

## OTHER NEWS AND UPDATES

- St. Anne's Shrine will celebrate its 128th annual Novena to St. Anne with the theme "New Evangelization Begins With Family." From **July 18-26:** 6pm Confession, 6:30pm Rosary Procession, 7pm Mass. **July 25:** additional 11am Healing Mass, 2pm special exhibit on St. Anne Statues, and contemporary Christian music concert following 7pm Mass. **July 26:** Special candlelight procession following the closing Mass at 7pm. All are welcome!

<http://www.saintanneshrine.org/>

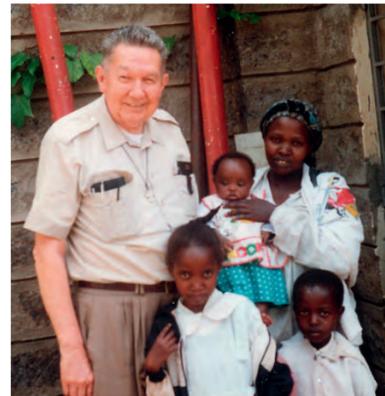


- The Vocation Committee is pleased to announce that Mr. Armando Echenique of Miami, FL, has arrived in Worcester to begin a period of candidacy with the Assumptionists. Meanwhile, our two postulants, Brian Verzella and Daniele Caglioni (pictured), have been accepted as novices in the congregation. They will spend the next year of prayer and study in Manila, where the novitiate, Adveniat House, is located.

- News from the Old English Road retirement community: Father Oliver Blanchette celebrated his 99th birthday on March 12, 2015. "99 - just like the restaurant!" he exclaimed.



And sadly, Father Alexis Babineau entered eternal life on March 21, 2015, at St. Francis Rehabilitation & Nursing Center.

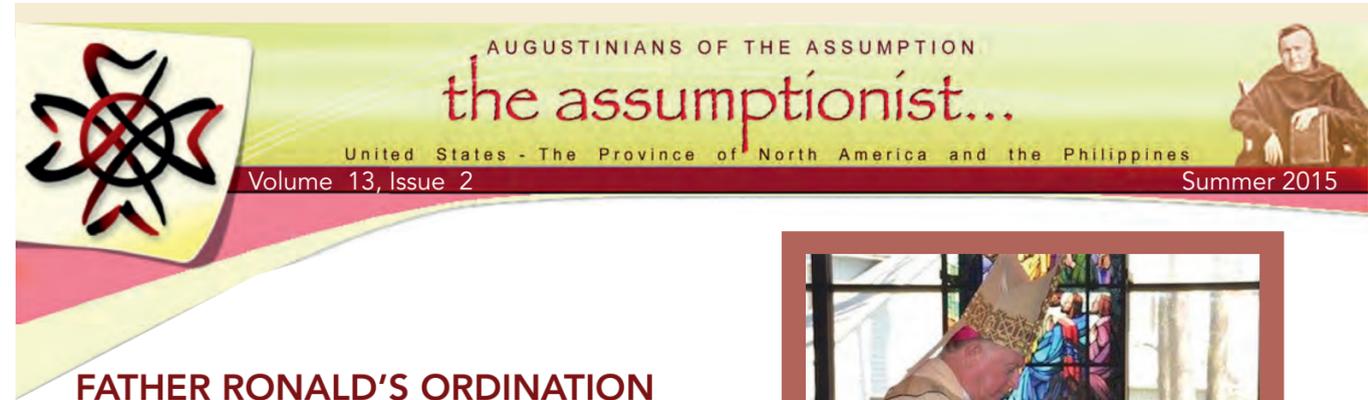


He will be greatly missed; may he rest in peace.



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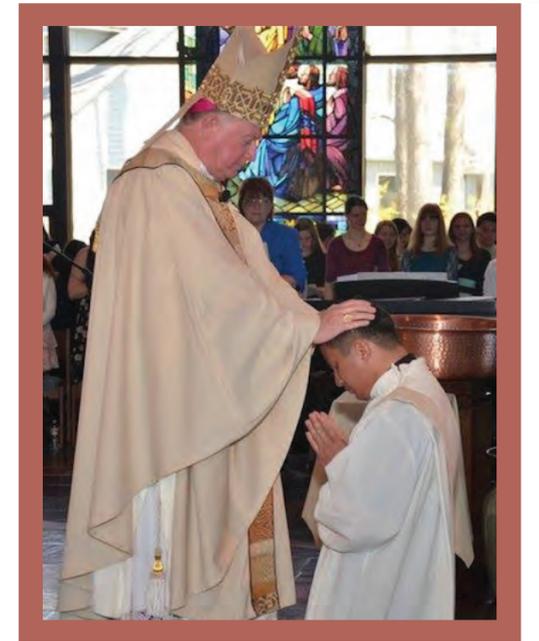


## FATHER RONALD'S ORDINATION

The Assumptionists are delighted to announce that after ten years of formation, Brother Ronald Sibugan, A.A., can now be called Father Ronald!

