



DIARY OF THE CHAPTER

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

The Chapter is open!

This morning, on Tuesday, May 3rd, Fr. Richard Lamoureux, General Superior of the Assumptionists, has launched the work of this 32nd capitular assembly in Rome

Editorial

To renew the mission

By Fr. Richard Lamoureux

Let me say what I think is most necessary if we are to renew the mission at the Assumption.

First, we have to see our work as mission and not just as work that keeps us busy. To see our work as mission, we have to do it with the conviction that God has asked us to do this work and that our work is a great cause, that it is trying to respond to the ways in which “man is threatened as the image of God”. Those two things (a sense of mission and a conviction of the worthiness of our cause) will help keep at bay the kind of “ennui” that I’ve witnessed at times, as well as the human problems that “ennui” provokes.

Second, we have to be both modest and daring in our mission. We should be inventive and prophetic (see Letter #11) by elaborating simple (or complex if we are capable) educational ventures, by elaborating social service projects among the poor, by inventing evangelizing efforts to reach young people or other “unattainable” populations...

(from the “Introductory Remarks” by the General Superior, on Tuesday morning)



« Présent ! »

Le fait n’est pas anodin. Quand le P. Claude Maréchal, en tant que président des ‘Judices caesarum » chargés d’établir la validité des mandats des capitulants (1), a fait l’appel de chacun, ce mardi matin pour l’ouverture solennelle du 32e Chapitre général des Assumptionnistes, c’est à la chapelle que cela s’est passé. Ce moment, qui pourrait sembler n’être qu’une formalité, a du coup revêtu une évidente gravité. Alors, à tour de rôle, ils se sont levés et, chacun dans sa langue – non seulement les quatre langues officielles de la Congrégation (français, anglais, espagnol et néerlandais), mais aussi en swahili, en portugais ou encore en roumain – a répondu : « Présent ! »

Alors, après un long échange de baisers de paix, toute l’assemblée s’est mise en route vers la salle capitulaire. Traversant les interminables couloirs

vitrés de la Casa La Salle baignés d’un soleil printanier, ils ont pris la direction de leurs travaux. Mais ils savaient qu’ils n’étaient pas seuls : ils avançaient à la suite d’Emmanuel d’Alzon (dont le grand portrait les précédait) et de nos bienheureux martyrs de Bulgarie (leur icône était là), et accompagnés d’une immense mappemonde sur laquelle des drapeaux marquaient non seulement leurs origines, mais le lieu de leur solidarité avec l’Assomption de tous les continents, avec l’Eglise universelle et avec l’humanité tout entière.

Le Chapitre, chantant alors le ‘Veni Creator’, savait ainsi qu’il entrait dans sa charge sous les meilleures auspices. Il ne lui reste plus qu’à travailler.

(1) Notre ancien Supérieur général (1987-1999) fête également aujourd’hui son 76e anniversaire !

The Members of the 32nd General Chapter

(* first-time participants in a General Chapter)

Ex-officio Members:

General Curia: Fr. Richard Edward LAMOUREUX, Superior General; Fr. Julio NAVARRO ROMÁN, Vicar General and Postulator; Fr. André BROMBART, Assistant General; Fr. Emmanuel KAHINDO KIHUGHO, Assistant General; Fr. Jean-Daniel GULLUNG, Treasurer General; Fr. Lucas CHUFFART, Secretary General; Fr. Bernard LE LÉANNEC, Procurator.

Provincial Superiors and Assistants:

Fr. Niceto CALLE (Prov., Spain); Fr. Arnold CASTRO (Prov., Northern Europe); Fr. Jan ZUIKER (Ass., Northern Europe); Fr. Juan Carlos CISTERNA* (Prov., Chile-Argentina-Colombia); Fr. Luiz Carlos DE OLIVEIRA* (Prov., Brazil); Fr. Benoît GRIERE (Prov., France); Fr. Sylvain GASSER and Bro. Didier REMIOT* (Ass., France); Fr. Vincent KAMBERE KAGHANIRYO* (Prov., Africa); Fr. Roger KASEREKA SYAYIPUMA (Ass., Africa); Fr. Michel JARY (Vice-Prov., Madagascar); Fr. Marcel POIRIER (Prov., North America).

