



AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION

the assumptionist...

US REGION, NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCE

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Spring 2009

EDITOR'S DESK

Pentecost Sunday brought the Easter season to its completion. And we were reminded once again that, just as the Father sent Jesus into the world to proclaim hope and healing to the human family, so too has Jesus sent us, his followers, into our world with that same message. Assumptionists lay and religious, burning with passion for God and God's People, proclaim together, by our life and our work, that the Kingdom of God is at hand!

This Great Mission is what defines us and gives meaning to our lives. It takes many different shapes; it is spoken in many languages "so that everyone might understand;" it happens wherever Assumptionists are throughout the world. As our world grows smaller, we recognize that we are, all of us (Europeans and Africans, Americans and Asians), "Missionaries" in our own lands and to the ends of the earth.

In this issue we have invited Assumptionist to share with you words and photos of that Mission as we live it. We are in thirty countries on every continent; clearly we cannot tell you our entire story. But we hope that these words (from Assumptionist documents and from individual Assumptionists' letters) will allow more of you to know about and therefore to become partners in the mission.

You will be missionaries to your own families ... in your own home towns and neighborhoods or maybe in distant lands. You will proclaim the mission by your words and in your example. You will roll up your sleeves, get down on your knees or write a check. And together we will let ourselves be guided by the words we say every day: **Adveniat Regnum Tuum – Thy Kingdom Come.**

To find out more about these or other missions, please go to www.assumptio.org where you can discover our history, news and links to many other web sites from throughout our Assumptionist world!



SENT IN MISSION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Assumptionists, religious and lay, filled with a passion to transform society, and accepting the call to announce together the healing and life-giving good news of the presence of the Kingdom of God, are located in thirty countries throughout the world. In solidarity

with one another, these sons and daughters of Father Emmanuel d'Alzon are true "missionaries" in their own home lands as well as in countries other than their own.

Some religious families are essentially "missionary", but that is not the case with the Assumptionists.

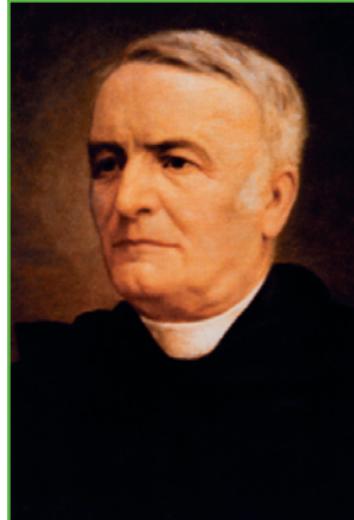
We are "generalists" when it comes to ministry, and so from the beginning we have traveled everywhere to work in the Churches in Africa, in China, in Latin America. Now these Churches are forming their own clergy and becoming in turn missionaries. Today, many young people from the Congo, from Madagascar, and now from Russia and Eastern Europe are committing themselves as well to the Great Mission.

At the very outset of his mission, Father d'Alzon wanted "to penetrate the world with a Christian idea." Later, his love for the Church urged him to encourage his religious to have "a heart as wide as that ocean which is the Church." Today, our missionary ambition is still the same: "Gather all men and women into the People of God."

In these pages we share with you some of the exciting life and work of these Assumptionists throughout the world. We are ordinary folks from small home towns and great cities, with talents and with flaws. Our faces are different colors and we speak a variety of languages. We are young and we are old. Witnesses to God's love and in solidarity with all human beings, we choose to live and work for the coming of the Reign of God in ourselves and around us.



We invite you to learn more about us ... to pray for us and with us ... to share our dream and our efforts ... to support us and to join us!



EMMANUEL D'ALZON 1810 - 2010

Emmanuel d'Alzon was born into a noble family on August 30, 1810 at Le Vigan in the south of France. His early schooling was done with private tutors. In spite of his desire to attend the military academy of St Cyr, his parents convinced him to study law at the Sorbonne in Paris.

During his years in Paris, he discovered the great needs of the church in post-Revolution France. He became involved in reflection groups about the catholic faith and met many strong church personalities.

A man of great passion and strong character, he heard a call to help to heal the church and rebuild Catholic France. Abandoning his law studies, he decided to pursue a vocation as a priest. He studied in Rome where he was ordained to the priesthood on December 26, 1834.

He was soon named Vicar-General of his diocese of Nimes, where he was involved in many works of charity and education. With his great love for scripture and for the fathers of the church, he was greatly appreciated as a preacher and teacher.

Of all his works, his greatest was the founding of the Augustinians of the Assumption (the Assumptionists) on December 25, 1845 officially recognized by the church in 1850.

His religious family grew out of his desire to form followers totally dedicated to the church, the holy father and sound doctrine. He purchased Assumption College in Nimes, where he joined to himself committed laymen to educate leaders for the French church and society.

D'Alzon was a man whose goal was to establish the Kingdom of God (**adveniat regnum tuum: thy kingdom come**) in the hearts of all and throughout the world, especially by means of study and all forms of education (from pulpits to classrooms), **donec formetur Christus in vobis: until Christ be formed in you.**

In 1863, he completed his work as a founder with the foundation of the Oblate Sisters of the Assumption. He remained in Nimes his entire life, serving as Vicar-General for four bishops, until 1887, when his failing health forced him to resign that position. He died on November 21, 1880 at the age of seventy.

