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CHICAGO PROVINCE CARMELITES ELECT NEW PRIOR PROVINCIAL



(Darien, IL; June 23, 2011) The Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary (PCM) of the Order of Carmelites proudly announces the election of Father Carl J. Markelz, O.Carm., to the position of Prior Provincial. Father

Markelz succeeds Father John F. Welch, O. Carm., who completed his second consecutive three year term.

Father Markelz is now the primary authority in the Province. He is the Provinces' spiritual leader and the official representative of the Province to the General Curia in Rome and to other ecclesial and civic authorities.

Father Markelz was born in Joliet, Illinois, on August 16, 1962. He is a graduate of Saint Paul the Apostle Grammar School, and Joliet Catholic High School. He attended Loyola University where he received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1984. Carl Markelz then joined the Carmelite community and received the Carmelite habit at Saint Albert's Novitiate in Middletown, New York. After one year of formation, in 1985, Markelz moved to Mount Carmel High School, Chicago, where he served as teacher for the next two years. In 1987 he moved to Washington, DC, where he

continued his studies earning a master's degree in Moral Theology, after which he was ordained a priest on May 18, 1991 at Saint Gelasius Church in Chicago, Illinois.

Father Markelz's first assignment was to serve five years as a teacher at Crespi Carmelite High School, in Encino, California. During his assignment at Crespi, Father Markelz completed a second master's degree, this time from the University of San Francisco, in Education.

Completing his assignment in Encino, California, Father Markelz moved back to Illinois, and was appointed Principal of Mount Carmel High School, Chicago, one of the most prestigious Catholic High Schools in the state. During his 15-year term as Principal, Father Markelz established himself as a fair and kind leader who fearlessly sought to continue pushing Mount Carmel to the forefront of academic excellence. Through his leadership he doubled the endowment fund, built a Convocation Center, increased academic program offerings, developed a new mission statement and continued athletic success.

During his term as Principal, he was also elected to the Provincial Council as First Councilor, serving a three-year term from 2005 to 2008.

When asked about his thoughts as the newly elected Prior Provincial of the Province, The Very Reverend Carl Joseph Markelz, O.Carm., stated, "I am honored and humbled to serve my brothers and the Carmelite family in this capacity."

Further information on Father Carl Joseph Markelz, O.Carm., Prior Provincial or The Order of Carmelites can be acquired through the official Carmelite website, Carmelnet.org or by contacting Carmelite Media at 630.971.0724.

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