., forwarded to Carl Markelz by Sr. Jane Remson, O.Carm., of the Carmelite NGO. The article entitled, "Climate Change in the Light of Integral Ecology," appeared in the second 2021 edition of *Melita Theologica*, a journal of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Malta.

Kenneth J. Pino Memo on Provincial Database

A memo by Ken Pino, Provincial Director of Communications and Marketing, was reviewed by the Provincial Council. The Member Spreadsheet in the Provincial Office, which is the official record of all living and active members of the Province, will be maintained and managed by Aida Reynolds, Administrative Assistant. The Archival Database, which is the official record of all deceased or departed Carmelites, will be maintained by Robert Boley, O.Carm., in the Provincial Archives. Upon a Carmelite's death or departure, records for that member will be moved from the spreadsheet to the Archives, along with any physical files, as deemed appropriate by the Provincial.

Provincial Council Activities Following Completion of our Meeting

Following the completion of our January 26-27, 2022, Provincial Council Meeting at Centro Xiberta, the Council participated in the following celebrations:

- 1) On Thursday, January 27, 2022, the Provincial Council attended a ceremony at Vespers at Casa San Alberto de Jerusalén, celebrating the admission of five additional pre-novices to the Carmelite formation program in El Salvador. The incoming pre-novices were Edgar Alejandro Amaya López, Juan José Martínez Herrera, Gerson Geovany Paredes Orellana, Daniel Antonio Preza López, and Reynaldo Mizael Quiroz Molina.

- 2) On Friday, January 28, 2022, the Provincial Council attended the Profession of Solemn Vows of Santos Antolino Méndez Ramírez, Henry Mauricio Cienfuegos Ostorga, and Daniel Ulises González Cabrera. This celebration took place in the Carmelite Sisters chapel where St. Oscar Romero was martyred at the altar in 1980.
- 3) On Saturday, January 29, 2022, the Provincial Council attended the Ordination to the Diaconate of Santos Antolino Méndez Ramírez, Henry Mauricio Cienfuegos Ostorga, and Daniel Ulises González Cabrera, and the Ordination to the Priesthood of Edgar Lucio Lezama Aparicio, Roger Stanley Melara Mondragón, and José Arístides Menjivar Larios. The ordinations took place in the Church of Inmaculada Concepción in Santa Tecla, El Salvador.
- 4) On Sunday, January 30, 2022, the members of the Provincial Council attended the various First Masses of the newly ordained Carmelite priests. Following the First Mass of Edgar Lucio Lezama Aparicio, in the Church of Nuestra Señora de Lourdes in Ciudad Delgado, Carl Markelz, David McEvoy, Gregory Houck, and Thomas Jordan had an opportunity for a brief visit with David Blanchard in the Carmelite residence.
- 5) On Monday, January 31, 2022, a delegation of twelve Carmelites: Jesús “Chuy” Paz, Rodolfo Aznarán, Benjamín Salas, Benjamín Constante, Roger Melara, Miguel Ángel Guerra, José Manuel Santos, Luis Maza, Raúl Maraví, Edgar Lucio “Lucho” Lezama, Thomas Jordan, and Carl Markelz joined Alfredo Guillen and Gregorio Vázquez in Honduras. There was an opening Mass on Monday, January 31, presided by Lucho, and a tour on Tuesday, February 1, of the area while stopping at a few of the 52 chapels that make up the parish. On Tuesday evening, Carl and Chuy had a house meeting with Tom, Alfredo, Gregorio and Lucho. On Wednesday, February 2, the Carmelites met Bishop Guillen at the city gates and walked to the parish of Santa Lucia. The Bishop officially declared Santa Lucia a parish, installed Alfredo as the pastor, and after Communion made the Parish of Santa Lucia the official Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for the Diocese of Gracias.