Former Superior General: Fr. Claude MARÉCHAL.

Elected Delegates:

Africa: Fr. Jean-René BAYENGO*, Fr. Protais KABILA KALONDO*, Fr. Jean Chrysostome KANYORORO KISALI, Fr. Ephrem KASEREKA KAPITULA*, Fr. Pierre LANDU SAFARI*, Fr. Simon NJUGUNA WAWERU*.

France: Fr. André ANTONI, Fr. Frans DESMET, Fr. Lucian DÎNCA*, Fr. Dominique GREINER*, Fr. Jean-François PETIT*, Fr. Emmanuel ROSPIDE.

Northern Europe: Fr. Laurent BODART, Fr. Mart LEMMENS, Fr. Guy LEROY.

Brazil: Fr. Marcos Antonio DIAS*.

North America: Fr. John FRANCK, Fr. Bernard HOLZER.

Chile-Argentina: Fr. Daniel GARCÍA*, Fr. Marcelo MARCIEL.

Madagascar: Fr. Lucien ROBIA*, Fr. Raymond TONGAMANA*.

Spain: Fr. Juan Antonio SANCHEZ*.

Consultor:

Fr. Pierre TRAN VAN Khue, Vietnam *.

Lay Participants: Jane Mwari MPUTHA, Jimena GARCÍA and Marie-Pierre GIRARD (International Commission); Sjaak BEIRNAERT and Jef de LOMBAERDE (Northern Europe); Maria Cristina BERARDI (Chile-Argentina); Regina Célia DA SILVA SOARES (Brazil); Vincent Fauvel (France); Carlos JIMENEZ COLORADO (Spain); Claude LAMONTAGNE (North America); François ZAFIMAKASON Smalah (Madagascar).



My Voice at the Chapter

I notice in the list of participants in the General Chapter the larger presence of young religious from Africa and Madagascar and for me this is a significantly hopeful fact. The shift within the

Assumption toward Africa and Asia demands first a review of our life as Assumptionists and a reflection on our mission in the context of our world. We need to take into account different issues like: globalization, communication (Internet, Twitter, Facebook...), terrorism, the role of Islam, the movements for greater freedom and ecology.

If not, we will notice among Christians an immense indifference and a lack of hope.

The implementation of our community organization is absolutely necessary, in the sense that each province and every religious constitutes a single body which together is responsible for the congregation. I expect a positive intention and an openness from all the members of the Chapter so that progress may be made in our community organization.

As for the Lay-Religious Alliance, I expect it to be strengthened, in fidelity to Fr. d'alzon. That there be a strong encouragement for a more intense collaboration.

The ageing provinces also expect a word of encouragement from this Chapter, for their contribution by their prayer and for their commitment lived at Assumption.

Finally, I expect, with reference to solidarity, much openness and clear-sightedness which gives us confidence and encourages the largest sharing possible.

May the Holy Spirit guide us so that we find good responses to the problems that we face and that we be able to constitute a solid General Council for the animation of our Congregation for the next six years.

Arnold Castro Provincial of Northern Europe





The word of the Lay People

From the experiences shared by the lay Assumptions from different countries, it has become clear that we are progressing well along the path of alliance between the religious and the lay. We have also discovered the dynamism, unity and diversity of our different vocations

experienced and lived by the lay in their different orientations. Our collaboration with the religious is much stronger now as we all share a common goal – working for the same causes of God and humankind. The religious live and witness in their communities while the lay witness with and among the people. It is therefore the responsibility of the lay to share their experiences and to bring to the religious what they do not have.

The lay participants are representing many lay people in our communities. The Chapter will help us to discern what we have lived in our communities. There is need to discern the universality of our cultures, experiences and attitudes as we look forward to the growth of the whole Assumption family. We are men of faith and communion in solidarity with the poor.

This Chapter gives us an opportunity as lay Assumptions to be like models that give initiative to the decisions of the Chapter. We need to initiate in our communities what we have witnessed and learnt in the Chapter especially to communicate and to give information to other people and communities. Our religious/lay alliance is being strengthened by our uniqueness in our unity as we are all men of faith, communion and solidarity with others experienced internationally.

