



News

Informations - Noticias - Informatie

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ASSUMPTION



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Religious and laity
the same mission





"Langue de Bois"

The French call it « langue de bois ». The phrase is not easy to translate, but it refers to a language that is spoken in every culture. It seems that the expression was invented in Russia to describe ideological discourse during the Soviet era. It is a term currently applied especially to politicians who use language to hide incompetence or to avoid answering questions they consider embarrassing. It is language that tends to be pompous, dull, wordy, vague, and banal. At its worst, it is used to conceal or distort the truth.

Why do I evoke the phrase?

I'm currently reading the interview of Pope Benedict by Peter Seewald (*Light of the World*, whose French edition, I might add, was published by Bayard in Paris). I urge you all to read it. (If you have easy access to these texts, I also encourage you to read the wonderful "review" of the book written by Isabelle de Gaulmyn for the edition of *La Croix* published on November 22nd, as well as the presentation by *L'Osservatore Romano* in its November 21st edition.) Although most newspapers focused almost exclusively on one comment made by the Pope (on the use of condoms by a prostitute infected with AIDS, chapter 11), the interview covers a wide range of topics, from the most anecdotal ("Does the Pope wears his white cassock all day long?" and "What are your favorite videos?") to the most substantial (on the nature of progress, on our capacity to know the truth, on the Church's relations with Muslims, Jews, Protestant and Orthodox Christians) and the most controversial (the Regensburg speech, sexual abuse by priests, the decision regarding Bishop Williamson, celibacy and a married clergy, the ordination of women, hotly debated Church teachings in a variety of areas...).

What I want to point out in a special way is the Pope's aversion to a "langue de bois". Nowhere in the 200-page interview will you find language that is "pompous, dull, wordy, vague, and banal". The Pope's language is direct, simple, honest, and courageous. He is optimistic about the Church in today's world ("I am quite optimistic that Christianity is on the verge of a new dynamic." Ch. 5), but he warns against any kind of triumphalism or activism. In fact, the reader is struck by the Pope's humility: besides the great popes, he says, there are the little ones who give what they can (chapter 7). Benedict is even modest regarding our ability to know what's true: "The concept of the truth...has been much abused. Intolerance and cruelty have occurred in the name of truth... We never have the truth; at best it has us. No one will dispute that we must be careful and cautious in claiming the truth." (chapter 5)

But in the end, it's the Pope's conviction that only the truth and God's Word can give meaning and direction to our lives. Consequently, he avoids any kind of language that obscures the truth or any ideology that pretends to take God's place at the center of our lives or thought.

The Pope also had some good things to say about the new evangelization that is needed today. If such an effort is to be effective, we had best learn to speak the right language, a language that the Pope speaks fluently. I was reminded of this while reading the self-evaluation that one of our confrères wrote in view of his ordination: "One day, in a catechism class I was teaching, a little girl said to me: 'Your explication doesn't make any sense!' Her remark made me think about the need for a catechesis that is more developed, closer to the reality that children experience in

school and at home and not a catechism 'that rains down from heaven and whose waters never penetrate'." His reflection made me think of the countless sermons I've heard that are dull and wordy and have no unifying thought and absolutely no relevance to the challenges with which I am faced each day. Preachers too readily communicate in a "langue de bois".

And it is not simply a matter of language or of style. More importantly, it is a matter of respect for the truth. No one would question the Pope's faith and attachment to the Church, but he is no ideologue. He acknowledges that sin exists in the Church and recognizes that he too is a pilgrim along the way, but the only thing that will allow us to see clearly in order to arrive at our destination is to open ourselves to the light of the truth... the truth, I might add, that took flesh in the one who birth we are celebrating.

Best wishes for the new year,

Richard

In the insert "Bicentennial Newsletter" your will find in extenso the letter of Fr. Richard Lamoureux to Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the Bicentennial of Father d'Alzon and the answer of Cardinal Bertone suggesting a christocentric apostolate (November 18, 2010)

Cover: The garden of Due Pini, the Community of Rome.
Photo Lucas

Agenda of the General Council

The next General Council meeting

will take place from:

-March 7 to 26 2011.

The next Council of the Congregation will take place in Paris on the 17th, 18th, and 19th of February 2011.

The General Chapter
will take place in Rome from May 2nd (evening) to May 23rd (evening) 2011.

Father Richard Lamoureux

- In the U.S.A., Provincial Chapter, retreat, rest from December 26 to January 30, 2011.
- In Rome, Inter-Assumption session on the Charism, February 3 to 8, 2011.
- In Paris, Council of the Congregation February 16 to 20, 2011.

Fr. Julio Navarro Roman

- In Spain, December 27, 2010, to January 4, 2011, Provincial Chapter December 28 to December 30, and Elche.
- In Bucharest, January 15 to 25, Library of Oriental Theology.
- In Paris, February 11 to 24 2011, work with the Community Organization Commission and the Council of the Congregation.

Fr. André Brombart

- In Brussels and Banneux, December 27, 2010 to January 20, 2011
- In Bucharest, January 16 to 18, Inauguration of the Christian Tell House
- In Rome, Inter-Assumption session on the Charism, February 3 to 8, 2011
- In Paris, preparatory commission for the Council of the Congregation, February 8 to 24, 2011

Fr. Emmanuel Kahindo

- In Madagascar, Vice Provincial Chapter, December 12 to 25, 2010
- In the Congo (RDC), Provincial Chapter, December 26, 2010 to January 22, 2011
- In Paris, Preparatory Commission and Council of the Congregation, February 8 to 24, 2011

Fr. Jean Daniel Cullung

- In France, December 26, 2010 to January 5, 2011
- In Paris, February 12 to 24, 2011, Council of the Congregation

Fr. Lucas Chuffart

- In France, December 26, 2010 to January 6, 2011.
- In Rome, February 3 to 8, 2011, Inter-Assumption session on the Charism.
- In Paris, February 12 to 24, 2011: Council of the Congregation.