Future Dates:

February 15	JPIC Meeting *
February 20-22	Secondary Schools Commission Meeting, Encino, CA
March 4	2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission Meeting *
March 5	Vocation Commission Meeting *
March 8	Priors' Meeting *
March 11-13	Carmelite Vocation Retreat, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC
March 19	Solemn Profession of Evir Jesús Zambrano Rios, Santa Teresita, José Gálvez, Peru
March 23-24	Provincial Council Meeting, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC
March 25	PCM Formation Commission Meeting, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC
March 26	Inter-Provincial Formation Commission Meeting, Whitefriars Hall, Washington, DC
April 5	Parish Commission Meeting *
April 29	2023 Chapter Preparatory Commission Meeting *
May 16-17	Provincial Council Meeting, Darien, IL
May 18	Finance Commission Meeting *
May 31- June 3	PCM Regional Meeting, Tucson, AZ
June 6-9	PCM Regional Meeting, Darien, IL
June 12	Reception of Novices, Middletown, NY
June 13	Profession of Novices, Middletown, NY
July 15	Provincial Council Meeting *

*Via Zoom Video Conference

The Provincial Council wishes to thank all the Carmelites in El Salvador for their gracious hospitality to us during our visit there.

Respectfully submitted,
David McEvoy, O.Carm.



APPENDIX A

PRIORE GENERALE DEI CARMELITANI
VIA GIOVANNI LANZA, 138
00184 ROMA - (ITALIA)

Rome, 24 January 2022
Prot. 29/2022

CONVOCAZIONE OF THE 2022 GENERAL CONGREGATION

Dear brothers,

with this letter, in accordance with Constitution 298, I formally convoke the next General Congregation which will take place in the Villa Aurelia, *Casa Generalizia dei Sacerdoti del Sacro Cuore*, Via Casale Pio V, 20, 00165 in the city of Rome, from the 5th to the 16th of September, 2022, with arrivals on the 4th and departures on the 17th.

The Constitutions 298-300 explain the nature and importance of the General Congregation. It pertains to the General Congregation, gathered in collegial assembly:

- a) to assist the Prior General and his Council in their task of governing and animating the Order;
- b) to foster communication and contact between the General Curia and the various areas of the Order;
- c) to ensure the implementation of the decisions and decrees of the previous General Chapter; to assess the effectiveness of the directions proposed; to make decisions and issue decrees, which shall be valid only until the following Chapter;
- d) to assist in the preparation of the following Chapter, and to advise the Prior General concerning the venue of the Chapter;
- e) to discuss the financial matters of the Order.

The General Council has chosen for the General Congregation the following theme:

Gift and Mission:

The Radical Witness of Consecrated Carmelites in the world of today.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples” (Jn 13:35).

This theme is in line with what emerged as the most important concern of the 2019 General Chapter, namely, the authentic witness that we as religious are called to give in the world of today. The Chapter discussions and the input from our invited speakers helped us to see that witness requires that we be who we say we are, and that formation is of the utmost importance in helping us to give that witness. We are disciples of Jesus Christ, living in allegiance to Jesus Christ, with religious vows, and in accordance with the charism and tradition of the Carmelite Order.

Over many years we have devoted much attention to the Carmelite dimension of our lives. In this Congregation, however, our desire is to look at our lives as consecrated religious in order to judge whether the way we live our lives today is a clear witness both to the gift we have received as religious in the Church and to a generous commitment to the mission and life of the Gospel, modelled on Jesus, chaste, poor and obedient. It will also be an opportunity to see how well we live that life in community.

The meeting will also give time to the study of other matters that pertain to the ongoing administration of our Order. A list of these topics will be provided in due course. Finally, as has been the custom for some time, there will be an occasion for regional groups to meet around their own particular concerns.

The members of the General Congregation are the following:

1. the Prior General;
2. the members of the General Council;
3. the Priors Provincial;
4. the General Commissaries;
5. the Provincial Commissaries
6. the Superiors of the General Delegations
7. the Presidents of Regions.


The Provincial Commissaries and the Superiors of the General Delegations who, on the day of the convocation of the General Congregation, have less than twenty voting members, and the Presidents of Regions participate in the Congregation without the right to vote (Const. 299 § 3).

In addition, each Prior Provincial and each General Commissary may be accompanied by one religious who is truly expert in those matters to be dealt with at the Congregation, and who shall have the right to take part in the meetings of the Congregation, but not the right to vote (Const. 299 § 2). If you intend to be accompanied by a *socius* please inform the Secretary General, Roberto Sianturi, as soon as possible.

In due course the Secretary General will send you information about travel and other details. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact him.

In these challenging times I wish you all good health, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of Mary in all that you do.




Míceál, O'Neill, O.Carm.
Prior General