Father Ron was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Robert McManus of Worcester in front of an overflow crowd in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Assumption College on May 2, 2015. In attendance were his proud parents, who flew in from Manila for their first visit ever to the United States, as well as hundreds of students, parishioners, and other people whose lives he has touched throughout his ministry.

Father Ron will continue his ministry as Vocation Director for the U.S. Territory and as a full-time campus minister at Assumption College.



***"I would like to thank you for being such a supportive part of my whole formation journey in the Augustinians of the Assumption. You are in my prayers, and I humbly ask for your prayers, as well: for my priestly ministry, and also for an increase in vocations to consecrated life, particularly to the Assumptionists."***

Yours in the Lord,  
 Father Ronald Sibugan, A.A.  
[www.assumptionists.org](http://www.assumptionists.org)



*Those we serve...*



Even as the number of religious men and women in the United States grows smaller, the Assumptionists are experiencing an explosion in Africa: hundreds of priests and brothers live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, alone, totaling about half of the worldwide membership of the congregation.

This is an exciting period of global growth in our congregation's history; it is also a moment of change and reciprocity. If Americans are used to thinking of Africa as "mission territory," today it is our province that has benefited greatly from Congolese Assumptionists released for mission in the United States.

For instance, Father Ngoa Tshihemba is the Novice Director for our province in Manila, and Father Salvator Musande (pictured below) has been the formator for our brothers studying theology at Boston College.

"It has been an adventure," relates Father Sal. "And it's been a way for me to make a contribution to the future of the Assumptionist community here in the U.S."



Moreover, Fathers Bernard Musandoli and Mulumba Matsongani (pictured at right) have been part of our community in Worcester for the last several years as they have studied computer science and business at Assumption College.

"Education is one of the hallmarks of the Assumptionists' apostolate," Father Mulumba explains. Our last General Chapter exhorted us to reflect on "different modes of partnership or twinning between our educational establishments," particularly between those located in a socially affluent setting and those located in a more disadvantaged setting.



Besides Assumption in Worcester, the Institut Supérieur d'Emmanuel d'Alzon in Butembo (ISEAB) is the only college in the order. It is dedicated to fostering human and Christian values in its students, forming responsible citizens who will positively impact Congolese society. Enrollment has more than tripled in the past decade, yet its infrastructure is still underdeveloped, and its financial need is very great.

For this reason, forging an economic and programmatic link between the College and ISEAB is critical. Fathers Bernard and Mulumba may make use of their Assumption education someday by returning to teach at our college in the Congo.

"Hope is high among the African Assumptionists who believe in the future of this institution," says Father Mulumba.



**"Our missionary vocation calls us to an openness of mind and heart."**

**Rule of Life #20**



The Congo is a country rich in material resources yet torn apart by two decades of warfare and violence. Whole villages where the Assumptionists minister have been massacred by bands of marauders, and hundreds of people have been abducted indiscriminately, never to be heard from again -- including three of our Congolese priests.

"I really believe that education is the key to unlocking opportunity," says Father Sal. There is no free education in the Congo, so children poor and orphaned by the war often have no access to schooling. This is what inspired lay Assumptionist Lynne Brouillette (pictured below) to make a difference. When she asked Father Sal how much it would cost to educate a child in the Congo, he replied, "Fifty dollars."

"Fifty dollars a month?" she asked.

"No," he replied. "Fifty dollars a year."

Not long after, Lynne had founded "Kids in the Congo," a non-profit dedicated to raising money to send children in the Butembo area to school. This year, Lynne's efforts have enrolled over one hundred children in school.



If the Congolese Assumptionists serving in the United States have one message, it is that this kind of solidarity between peoples is critically important – a matter of social justice.

"Ever since I came to the United States five years ago, I have been telling people how fortunate they are," says Father Sal, "even those who believe that they are not."