Fr. Richard Lamoureux, Superior General, with his Council has called

To ordination to the priesthood

1. KAKULE, VIRIVUSIGHA Jean-Aimé (Africa)
2. KAWA MUSWAHILI Josaphat (Africa)
3. MUMBERE SIVITA Landry (Africa)
4. MUSAFIRI N'KUBA Christian (Africa)
5. WASUKUNDI SIVAKWIRIVUTWA Roger (Africa)
6. YALA ODHIAMBO Bernard (Africa)

To ordination to the diaconate

7. AQUIUE MATTA William (France)
8. ANDREI, Iulian (France)
9. SEPULVEDA, Francisco (Chili)

To perpetual profession

10. KAKULE KAMAVU Jean-Claude (Africa)
11. KAMBALE MBAYAHI Eric (Africa)
12. MOLINA Edward (North America)
13. MUTULIRANO LWAYIVWEKA J.-Marie (Africa)



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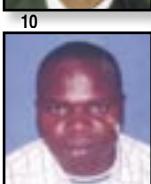
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Errata :

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Cardinal Tauran visits us on Christmas Eve.

As we come to the close of our Bicentennial celebrations, Cardinal Jean-Louis TAURAN, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue honored us with a visit on December 18th. This close collaborator of Pope Benedict XVI presided our Saturday morning Eucharist.

In his homily, he reminded us of this thought of Blaise Pascal: *"Apart from Jesus Christ, we know nothing about life, nor about death, nor who God is, nor who we are for that matter."* At Christmas, God reveals His name to us: God-with-us, God-for-us, God-for-all. Then the cardinal asked this question: *"Is God's name sanctified by our words, our judgments, our attitudes?"* He reminded us of the extreme humility of God as described by the German poet Friedrich Hölderlin (1770-1843): He is the one *"who created man in the same way that the sea creates the continents, by drawing back."*

This extremely discreet servant of the Church was in charge of the international relations of the Holy See during the papacy of John Paul II. He then became a wise counselor of Pope Benedict XVI for relations with the Muslim world. Over the years, his various responsibilities in the service of the Pope have touched on some of the most complex and thorny questions at the heart of the Church's mission.

While enjoying an aperitif with the community, the Cardinal spoke of his recent visits in the Near East, in Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan. He spoke of his dialogue with the Muslim world and his contacts with the universities of Qom (Iran) and Al-Azhar (Egypt). During a recent visit in France, he received an honorary doctorate from the Catholic Institute of Paris. The text of his address on that occasion will be published in the *Documentation Catholique*.

During the meal that followed our conversation, the Cardinal spoke of his activities in the service of the Holy See and his life in Rome, his residence since 1983. At the conclusion of his visit, the former Prefect



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Father Julio Navarro celebrates the November 21, 2010 Mass

RENEWED ACQUAINTANCES

of the Vatican Library was shown some of the volumes in the D'Alzon Library which consists of some 1800 volumes that belonged to our Founder. Though he has been in service at the Vatican for thirty years, this was Cardinal Tauran's first visit to our community.

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Each year the Assumption family in Rome gathers together with Father General. The 21st of November 2010 was again an opportunity to get together, religious, sisters, and lay friends of our different Congregations and close to fifty guests. The Bicentennial of the birth of Fr. d'Alzon was an opportunity to give this year's anniversary of his death a special character since it coincided with the feast of Christ the King. Fr. Julio Navarro, Vicar General, thus had the opportunity to speak in his homily about the central vocation of the Assumption, the coming of God's Kingdom.

In a conversation after Mass we talked about the various signs of the coming of this Kingdom: a review of what is happening in the Assumption in various parts of the world: new foundations, ministries in poor areas, educational developments in Eastern Europe, a shared concern for vocations. A good indication of our unity was the fraternal meal we shared around tables beautifully set by our Oblate sisters.

Three phrases of Fr. d'Alzon, "Real power is love", "We cannot love Jesus Christ without wanting everyone to love him", "Do everything with great charity", decorated the walls of the dining room, reminding us that all our efforts should aim at making the earth, the sea, and the sky reflect the Kingdom that is coming.

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Even if the previous issue of the AAINFO has already evoked the **RIAD**, or the International Assumptionist Meeting for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue (no. 21 page 4), it is good to come back to this event, as have the General Councils of the Assumption Family thanks to the contribution of Sister Isabelle Roux, R.A. It is the opinion of all the participants, that the RIAD 2010 was a success. The meeting allowed participants to discover things or deepen knowledge in various areas. Many returned home with the desire to commit themselves personally and as community. Certain members underscore some personal conversions. Many propositions were made for future meetings. In short, it was an excellent evaluation. What are the discoveries and suggestions?

The principal discoveries. First of all, things concerning the **Assumption Family** must be noted. Many participants underscored the richness of the Family's diversity, unity, and fraternal attitude among the five congregations, the importance of its common identity in the will to promote the Kingdom of God. The RIAD helps to reinforce the road to travel together in the Assumption. No less important are the discoveries concerning **the Evangelical Churches**: some participants had to overcome negative prejudices. They are not "sects". They are not closed but open. Certain participants who did not know much about the subject changed their way of seeing them and appreciated their authentic evangelical spirit.

Other **things gained in the dialogue** concerned conversion, sharing, common research, and care for the truth...

Finally we must underline the discoveries concerning the **country that hosted the RIAD, Brazil**: the richness of its culture and of its very creative liturgies during the session, and of its insertion in the continent, etc...



Participants of the RIAD 2010



Among ourselves...



(See Blog: <http://riad2010.wordpress.com/>)



...and with the others



During a demonstration on a street.

There were new commitments, both personal and as community. On the personal level, some felt confirmed in the ecumenical commitments they had already made. But the majority of the participants left with the desire to appropriate for themselves the content of the RIAD and transmit them. Especially they express the desire to open up to the reality of other expressions of faith, and to

live a prayer of conversion. The desire of commitment concerns also the levels of formation in the Assumption ("participate in ecumenical formation in my congregation") as also the search for places of ecumenical dialogue existing in the Church. Many "wish to see arise an ecumenical awareness in the Assumption Family." (Excerpt from the evaluation of the RIAD 2010)



**The next meeting of the RIAD
in 2013 (decision of the
Congregations of the Assumption
Family).**

Everyone knows that the word Hexagon frequently designates the area of the territory of France and that often it has a “beyond”, that is, a larger perimeter.

In its September 30, 2010 issue the weekly magazine *Le Pèlerin* (founded on July 12, 1873. See the Bicentennial Newsletter no. 7, p. 280), presents over three pages the nine Assumptionist novices of Juvisy (France) on the occasion of their first vows. On the other hand, another publication, *Qu'il règne*, published in Belgium, has in its September 2010 issue, two pages of testimony by a missionary resident in Albertville, Fr. Morand Kleiber, an Alsatian and a philosopher. Here it is:

Fr. Morand Kleiber with one of his caps!