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE ALLIANCE WITH EMMANUEL D'ALZON

Emmanuel d'Alzon dreamt of an Assumption made of lay people and religious who would bring the Kingdom of God to the world of his time. (Assumptionist General Chapter of 1993. Lay and religious Assumptionists wish to “make covenant” so that this vision can be lived fully.

In addition to establishing an international lay-religious commission, Father General asked each Province and Region to establish a “tandem” (one layperson and one religious) to help this to happen.

From the 24th to the 30th of August, Tomasz Jaster and Father Roger Corriveau, our US tandem, will join with others from throughout the Assumptionist world (as well as Joseph Pagano and the other members of the International Commission) for a gathering in Nimes, France (the birthplace of the Assumptionists). The theme of this session, “Walking together in the alliance with Emmanuel d'Alzon” will have three objectives: to provide an experience of internationality among the tandems, to evaluate the road already traveled by each community or group of the alliance and finally to propose a deepening of the Assumptionist mission and spirituality.

Each tandem will present how the alliance is lived in their communities (including both the moments of success as well as the difficult ones). And the days together will also allow the participants to reflect and pray with one another and with our Superior General, Father Richard Lamoureux, and to walk in the footsteps of Father d'Alzon, from the Vigan (the house where he was born, the church where he was baptized and the city in which he grew up) to Nimes (where he worked for so many years, the “college” where the Assumptionists were founded, and the tomb where his body is buried).



We look forward to hearing about this gathering in the future.

LATIN AMERICA

The Latin American presence of the Assumptionists extends from Argentina and Chile, through Colombia and Ecuador, to Brazil and into Mexico. The Assumptionist mission includes ministry in local parishes and national shrines (Santiago, Chile and Buenos



Aires, Argentina), formation and support of small Christian Communities, social action programs for the poor and the homeless, primary and secondary schools (as well as seminaries and houses of formation) and even Radio stations in Santiago, Buenos Aires and Riobamba in Ecuador.

Ten Assumptionist religious in Mexico are located in three communities (one parish and two residences for young men interested in becoming Assumptionists). These religious and candidates are joined by a very committed group of lay men and women in their mission efforts for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

"Twice a year, religious and lay Assumptionists go into needy villages and communities where there is little official Church presence and there they offer training and support for families and young people who themselves will then be able to take on new roles of responsibility in their local communities."



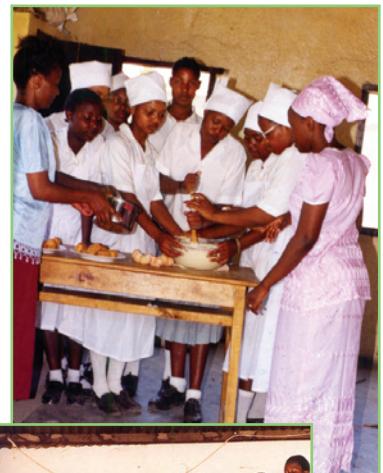
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE CORNER

The budget of the Assumptionists in the United States Region relies heavily on the Annual Fund gifts from our friends to support and sustain the mission of proclaiming and extending the Kingdom of God! In our recent appeal we - brothers and priests, sisters and lay men and women – underline that we want our lives to proclaim healing and hope to our world!

There are many dimensions of our mission that need constant support – our various efforts at formation of future church and world leaders, mission work in our own neighborhoods and to the ends of the earth, communications, care of our sick and elderly as well our day to day operations. We cannot do it alone; we need you as a partner. Together, we can make a real difference. We can do it, with you: with your vision, your commitment and your help! Please consider helping us with your financial gift.

AFRICA

On Sunday, September 24, 2006, over 25,000 people came together to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of evangelization in the Beni-Butembo region of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. From great suffering and simple means, the diocese has grown from around 9,000 in 1929 to include more than 900,000 Catholics today. The Assumptionists began their mission in 1929, providing the diocese its first Bishop in the person of Henri Piérard, over 150 Assumptionist missionaries from eight different countries, and an important contribution still today through the presence of more than 140 Congolese Assumptionists involved in parishes and schools, clinics, farms and communications media, and another 90 in formation. (There are another 30 men in East Africa and almost as many in formation.)



"We have now opened an international community in Sokodé, the second largest city of Togo, located in the center of the country. This community is made up of three Africans, one Malagasy, and, in a few months, two Frenchmen. In this country, exploited for more than 30 years by a corrupt political class, there is so much to do. Sokodé with 100,000 inhabitants (a majority of which are Muslims) is a poor city, without any real resources. Christians are in a minority (less than 10% of the population) and fairly powerless. In the beginning, at the bishop's request, we will help out in parishes and get involved in youth ministry. Later, little by little, we will work in theological and spiritual formation as well as in the media (radio, press, etc.)."

