



DIARY OF THE CHAPTER

32nd General Chapter of the Augustinians of the Assumption
Rome, May 2 to 23, 2011

The Program for the Future Superior General

Editorial

Elements for the election

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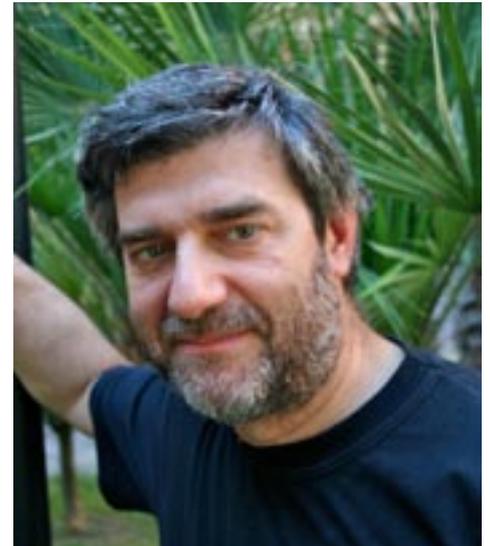
The report is in: the election of the future Superior General of the Congregation is scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, May 11. No confusion for the French delegates: the 30th anniversary of the election of President Mitterrand is today...But seriously. It is time to select a person who will be at the service of the mission.

To prepare for this important moment, the Chapter took several steps. These do not include informal conversations at table or in walks in the garden of the Casa La Salle. The scheduling began to occupy the assembly on Saturday. The exercise was to define the profile of the new Superior General from a list of "biblical leaders". Each Chapter member selected one and posted it on a board divided in two sections: Communion-Mission and Manager-Charismatic. Not an easy equation. Yesterday, the discussion got more precise when each member was asked to write the names of two priorities for the new general government and the qualities he expects for the new Superior General and of the team who will implement them. (See page 3.) Along with those answers, Fr. Richard Lamoureux took the names of two religious who could become the Superior General and four for the assistants. Result: a confidential list of 13 names for the Superior General and 40 for the assistants. Enough to help those with little imagination.

Whatever the votes will give tomorrow, one thing has already been said: the chosen one will not have all the qualities hoped for. He will have to count on the team that the Chapter will give him in the days to come and on the entire congregation with the grace of God. On the profile that was made Saturday, a single name was apparent in the center with the perfect balance between the two poles (Mission-Communion and Charism-Organization): the name of JESUS. ■

“Thank you
kindly !”

INTERVIEW
Paolo Colonetti,
translator-interpreter



He was with us for an entire week, helping the Assumptionist team in translating the discussions and documents of the Chapter - such as “*The Diary of the Chapter*”! Here is what Paolo, 50, married and father of two, has to say about our assembly.

Where do you usually work?

I free lance, mostly for ecclesiastical gatherings: the various Decasteries of the Vatican (Congregation for the Clergy, Pontifical Council for inter religious dialogue, etc), the *Osservatore Romano*, religious congregations...My wife and are engaged in the Fokolare movement and that brought me to get involved in the religious sector.

Do you see a common theme in these Catholic gatherings?

We feel that it's the same family. When I come to groups like these, I always sense good relations, a great availability, a desire to listen, an attention to the other - more in religious

congregations than in the Roman Curia where there is, after all, a certain kind of bureaucracy... Generally, that makes the work more pleasant.

Did you notice anything special with the Assumptionists?

This is the first time I work with your Congregation. I immediately felt that I was accepted in your group, for which I am very grateful - including with the other interpreters, the speakers announcing the language they will be using and speaking slowly! I am struck by the great freedom everyone has in the discussions: Perhaps some of the lay people were less at their ease, unsure of their place in the Assumption family.

My Voice at the Chapter



This is the second time I participate in a General Chapter. I have the impression that we now speak more easily than six years ago and that each senses that he is concerned by the debates. In 2005, people were more apprehensive

to speak. We have a certain number of “neophytes”, those who participate for the first time, but apparently, these seem to be quite at ease in our assembly. We have integrated without difficulty the presence of laity and this is another important element. The atmosphere of the discussions is constructive and the listening is very attentive. The animating group is steering the ship and we are navigating in calm waters. The active participation of the laity has reminded us that it is urgent to pursue the way of the Alliance. The situations are very varied according to the countries and even within the provinces. I sensed that there are different approaches especially concerning the topic of commitment. Some are more inclined to live the *status quo* without seeking to make an official declaration of organic commitment; others carry the desire to institutionalize the recognition of their link by the creation of an association of faithful. In fact, there is more harmony between the two positions than suggested by the apparent separation. The family spirit which is proper to us is capable of welcoming each in the diversity of their expectations. The commitment is done in multiple ways without the need to impose a unique model. The Chapter will have to take hold of this question which is the reappearance of the theme of the 2006 Chapter where we were asked, from many gifts, to make “one body so that the world believes.” The question of communion, to my mind, cuts across all our debates and it concerns the lay as much as the religious.