Testimony of a missionary residing in Albertville in France

Many ask themselves what impression one might have at arriving in retirement in the Albertville residence. I can give an answer in complete simplicity and truth, after four months at the residence. I believe that it depends on the previous life of each person: the experiences he might have had in his life of ministry, his health, or difficulties he might have to face, and of course the deepening of his religious life.

As for me, I was marked by a long period of teaching philosophy at the scholasticate, then by responsibilities in the provincial community, and finally by 22 years of mission in Africa (Congo RDC, the former Zaire). In arriving in Albertville from Lorgues, I found a great house with many elderly people (50 lay and 28 religious), and more health workers and administrators. In the main, my life is divided in two: the times of daily religious prayer, marked by the Eucharist, the divine office (often sung), and community meals; and the personal time given to each person for his personal or community interests that can be varied.

For me it is extremely simple. The free time is taken by my ties to the Congolese south of the equator: the diocese of Beni-Butembo, mostly evangelized by the Belgian and Dutch Assumptionists since 1929. Today there are 1.800.000 inhabitants; three quarters of them are practicing Catholics. Since 1983 I have witnessed the Rwanda genocide of 1994, and the two wars of liberation: 1996 and 1998. I saw thousands of deaths, widows and orphans and I will never be able to forget them. I still see the eyes of Christ and his question: **“Do you love me? Can you help me?”** (The population still lives in misery.)

During my vacations, I contacted benefactors in France and with their gifts created two centers: one for orphans where since 2004, 900 learn a trade, and it also pays for the schooling of 860 others. The other center is for diabetics where thousands have been treated since ►

"NEWS OF THE HEXAGON AND BEYOND"

2002. Because of that, I must stay in contact with benefactors, those in charge, and the Congolese, with the 260 Congolese Assumptionists already formed and missionaries all over the world. That is a lot to keep me busy, and I am learning to work with the Internet for there is no mail service there.

The other point is to support the people like me afflicted with ringing in the ears, (very strong in me 24/7) contracted south of the equator on the occasion of a possibly fatal malaria, treated with a perfusion of

five liters of quinine that saved my life and jumbled my ears.

And that is my life! I do not wish to die yet, at 88, for I cannot abandon all those who are suffering there. So I spend my time supporting the people with ringing in the ears and saving lives (by the hundreds). That has meaning and it is a way to be happy. I am in the Congo by thought, heart and action for most of my time.

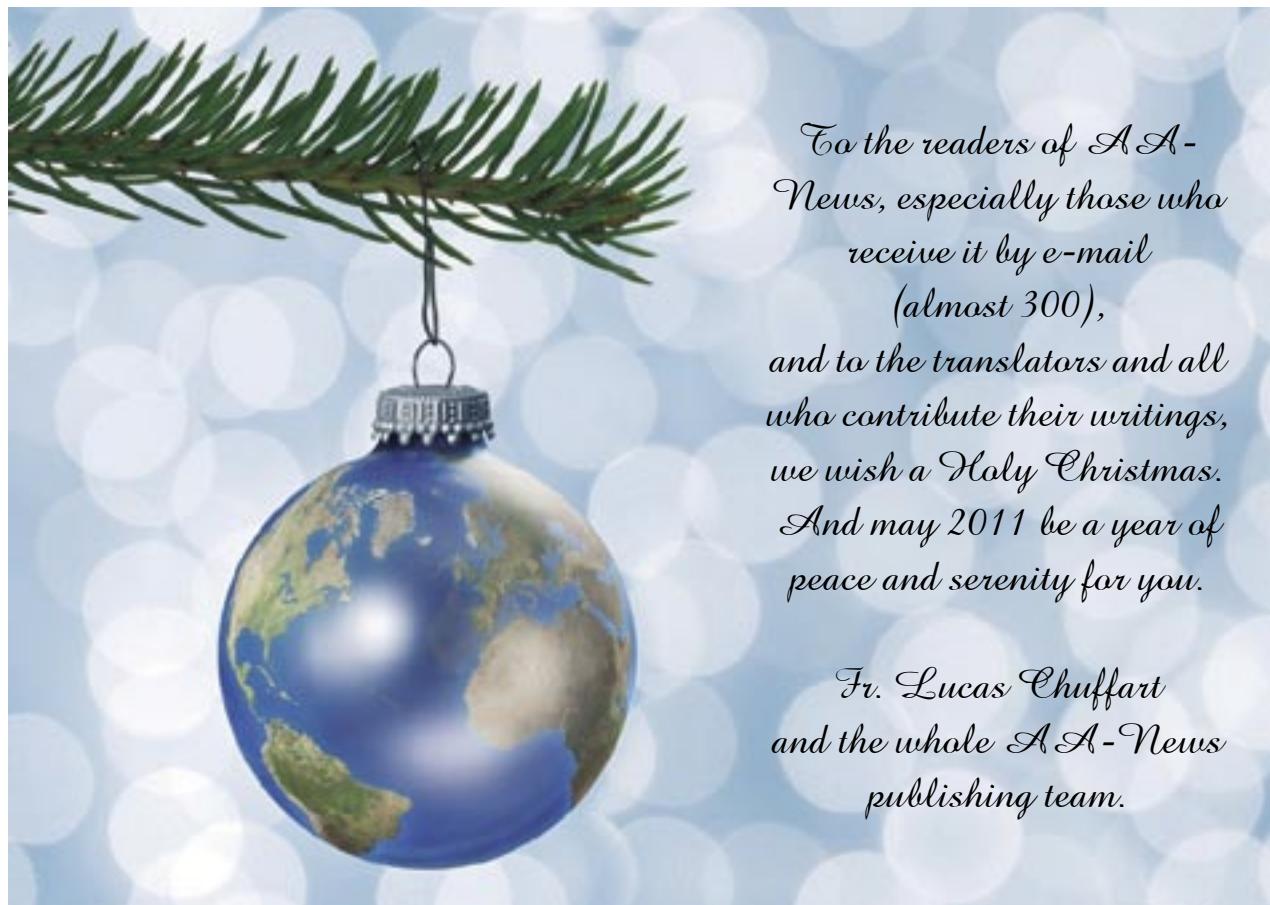
I could quote the words of Saint Paul to Timothy: "Our Savior Christ Jesus manifested himself

by destroying death and made life resplendent; that is the Gospel for which I was made a messenger, apostle and teacher. It is for that reason that I must suffer yet (a little), but I do not regret, because I know in whom I have placed my faith". You might prefer the testimony of a healed Congolese person: "Father Morand Kleiber is a holy man, a blessing from God, and a protector of the diabetics of Butembo."