The General Chapter is an assembly without lay characteristics in it. It functions democratically and therefore it gives us an opportunity to discover its uniqueness in the way it operates. All communities come together (internationally) to evaluate the activities done in different communities. It is a time to rediscover different activities done in various communities as well as to receive various reports.

We will therefore witness the various functions of the General Chapter namely evaluation, animation, decision making and organization. First, it is a time to evaluate the functions and activities of the congregation. Secondly, it is a time of animation of the congregation for the next six years. Thirdly it is also a time of decision making on matters concerning formation, recruitment etc. Fourthly it is a time to look at the organization of the congregation both at the local and at the international level.

I am therefore happy to be part of this 32nd General Chapter of the Assumptionists. It will definitely be an enriching reality for me and for all the participants. May the Holy Spirit guide and direct all the deliberations.

Jane Mpathia (Kenya)
Chairperson of the lay Assumption in Africa



Letters from our Readers

Dear brothers:

This “Diary of the Chapter” is a wonderful initiative to keep us informed. We are all very interested in what is happening amongst you and we are praying that the Spirit’s voice will be heard. We understand it to be so. Warm regards to all. Courage. Many thanks for the great service you are rendering by considering a common project for our family. Count on my prayer.

Francisco Sepulveda, a.a.

Chile

I am hoping for more commitment to the laity with more audacity in forming the Lay Alliance: more responsibility, more dialogue, more fraternity. Also, it is necessary to work WITH them not only FOR them. They have much to offer us and we have much to learn from them. Their formation should include some “guiding principles” for lay people not only at the intellectual level but also at the level of every day life. The joys and hopes of the lay people should be like a school for us also.

Good. I want to be brief. This is what I have to offer to the Chapter for the moment. May the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit descend upon you.

Warm regards.

Fr. Luis Ramon Rendon
Argentina.

They will coordinate the work of the Chapter

The 32nd General Chapter elected this morning his « Coordinating Commission » :
one Promoter, three Moderators and one Secretary,
who will have to conduct the capitular work during these three weeks



Fr. André Antoni
Promoter of the Chapter

51 years old, coming from Paris, he got the office of conducting all Chapter's work. In accord with the General Superior, who is Chapter President, his role is to foresee the day's agenda during the duration of the Chapter and to indicate progressively the matters to be treated.

The Promoter presides the Coordinating Commission.

He guides the debates of the capitular assembly, with help of the Moderators.

The Commissions keep him informed of the progress of their work.



Fr. Jean-François Petit
Secretary of the Chapter

The Secretary elected by the Chapter is Fr. Jean-François Petit, 45 years old, coming from France. With help of Fr. Bernard Holzer, 63 years old, coming from the Philippines (Province of North America), which has been elected the Pro-Secretary, he is responsible for the drafting of the minutes (these in duplicate copies, must contain, among other things, the results of all the ballots), of their presentation to the Chapter and of the conservation of all the Chapter documents.

The adjunct secretaries – which are not members of the Chapter - work under their responsibility : Fr. Wilfrid Kasereka Kibanda (RD-Congo, staying in Belgium) and Daniel Gillier (France, now in sabbatical in Romania) will provide this service.



**Fr. Emmanuel Kahindo, Fr. John Franck
and Fr. Juan Antonio Sanchez**
Moderators of the Chapter

The Chapter had to elect at least two Moderators. He chose Fr. Emmanuel Kahindo, 45 years old, coming from RD Congo (and General Assistant), Fr. John Franck (64, North America) and Fr. Juan Antonio Sanchez, 44 years old, coming from Spain.

Their role consists in rotating at guiding the debates, when the President asks them to do so.

They call on people to speak when they have requested to speak, while respecting the order in which they have asked to do so. To facilitate the discussion, they can at times make an exception to this rule.

They facilitate the participation of everyone.

They see to it that the topic to be treated is clearly situated and that in the interventions we do not stray from the topic.

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- 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 Gianetti 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@gamil.com