Fr. Benoît Grière (France)

Arriving at the meeting room the first day of our meetings, I thought back to the day some 25 years ago when I attended my first chapter in 1987 and I tried to capture what might be going on in the minds and hearts of so many of the delegates who are here for the first time. What strikes me is just how different this chapter is from that one. First of all, it is so BLACK! Of the 44 delegates, eleven (one quarter) are from Africa and Madagascar, not to mention three members of the technical staff. And the average age of these delegates? The early 40s. Besides, 11 lay delegates joined us for an entire week to express concretely the fact that lay-people not only want to belong to the Assumption but that the charism itself would be incomplete without their active participation in our life.



Realities so new impress upon me the observation of Sunday’s retreat director, Fr. Alessandro Laini from our community in Florence, namely, the enormous responsibility that this chapter places on each of our shoulders. God will speak through us for a chapter provides a compass for the future. Growth in Africa, Madagascar, and Asia, and the development of the lay-religious alliance are not only signs of God’s blessings on us but also a call to share the heritage we ourselves have received. It demands of us both an exercise of fidelity and one of creativity and adaptation. How can we fulfill this task unless we have one ear clearly attuned to our tradition and another to the needs and circumstances these brothers and sisters? At the chapter of 1999 we affirmed that our charism is a gift of the Spirit for the entire Church. The challenge before us here is no less than whether we will prove ourselves consistent with our convictions.

Fr. John Franck (USA – North America)



We have worked for a week and I have discovered various faces of today’s Assumption through continental and cultural realities quite diversified. I understand that we are truly a family and that we have the same mission. We should no longer evolve in a scattered way, but we should unite our strengths in order to help the Assumption advance toward much deeper waters and dare to do great things. If we unite ourselves, if we become conscious of the missionary dimension

of the Assumption, we will then constitute a force capable of transporting rivers and mountains. We need to communicate this thrust to the younger members so that each of us can be conscious of being concerned by the call that the Spirit addresses to the Assumption in this important moment of the General Chapter.

We haven’t the right to be afraid. Each Assumptionist must trust in the grace of Christ which dwells in him and which dwells in the heart of the others. My wish is that the Assumption may be able to recapture its breath because the harvest is abundant but the laborers are fewer and fewer in certain provinces. The sons and daughters of the Assumption must rise and know that the Church needs to see the seriousness of our commitment. We must not compromise the talents received from God and the spiritual heritage of our congregation but we must be converted so that the Assumption may keep step for its appointment with the Kingdom.

Fr. Pierre Landu (DR-Congo – Africa)

LES PRIORITÉS que le gouvernement général doit porter

ANIMATION, IDENTITÉ ASSOMPTIONNISTE

- animer la Congrégation aux sources (Jésus Christ, Augustin, d'Alzon) et aux défis du monde
- bien écouter
- carisma e identidad asuncionista
- la espiritualidad en el interior de la Congregación
- articulation of our fundamental Assumptionist identity
- animation au charisme de l'Assomption : foi, communion, solidarité
- capacidad de gestionar y controlar las decisiones, para su adaptación en los contextos
- reestructuración de la Congregación

FINANCES

- auto-prise en main de la vie des Provinces (en ressources humaines et en moyens financiers) et apprentissage de la solidarité
- to make all Provinces self-sustaining and self-reliant

COMMUNION

- avoir un souci particulier des régions les plus pauvres de la Congrégation
- assurer l'unité du corps tout entier par une animation régulière
- solidaridad/comunión internacional (entre Provincias y comunidades)
- the consciousness of belonging to an international Congregation
- intensification de l'internationalité

MISSION

- le renouveau missionnaire sur tous les continents
- être à l'avant-garde au niveau du service des pauvres comme corps international

- youth and vocations: education
- to focus more on vocations, recruitment and formation.
- susciter collaborations internationales autour des œuvres mobilisatrices;
- l'implantation plus délibérée et mieux réfléchie dans différents pays asiatiques, dont la Chine
- obras mobilizadoras ; juvenes/vocación

FORMATION

- formation des formateurs
- aménager, sans tarder, un lieu international de formation AA.
- former un type d'homme assumptionniste capable de défendre la cause de Dieu et de la personne humaine
- la formación a todos los niveles ■

TRAVAIL EN ÉQUIPE

- capacidad de trabajo en equipo
- le premier de cordée
- someone capable of working in a team
- une capacité de vision pour anticiper l'avenir
- une équipe capable de travailler ensemble

INTERNATIONALITÉ

- stimule la collaboration et l'internationalité
- multilingual (2x)
- sensibilidad a la cultura del otro
- accueillant à d'autres cultures que la sienne