*Fr. Morand Kleiber
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Those who receive AA-News via e-mail have received these greetings for 2011 before Christmas.

We wish them to all!





Bishop Wattebled unveils the facsimile plaque of the act of baptism of Fr. d'Alzon



The simple flavor of a family reunion

The festivities for the bicentennial of the birth of Father Emmanuel d'Alzon in Nîmes, Lavagnac, and Le Vigan, had without question the flavor of a family reunion, a gathering awaited for a long time and that fills one with joy in gathering around the common ancestor. Each one felt him close when visiting the "site of remembrance" recently inaugurated on Séguier Street, close to the tomb in the school chapel, or yet in the house at Lavagnac, near the charming little

town of Montagnac (Hérault). Mr. Bernard Bals, born in the walls of this residence so dear to the heart of Fr. d'Alzon, allowed us to appreciate this place still inhabited by his spirit and the perfume of his remembrance. Of course today the building, emptied of its furniture and many of its decorations, has lost its appeal. It awaits a profound restoration that, from what we hear, seems to aim at returning it to its glorious past: we are assured even that the little chapel will be open for Assumptionists passing

through; the blue room will once again show its colors; and the vestibule and its balustrade gallery will be renovated. In short, the place to which Fr. d'Alzon remained attached with all his heart because of his family and all those who lived there and in the Montagnac region, will find once again its former style.

There also took place the solemn Eucharist in the Cathedral of Nîmes, presided by its bishop Robert Wattebled, the dedication of the new bust of the Father in

Bicentennial



Celebration in the Church of St. Peter of Le Vigan.

the courtyard of the school of the Oblate Sisters, formerly the convent of the Assumption. Also, the show produced by the seven schools sponsored by the Oblates of the Assumption, entitled "Emmanuel d'Alzon, A Man with A Heart of Fire", will have had the merit of recreating the climate of this passionate existence in the service of the formation of the youth of his times, a preoccupation that undeniably has found a continuation for generations to come.

It was especially on Sunday the 10th of October at Le Vigan that we discovered the object of our Jubilee more alive than ever. In the church of Saint Peter, near the baptistery, a plaque with a facsimile of the act of his baptism was unveiled. For the guests who had made the trip, the Communauté des Communes, the new owner of La Condamine, birthplace of Fr. d'Alzon, marked the event by a welcome as well prepared as it was convivial with the participation of the Cévennes

Chamber Orchestra under the direction of François Gilles who, for the occasion, had composed a work entitled "*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*". No, "the Lion of the Cévennes" is certainly not dead: in his ancestral home: his presence is still felt. If you go there, you might have the chance to meet Mr. Romain Daudé, one of the descendants of the d'Alzon family, a real living portrait of the Vicar General of Nîmes.

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Meeting of the General Councils of the five Congregations.

WHAT PLEASED ME?

As they do every two years, the five Congregations of the Assumption Family on the level of the General Councils (by order of foundation, the Religious, the Assumptionists, the Oblates, the Little Sisters and the Orants) met this time in Paris on Lecourbe Street, on the 5, 6, and 7 of October, 2010. The program consisted of the main events of our Congregations, our preoccupations and our projects, our ties with the Laity and our collaborations throughout the world.

What pleased me said one participant was that under the aegis of the event marking the bicentennial of the birth of Emmanuel d'Alzon celebrated with dignity at Our Lady of Victories church of Paris, presided by Cardinal André Vingt-trois, all was said and done in a spirit of the mutual aid and collaboration that typifies our five congregations.

Yes, a common spirit animates us, each congregation with its specific traits and its own charisms, and we try to do everything we can with the other (Congregations of the Assumption Family), because



why do alone what we can do better together? That requires discernment, a spirit of zeal and initiative, disinterestedness, all virtues inherited from our Foundresses and Founders in a common Charism.

Even if we could fall into a certain pessimism faced with our small numbers of sometimes ageing members, before the immense challenges to overcome, before the too numerous calls (for help), that we receive, the list of our effective collaborations to be intensified at the base, is long and promising.

Judge for yourselves:

- At Conflans, on a barge and on land: LSA and AA, a beautiful collaboration, unfortunately too little known! And with the punctual help of the OA.
- In Paris, all the Congregations participate in the Auberge de Jeunesse Adveniat.
- In Nîmes, AA and OA collaborate in the Institut d'Alzon.
- In Madrid a young Congolese LSA is an intern in an RA school.
- Inter-Assumption celebration, Northern Europe and Belgium to celebrate Fr. d'Alzon.

Assumption Family



© Brombart

- In Africa, the RA invited all the families present to a formation session and in the West, a common inter-novitiate.
- Many fraternal meetings about which the Charism Group, the RIAD, and the secretariat JPIC (justice, peace, and integrity of the creation).
- In Butembo, at the ISEAB, AA and OA are professors, and this in an OA school, An OrA postulant teaches there.
- In France, the visit to the archives of each Congregation during the preparation for perpetual vows.
- In the Cameroon, vocational

- companioning assured by an RA for the AA aspirants.
- AA and OA: a new foundation in Uganda, at Lugazi near Kampala.
- In Madagascar, a united vocations ministry together: AA, OrA, and LSA.
- Columbia, Brazil and France: inter-Assumption collaboration for vocational ministry.
- Letter of the AA Superior General to all the Provincials and Superiors General.
- In Tunis, an inter-congregational community of LSA and OA.
- In Africa, inter-congregational

participation in the sessions proposed by one or the other of the congregations, especially concerning formation.

- In Argentina, AA and OrA can collaborate.
- In Togo, RA, OrA and AA work together.
- In the Ivory Coast, RA, OrA and OA often meet.
- In Worcester, USA, the continued collaboration between the AA and RA.
- OrA: mutual services, lodging, support of new foundations, in the Philippines for example with the RA, LSA, and AA: support in certain events, joyful or painful.
- At Lourdes, during the Pilgrimage of the Assumption, for the last ten years there has been a stand for the Assumption Family with the participation of each Congregation. A cyber-Pélé has just been created.

And the list, according to the minutes of the meeting of the General Councils is neither exhaustive ("Not everything is said!) nor limited ("You can create more collaboration!")