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of the Augustinians of the Assumption

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EASTERN EUROPE / NEAR EAST

"Can we continue to work as we have until now to spread far and wide the Catholic spirit, open to all people, all rites, to all traditions? My Father, I believe so, in spite of all difficulties."

Blessed Pavel Djidjov, AA,
Bulgarian Assumptionist
martyred by the Communist
authorities in 1952 at the age of 33



A number of brothers and sisters are still faithfully at work in the



Orient, focused now on the immediate and varied needs of the local populations: parish ministry, social works, catechesis, vocation ministry, school chaplaincies, work among immigrants. We have communities in Romania and in Bulgaria; there are Assumptionists in Istanbul, Jerusalem, Moscow and Athens.

"An Assumptionist community of four religious is located in the small city of Blaj in the heart of Transylvania. They serve a small Greek-Catholic community of 1000, mostly elderly, but which includes a local orphanage and is home to a number of younger students during the school year. They also maintain a small residential school for nine young men from 15 to 18 who hope to become priests in the local Church."



The apostolate of our Congregation inserts our communities into the Church's mission of gathering all men and women into the People of God. ... to work for the coming of Christ's Reign in us and in the world."

Rule of Life #13

ASIA

Two-thirds of humanity lives in Asia. The ambition of the Assumptionists is to announce the Gospel in lands rich in varied cultures and religions but where Christ is still not well



known. The apostolic field now open to the Assumptionists in Asia is immense.

"In the spring of 2008, for the first time in history, the 40th Assumptionist Council of the Congregation met in Asia, in Gwangju. It is in this city in South Korea that the Assumptionists opened our first community in the Far East since the short-lived foundation in Manchuria back in 1935.



Since then, two other Asian Assumptionist communities have come to life, in Manila (the Philippines) and Saigon (Vietnam)."

"Our young candidates work with the street children of downtown Manilla, helping the Little Sisters of the Assumption in Manila suburbs with day care, livelihood programs and clinics, and meeting every Sunday with delinquent minors at Molave Youth Center for youth offenders."



THE ASSUMPTIONISTS
AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION
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WE ARE COMING TO SEE YOU!

A number of Assumptionists are traveling this summer for the Mission Cooperative Program, visiting parishes in cities and towns throughout the country and telling the story of our missionary work. Look for us and introduce yourself to the Assumptionist who comes to your parish.

July 4-5

Mission San Juan Diego, Arlington Heights, IL
Fr. Claude Grenache, A.A.

Divine Mercy Parish, Niagara Falls, NY
Fr. Roland Guilmain, A.A.

St. Stephen Parish, Valrico, FL
Fr. John Franck, A.A.

July 11-12

Saints Agatha and Ambrose Parish, Buffalo, NY
Fr. Roland Guilmain, A.A.

St. Agnes of Bohemia, Chicago, IL
Fr. Claude Grenache, A.A.

Holy Trinity Church, Jackson, OH
Fr. Luc Martel, A.A.

St. Sylvester Parish, Zaleski, OH
Fr. Luc Martel, A.A.

St. Francis Xavier, Kansas City, MO
Fr. John Franck, A.A.

St. Catherine of Siena, Manchester, NH
Fr. Barry Bercier, A.A.

St. Joseph Parish, Pascoag, RI
Fr. Salvatore Musande, A.A.

July 18-19

Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Fairfield, CT
Fr. Salvatore Musande, A.A.

Twelve Apostles Parish, Weston, MO
Holy Trinity Parish, Weston, MO
Fr. John Franck, A.A.

Our Lady of Loretto Parish, East Providence, RI
Fr. Barry Bercier, A.A.

July 25-26

St. Dominic Parish, Swansea, MA
Fr. Eugene LaPlante, A.A.

St. Matthew Parish, Cranston, RI
Fr. Claude Grenache, A.A.

St. Augustine Parish, Millville, MA
Fr. Salvatore Musande, A.A.

August 1-2

St. Bernard Parish, Tariffville, CT
Fr. Luc Martel, A.A.

St. Patrick Parish, Rutland, MA
Fr. John Franck, A.A.

August 8-9

St. Catherine Parish, Broad Brook, CT
Fr. Roland Guilmain, A.A.

Sacred Heart Parish, Laconia, NH
Fr. Barry Bercier, A.A.

Our Lady of Fatima, Ludlow, MA
Fr. Claude Grenache, A.A.

August 15-16

Blessed Sacrament, East Hartford, CT
Our Lady of Peace, East Hartford, CT
Fr. Luc Martel, A.A.

Holy Cross Parish, Holyoke, MA
Fr. Donat Lamothe, A.A.

August 22-23

St. Joseph Parish, Winsted, CT
Fr. Luc Martel, A.A.

St. Patrick Parish, West Stockbridge, MA
St. Ann Parish, Lenox, MA
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Lenox, MA
Fr. Donat Lamothe, A.A.

September 12-13

Holy Cross Parish/St. Martin Mission, East
Templeton, MA
Fr. Donat Lamothe, A.A.

September 19-20

Holy Family Parish, El Paso, TX
Fr. Oswaldo Garcia Sanchez, A.A.