LEADERSHIP

- qui a une bonne expérience de leadership
- leader prophétique
- carismatico

QUALITÉS PERSONNELLES

- salud física, mental y espiritual
- humble et vigoureux, simple et généreux, bon et audacieux
- décideur, mais pas trop autoritaire
- vérité dans la charité
- une équipe diversifiée, internationale par la langue, serviable

RELATIONS

- écoute... des frères, du monde
- capable to listen and understand
- dialogo, respeto, aceptación de las diferencias
- acogida, respeto, apertura
- aime rencontrer les frères et sait les soutenir
- amigo
- hommes d'unité et de réconciliation
- capable d'interpellation et de correction fraternelle ■



LES QUALITÉS que l'on désire voir dans le Supérieur général et dans l'équipe général

ASSOMPTIONNISTE

- forte vie d'intériorité : contemplation, réflexion
- homme de prière
- reflexivo y espiritual
- un guide et un père
- vida interior (oración)
- hombres de esperanza
- profonde spiritualité augustinienne et alzonienne
- conocimiento y amor por su fundador
- qui aime l'Eglise et la fait aimer

QUALITÉS DE LEADER

- stimulation des religieux

- capacidad de tomar decisiones sin miedo
- sens de l'animation
- audace, patience, réalisme, joie de vivre, convivialité ...
- capable of love
- contagiar alegría, esperanza
- a good sense of humor
- homme de confiance
- bon jugement
- un homme d'envergure, mais modeste
- dynamique/énergique
- apasionados por el Reino
- porteur d'ambitions pour la Congrégation

Letters From Our Readers

We are happy to follow the workings of the Chapter. In the Austin House community, we have been following this event every day since May 1st in all our prayers together and personally. It gathers our faith and our hope. It is like living it "live" with our brothers and sisters in the Eternal City. We pray God to give you good health and especially to open your hearts and spirits to the Holy Spirit, our Master. We are grateful for the love with which the General Counsel has swerved us. We are already praying for the new Counsel that God will soon give us thanks to the wise choices of the members of the Chapter.

Forge ahead, sons of Assumption....

Desire Paluku, aa (Arusha-Tansania)

Dear Brothers of the Chapter,

As you come to the end of the first week of the Chapter that holds out so much promise, allow me to offer you this little parable:

Autumn leaves were falling from a tree and I was shown a tree that had already lost all its leaves. And I heard this voice saying:

Do not be afraid. The life force is on the inside and that life force will rise again. Know that what is old must die so that what is new may come to life."

In faith and hope we are in communion with you and we pray the Holy Spirit for the renewal of our religious family.

Fraternally,

Fr. Bernard Watier, aa (Madagascar)

I read the "Diary of the Chapter" every day with great interest. It helps me trust in the Holy Spirit and be grateful for all the good that we already have such as our international experience and the young people we work with. I am especially moved by the desire in my own Congregation to update our original charism. I also admire the progress you are making in the lay-religious Alliance and the zeal that the lay people express in the Diary, I feel so luke-warm in comparison!

Sister Marie-Agnes Roussiale

I hope that we will come to a renewal in unity of spirit inspired by our foundational texts: a congregation divided into interdependent Provinces all having the same opportunity to bring about the extension of the Kingdom and promote the charism of the Assumption.

Thank you for the news you give us every day so we can live the Chapter with you! We support you with our prayers both in community and personally!

Paulin K, Vyakuno-Wo-Kari=ongo, aa (Butembo, RD-Congo, Africa)

I read with interest the news from the Chapter. It's very clear, as though I were there.! I see that everybody is working very hard, including the worthy lay people. Please enjoy the sun of the Capital. I patiently await the final decisions and, of course, the elections.

May the Holy Spirit guide you! Courage to all.

Jean-Pierre Le Ray, Lay Assumptionist (Paris, France)

Today's Program

Apostolic orientations

Morning

Plenary Assembly:

- Presentation of the working method

Group work :

- Faith / Communion / Solidarity

Plenary Assembly :

- Responses to questions : Provincials of Brazil et Chile/Argentina

Afternoon

Plenary Assembly:

- Straw vote for the Superior General
- Community Organization (General Government)
- Responses to questions : Provincials of Northern Europe and Spain.

Live the 32nd Chapter as if You Were There

- Visit the Congregation web site with daily updates posted by our webmaster, Fr. Jean Guillaume Kavasa Kasoko www.assumptio.org.
- Subscribe to the Journal du Chapitre, edited daily by Loredana Giannetti and free on line at the Congregation web site www.assumptio.org.
- React to the work of the Chapter members by contributing to Letters from our Readers on line. Send your messages...brief, please.. to the editor in chief... michel.kubler@gmail.com