After the General Chapters and with the formation of the new General Councils, all this collaboration will have to be taken up again and developed, without forgetting the RIAD, The SJPIC, the Charism group, the project of a Congress on Education in the Assumption. The Assumption Family is enlarging its tent!

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The Assumption of Mary

Sixty years ago, on November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of Mary.

On this occasion the question can be asked how a religious family called Assumption, in a certain way, brought a stone to this construction. It would be pretentious to believe that it had some influence on the decision of the pontiff, but we have the right to think that certain of its eminent members contributed to the maturation and the coming to a decision to make this proclamation during the Holy Year.

Among the preliminary steps preparing the definition, the scientific works, the congresses and the pontifical commissions that had been undertaken, the studies realized by Fr. Martin Jugie (1878-1954), have a special place. Indeed, his monumental 747-page book "*La mort et l'Assomption de la Sainte Vierge. Etude historico-doctrinale*", published in 1944 furnished, as Pope Pius XII himself admitted, the sure materials that prepared and hastened the dogmatic definition of the Assumption of Mary. The work produced by the theologian and the team of the "*Echos d'Orient*", a man humble and austere, in his modesty had not looked for a more beautiful reward than the proclamation of the dogma of the Assumption. When this brilliant professor of oriental theology published his book, he had naturally dedicated it to Pope Pius XII, protector of the Assumption families. In 1931, in fact, Pope Pius XI had named Eugene Pacelli, then Secretary of State of the Vatican, cardinal protector of the religious families of the Assumption. When he became Pope, the Assumption retained with him a privileged tie and often showed him affection and attachment. But the Congregation received the announcement of this proclamation with particular joy. Fr. Gervais Quénard, the Superior General heard the news during the National Pilgrimage to Lourdes. He immediately expressed his joy in a circular letter to the whole Assumptionist family: "since Assumption is our family name and we are celebrating our centenary." (Circular no. 5, August 22, 1950). Also how can we omit the mention of the thesis of Fr. Antoine Wenger, defended in 1948 and published in 1956 with the title "*L'Assomption de la Sainte Vierge dans la tradition Byzantine (The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin in the Byzantine Tradition)*?" On the occasion of this proclamation, the Congregations of the Assumption sent the Pope a congratulatory telegram which the Holy Father answered through his substitute, Mgr Montini, the future Paul VI. A few days later, December 8, Fr. Jugie was invited, along with other theologians who had collaborated in the preparation of the definition of the dogma of the Assumption, to recite the rosary with the Pope in his private chapel.





« The Assumption » embroidery by a Sister of the Visitation



In his book, Fr. Jugie develops, among others, a reflection called “the opportuneness and advantage of a solemn definition of the doctrine of the Assumption.” He states: “In this treasure of divinely revealed truths that she (the Church) possesses, is a doctrine that can serve the instauration of a new order...”

According to him, the affirmation of the doctrine of the Assumption is an effective means to condemn the great contemporary error, that is, the development of a materialistic civilization that fosters well-being and pleasure while making man forget the end and ultimate meaning of his existence. This civilization that he denounces aims, according to him, to deny the existence of another life for every human being, the spirituality and the immortality of the soul. This doctrine reaffirms “the provisional character of our bodily death that, in the Christian style, takes the name of sleep or dormition.” It must be noted that Pope Pius XII promulgated the dogma of the Assumption, not on August 15 as was expected, but on November 1, 1950, All Saints day, to place Mary in the communion of all the saints. The Assumption is the eschatological icon of the Church. Let us remember on this 60th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Assumption, that Mary remains the sign of hope and consolation for the People of God on the march: “The mother of Jesus already glorified in body and soul, is the image and the beginning of what will be the achievement of the Church in the world to come” (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 68).

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THE PROVINCE OF AFRICA WILL SAVE THE ASSUMPTION?

The Provincial Chapter is on the horizon. It will be held at Quénard House, in RD Congo, from the 29th of December 2010 until January 5, 2011. One theme is on the menu: "Faithful to our Assumptionist identity for the ART. Auto-financing and other strategies."

The Preparatory Commission of the Provincial Chapter had laid the fundamental outlines. Something new: for this Provincial Chapter, all the communities have formed pre-capitular commissions! The working paper emanates from the contributions of the communities which in this fashion were directly associated in the preparation of the Provincial Chapter.

It will be for the entire Province, a privileged place of reflection, discussion, and coming together. It will help the entire Province to deepen its understanding of the calls of the Spirit for an effective apostolate and an eloquent testimony in the Church and in the world of our time. It is for us a kairos, for the effectiveness of the pertinence of our commitment to the ART is in function of our creative fidelity.

Confronted with the financial crisis – our wallet remains thin – "yet we dare as widely as the world". The great project of building the Institut Supérieur Emmanuel d'Alzon of Butembo (ISEAB) on the Vulamba site, the new foundation at Kyavakade-Kampala in Uganda, the opening towards Rwanda, the canonical erection of the community of Lyambo in the new Blessed Sacrament parish in the diocese of Butembo-Beni, etc.

Even more, henceforth the religious of the Province of Africa are missionaries in all the Provinces of the Assumption, except Brazil. Even if this scattering of the fishing lines deprives us of competencies, we are no less proud to participate in the mission of the Congregation. In this way, Africa will save the Assumption. Who will save us from our rosary of challenges and misery?

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At the INSTITUT SUPERIEUR EMMANUEL D'ALZON of Butembo, on November 21, 2010 the 130th anniversary of the death of the Servant of God Fr. d'Alzon (1810-1880) was celebrated. The Institut Supérieur Emmanuel d'Alzon had to celebrate with éclat the day commemorating the birth in heaven of its venerable « patron ».

For more information, consult: www.butembo1.org.



P. Jean Guillaume Kavusa Kasoko, wearing the bicentennial t-shirt

To crown the Bicentennial year of his birth and underline the role of education in the life of Fr. d'Alzon, our university in Worcester, Assumption College, solemnly dedicated, in front of the library building on the campus, a life-size statue of the Founder speaking with a young female student and a colored student, as the professors of this university are wont do. It is a work of Sister Margaret Beaudette, a Sister of Charity, internationally renowned sculptor. New York has its Statue of Liberty, Worcester has its statue of Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon!

See the site www.assumption.us and tomasz@kirul.com

And the site <http://www.assumption.org/aa/en/content/dedication-d%80%99alzon-statue-assumption-college-worcester-usa>



In front of the library at Assumption College in Worcester



Religious and laity at work together.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER PERSPECTIVES

For the perspectives of the Provincial Chapter, North America became even more conscious that its three regions (Canada, United States, and Mexico) and its foundation in the Philippines where there are now three communities one of which is an international novitiate, form a dynamic but fragile ensemble. The North American Province linked to the Philippines prefigures somewhat the new structures of the Congregation uniting particular entities, and different cultures by relationships and communications to be continually renewed and adapted. A cell of inter-regional development and a search for funding is in the works, bringing together religious, laity and youth.



ASUNCIONISTAS
hombres y mujeres de fe
en el corazón de la vida

ARGENTINA SOLEMNLY CELEBRATED THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ASSUMPTIONIST PRESENCE IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

Even if there remains only one community, near Buenos Aires, not far from the Sanctuary and parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, and the sponsorship of two schools, the dynamism of the origins has been maintained and the ministries are numerous.

The Little Sisters of the Assumption had preceded the first Assumptionists, among whom was Fr. Roman Heitmann, who arrived in Argentina a hundred years ago (read the 8th issue of the Bicentennial series, written in Spanish by Fr. Roberto Favre, A.A.). The collaboration of Laity and Religious, with the theme of "men and women of faith in the heart of life" is one of the essential conditions to look to the future.

See also the site:

<http://www.assumptio.org/aa/en/content/a-hundred-years-ago>
<http://asuncionargentina.org.ar/centenario.html>

PERSPECTIVES OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Provincial Chapter of Chile-Argentina-Columbia-Ecuador, assembled near Santiago, the nineteen Assumptionist delegates, invited and de jure, and six lay persons of five different nationalities. Among other things, the community organization of the Congregation in general was the order of the day. The new Provincial, Fr. Juan Carlos Cisterna, aided by the Assistant General from Chile, Fr. Julio Navarro Roman were able to answer the questions, considering the concrete reality of this province extended over four countries. Pathways towards a greater authenticity of Assumptionist religious life and for a new apostolic dynamism, especially vocational, were established.

See the red wire of the South American Provincial Chapter on
<http://www.assumptio.org/aa/fr/category/fil-rouge/chili>



A commission of the Provincial Chapter.

Brazil



The young Province of Brazil, established in 1993, had two events to celebrate: **the Bicentennial of the birth of Fr. d'Alzon and the 75 years of the Assumptionist presence in Brazil (1935-2010)**. All that was celebrated during the year in various circumstances and it even included a great pilgrimage to Our Lady of Aparecida in April 2010. A DVD follows these celebrations and speaks of the bishops, the religious, and the lay assumptionists that have marked the apostolate of our Congregation in Brazil.

Laity and religious to continue the mission of the Founder in Brazil (Aparecida).

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER PERSPECTIVES

The third Provincial Chapter of Brazil took place at the end of November 2010 at Pinhal. The four ex officio members, the six delegates, all the other religious invited with the right of active participation, according to the statutes of the Province and two invited lay people were present. Considering the social, cultural, and ecclesiastical situation, paths for reflection and action were elaborated for the animation of the five communities with an Assumptionist spirit and to feel concretely belonging to an international Congregation which promotes ministries of unity, charity, and truth.

See the red wire of the Provincial Chapter of Brazil:

[www.assumptio.org/aa/fr/
category/fil-rouge/bresil](http://www.assumptio.org/aa/fr/category/fil-rouge/bresil)



Religiosos Agostinianos da Assunção
Provincia do Brasil

And the site of the Province of Brazil: www.assucionistas.com



Photos of the Provincial Chapter.

ELCHE, A NEW COMMUNITY

A few Spanish religious cried out: "Ageing, they are still producing fruit!" Because a new community has opened at Elche, near Alicante, thanks to the help of religious from the Province of Africa in a few Assumptionist communities in Spain. The new pastor of the Parish of San Anton, served by the community, Fr. Michael Tsongo, averred in his homily that this foundation is the fruit of a long discernment and corresponds to the desires of a local population that welcomes the Assumptionist projects.

In order to attract other European Assumptionists, Fr. Michael adds: "We are 20 km from the beach."

[http://sites.google.com/site/asuncestpa/
asuncestpa](http://sites.google.com/site/asuncestpa/asuncestpa)



To situate Elche, the new community.

At the Provincial Chapter of Spain, it was the questionnaires sent by the Preparatory Commission of the General Chapter that attracted attention, after having been worked over by each community. The care for vocations and a vocation ministry adapted to

a new Spanish society was expressed strongly. For the apostolate, we are looking for diverse models, beyond parish ministry and in conformity with the social, doctrinal and ecumenical charism of the Congregation.

The sanctuary of San Anton, the parish church of Elche.



THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF NORTHERN EUROPE

Helvoirt. Not far from Tilburg in the Netherlands, from November 29 to December 1 (2010) hosted the Chapter of the Province of Northern Europe established in 2005 by the union of what now constitute the three Regions: the Netherlands, Flanders, and South Belgium.

The twelve members of the Chapter took stock of the life of the Province and reflected on the answers to give to the questionnaire sent to the Provinces by the Preparatory Commission of the General Chapter. They also reviewed the financial situation of the three Regions

and discussed ideas on the best way to assure solidarity with the Congregation in justice and discernment without compromising the future. The participation of laity in the moments of reflection in the Congregation is now part of its life. Northern Europe has not been an exception. Two lay people took part in the entire Chapter. One of them Sjaak Beirnaert, as treasurer of the Region of the Netherlands, and the other, Luc Vanriet, former director of the Assumptionist school of Kapelle-op-den-Bos, assumed the role of moderator for the Chapter. Also a complete afternoon was given to a meeting of the lay people of the three Regions. Sjaak Berinaert and his wife Herma, who looks after the well-being of the religious in the retirement community of Molenweide-Molenhof, shared the meaning of their commitment in the life of the communities of the Netherlands. Freek Claessen, who is associated with the superior of the community of the Chateau, at Boxtel, gave witness to his life path and his Assumptionist convictions. Jef De Lombaerde, director of the school at Zepperen, restated the



Courageous capitulants

importance that the responsible authorities of the Belgian schools give to maintaining the spirit and the values of the Assumption in education. Finally, Roger Vandenbrul and Martine Leroy, who are both strongly engaged in the life of the association *Accompagner* in the Belgium South Region, gave a moving witness to and made better understood the aims and the functioning of this work. All the members of the Chapter were thus able to become conscious of the rich diversity that exists in the collaboration between religious and lay people in the Province.

Finally, the Chapter elected the delegates to the General Chapter. The three official delegates are Laurent Bodart, Guy Leroy, and Mart Lemmens. The three substitutes are Thibault Van Den Driessche, Lambert Maurissen and Henk Sibum.

Finally, it was a meeting that did serious and constructive work, in a relaxed and fraternal atmosphere.

*André Brombart, A.A.
abrombart@gmail.com*

Religious and lay people listening at the Provincial Chapter



THE CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF FRANCE

The Chapter of a Province that is present in a dozen countries all over the world, and includes more than 250 religious, offers you very broad horizons indeed! There were sixty participants, among whom forty eight members of the Chapter (8 ex officio and 39 elected delegates), five lay people, a technical team of five members, an invited Provincial and an Assistant General.

It was a well prepared Chapter, and dynamically conducted, packed with debates, and often high caliber discussions, and well animated liturgies. In short, it was a very rich week – from the 13th to the 20th of November – that gives an encouraging image of the life of the Province and permits one to visualize with confidence the future of the Assumption in France and elsewhere.

Besides the unavoidable reports, from the Provincial and the Provincial Treasurer notably, the work of the Chapter, whether in general assembly or in round table discussions, covered a wide range of subjects. Certainly, since one of the major aims was the preparation of the General Chapter, a goodly portion of the work was given to the response to the questionnaire proposed by the Preparatory Commission of the General Chapter. But, as has already been underscored, the reflections on the subject, contributed broadly to establish convictions that should animate communities and religious of the Province for the coming years. It was also necessary to elect the delegates of the Province to the General Chapter, an important and delicate task considering the numerous imperative, and



The secretariat of the Chapter



The Chapter Assembly



Attentive members of the Chapter.

sometimes contradictory, needs that have to be taken into account. The needs for special works were indicated: *Bayard, Bucharest, and the Auberge de jeunesse*,

The presence of five “lay Assumptionists” during the whole chapter deserves to be underscored, who participated discretely but in a non negligible way, in the reflections of the Assembly. Their presence was also tied to the event that closed the Chapter: the commitment of 21 lay people, men and women, to a “Path of Life” that tighten the ties of the Alliance (see page 24).

Finally, this Chapter signaled also the closing for the Province of France, the Bicentennial of the birth of Emmanuel d’Alzon. The event was emphasized by the broadcast of the Mass of Sunday, November 21 on French television, during a long and very interesting section of “*Jour du Seigneur*”, dedicated to Fr. d’Alzon and the religious families of which he is the founder.

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A little news: **"Celebration for Fr. d'Alzon at Manirisoa (Fianarantsoa)".**

In the nice newsletter no. 10 of the Vice-Province of Madagascar, we find the following testimony: "To celebrate the feast of our founder, the community of Manirisoa entrusted its preparation to the vocation team. The team organized a triduum of prayer which it animated. On Thursday November 18, 2010, we began by a recollection on the theme of "the community" preached by Fr. Stanislas Ramanantsoa; on Friday, November 19, we centered our day on "Christ" and celebrated his presence in the Blessed Sacrament. On Saturday, November 20 at 3:00 P.M., the lay Assumptionists of Fianarantsoa celebrated a Mass presided by Fr. Gervais Kahindo, for Assumptionist vocations, and we were able to meditate on many words of Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon... etc...



The school at Ejeda



A school in the bush

THE VICE-PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF MADAGASCAR, in December 2010, tackled with enthusiasm the following points prepared by the works committee: the preparation of the General Chapter, the difficult choices of the mobilizing works of the Provinces and the whole of the Congregation, the community Organization that will work best in the years to come, and the development of the Religious-Lay Alliance for the Big Island... etc.

"The project of the Vice-Province, says a preparatory document, urges us to be men of faith, in solidarity with the poor, and attentive to the youth and to vocations." How can we put all that into practice? And what would be the priorities? And always in an effort to auto-finance and solidarity! It is a vast program.

A PATH OF LIFE WITH THE ASSUMPTIONISTS

At the closing of the Bicentennial of the birth of Fr. d'Alzon, Founder of the Congregation of the Augustinians of the Assumption, lay people will for the first time make a solemn commitment.

Catherine Voyant was a child when she began to establish ties with the “family of the Assumption” as she calls it. “I had come to the National Pilgrimage to Lourdes just after my father’s death,” she remembers, “and immediately the Little Sisters of the Assumption enveloped me with warmth and affection.” Through the years, this forty-nine year old mother, who lives near the chateau of Chambord, has remained faithful to Lourdes and it was perfectly natural for her there to meet the Augustinians of the Assumption, the animators of the National Pilgrimage. There also a human and a spiritual relationship took root with a few of them, the basis for the commitment that she will make on Saturday at 6:00 P.M., at the Center of Valpré, at Écully (Rhône), during a celebration that will mark the closing of the Bicentennial of the birth of Emmanuel d’Alzon, Founder of the Congregation of the Augustinians of the Assumption. For the first time, 21 French lay people – after the Spaniards and the Mexicans - have decided to commit themselves officially at the side of the Assumptionists. A text, called “a path of life” has institutionalized the collaboration that is at the very roots of the Congregation.

“Lay people have always been associated in the great works of



Preparatory meeting before the commitment with Fr. Robert Migliorini, A.A.

the Assumption, in the press as in pilgrimages, or today, on the barge *Je Sers*,” recalls Robert Migliorini, the Assumptionist religious who led the preparatory retreat for the 21 “pioneers”. “This commitment is not a revolution, but rather a supplementary phase, a new form of structural tie: religious and laity will share together a common mission”.

But to what do they commit themselves, the men and women from 43 to 70 years, celibate or married, who undertake the path individually or as a couple? “I commit myself especially to being,” kids Catherine, when she is asked about the obligations implied in her commitment. “I am not living this as an obligation. For

me it is natural. What will change is that I will possibly be called upon to give more.”

All of them already actively participate in the life of the congregation, to which they have become close in a quasi affective way, carried by this Assumptionist “spirit” that they all speak of without really defining it! “In the Assumption we have found warmth and freedom” summarizes Corinne Filippi, a 50 year-old doctor from Marseilles, who commits herself with Paul, her 59 year-old husband, a director in a workers’ cooperative for public works. Both believe that their commitment will not limit their freedom. “We will be even more part of the family, by bringing what we are,” she adds...



A RECIPE FOR THE BICENTENNIAL:

TASTY! HUMM!



Bake according to local customs little cakes or brioches (called "bungs" in certain regions), the size of a champagne cork or a little bigger! Make them in the form of a heart if possible (Corazon in Spanish), if you have the proper molds. For some of the little cakes add a little rum and serve them on two plates: With rum or without rum! And offer them saying: "With or without rum but always for Rome!" We can call these little cakes Coralzon (abbreviation of Correnson-Alzon)! Enjoy!

(Recipe of Mme Martine, cook for the international AA community in Nîmes!)



Statuette of the Holy Family, Kenyan sculpture
tumeprotais@yahoo.com

The respect for each individual vocation seems to be one of the primary qualities that we recognize in the Assumptionists and in the people close to them: the varied profiles of the 21 lay people who will commit themselves on Saturday are its first proof. Yvon Leroux, a 62 year-old, formed as a cardiologist, and is a CEO, speaks humorously about the sometimes animated debates that take place in the group of "founders", as Robert Migliorini calls them. "I take my commitment as an added requirement with measurable objectives, but I know that this point of view of a CEO is not shared by all," he laughs. On the other hand, when he says he is ready to be faithful to the founding missions of the congregation – as the care for communion or care of the poor - , no one will contradict him.

BRUNO BOUVET

Excerpt from La Croix, Nov. 19, 2010



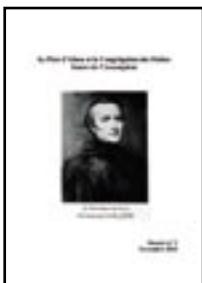
The Saint Augustine novitiate opened at Sokodé in Togo in September 2010, presents itself in a no. 1 issue of a newsletter.

That issue gives us the desire to read a second issue soon, in which the seven novices will undoubtedly tell us what they are becoming in the footsteps of Saint Augustine and Fr. d'Alzon.
renemimar@yahoo.com



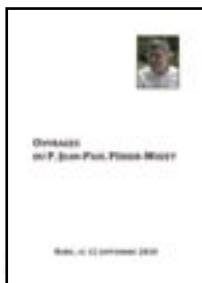
Printed in Italy, the beautiful book by Fr. Sylvain Gasser, published by Bayard-La Croix, 2010, contains seventy reasons for believing and as many for living!

Sylvain.gasser@assumption.org



Sister Gisèle Marchand presents, in a forty page booklet, the relationship between Fr. d'Alzon and the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Assumption, most often through Fr. Etienne Pernet. It is, between us, fascinating!

Secgenpsa@hotmail.com



And see the inset of this issue no. 22 of the AA-News on the works of Fr. Jean Paul Périer Muzet, A.A.



YOU SAID IT!



P. Lucas, a.a.

Between us

The letters from our readers is a real part of the “between us” and even the “intrinsic” in the sense used by the philosopher Montaigne, that is, the personal, almost intimate, life, that touches the deepest part of us. And sometimes also the interior reactions that have a tendency to be exteriorized when we know that they will be heard and understood.

Thus in the past few weeks, I have received the following messages.

“I like to read your newsletters (AAINFO and l’Assomption et ses œuvres) and thus follow your activities in the world especially since they are so well presented and documented. For me, this reading replaces yoga exercises for it fosters the establishment of a balance in this society! (sic)” Joanna Roy, friend of the Assumption (Paris region).

“Everything that concerns the Assumptionists interest me, thus I read attentively the AAINFO newsletter that you send me through the Internet. Perhaps we might meet in 2011?” A. Deroide. (Pas-de-Calais, France).

“I always read the Assumptionist newsletter with pleasure.” M. C. (Paris).

“From the ‘Volens’ Association in Belgium: “Thank you for your newsletter in Flemish. It is very interesting.” Zuster M. Louise C. (Haasrode, Belgium).

“Thank you for sending the Écrits spirituels of Fr. d’Alzon, my ancestor, since my mother was a d’Alzon, and they nourish my daily personal reflections.” Mr. Jean-Marie de Lapasse. (Tassin, France).

“I thank you very much for the newsletter I received yesterday. I have almost finished reading it because it is so fascinating! Bravo!” A Mother. (Paris suburbs).

“In Canada we are happy to receive news from the great Assumptionist Family to which we are linked by our Founder, Fr. Marie-Clement Staub, Assumptionist. We keep track of your projects: so many events in perspective with the General Chapter.” Your Joan of Arc Sisters. (Quebec).

“Thank you for all you do all over the world. Let it be said among us, for a small Congregation that is already a lot!” D. L. (Paris suburbs).

“Your newsletter, AAINFO, is rich and edifying!” Venance Sivirwa (Uvira, R.D.C.)

“Thank you for your newsletter and your book that complete, little by little, the small collection on Fr. d’Alzon that we have in Montagnac. I would like to know if there is a book on the relationship between d’Alzon and Don Bosco.” Mrs. Micheline Vinas (Association les Amis du P. d’Alzon.) Montagnac.

“It is with particular attention that I like to read AAINFO from end to end. The editorial “Par amour” had me reflect on our brotherly life here in Kinshasa to grow the offering of our life to Christ. My thanks to the entire editorial staff.” Bro. J.P. Musangania, A.A.

“I am happy about the rehabilitation of the Assumptionist Bulgarian martyrs (AAINFO no. 21, p. 14). The world needs their witness and our prayers.” Marie-Odile, P. (France)

As a Provincial Superior said after a big argument in a community, followed by a long period of silence: “May that remain among us!” That was followed by a hearty laugh, the sign of a reconciliation begun!

Lucas@assumptio.org

Letters from our Readers

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- Charism Session, February 3-7, 2011, in Rome on the love of the Church
- Council of the Congregation, February 2011, in Paris
- Testament of the General Council: 2005-2011
- Preparation of the General Chapter in May 2011



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AA-News is also on www.assumptio.org

The Assumption of Heaven

"A prayer to obtain the birth in heaven of the
souls of our brothers."

Fr. d'Alzon, Le Pèlerin, November 2, 1878



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10/20/2010
12/04/2010
12/10/2010
12/12/2010
01/02/2011

Fr. **Bouteil**, Jean-Pierre
Fr. **Balk**, Daan
Fr. **Fave**, Edmond
Fr. **Bugnard**, André
Fr. **Marechal**, René

France
ENE
France
France
ENE

Santiago
Boxtel
Layrac
Albertville
Dinant

70 years old
70 years old
87 years old
87 years old
85 years old