

AA

News

Informations - Noticias - Informatie

AA News # 20
July 2010

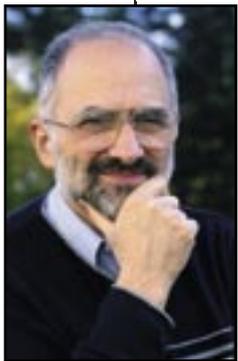
Agostiniani dell'Assunzione - Via San Pio V, 55 - I - 00165 Roma - Tel.: 06 6623998 - Fax: 06 6635924 - E-mail: Assunzione@mcmlink.it

Assumption



Religious and laity
the same mission





The Church in crisis

Everyone has been writing about the crisis facing the Church, provoked by the scandal of sexual abuse by members of the clergy. Headlines have been numerous and alarming especially in Europe recently. A few years ago, they were appearing in the United States. And tomorrow...

Here in Rome, we've been following articles in the Italian dailies and listening attentively to allusions in every papal pronouncement, whether at the Wednesday audiences or airplane press-conferences or speeches to Bishops at the end of ad limina visits. We had a few guests in community who provided some insights: Cardinal Rodé (head of the Vatican Congregation for religious), Frederic Mounier (the La Croix Rome correspondent), Archbishop Marini (former Master of Ceremonies for the Pope).

I thought I should write about this; it seems too important to pass by in silence. But much of what I've heard and read has not been helpful, and I am reluctant to add to the chatter.

As it happens, I was struck by something one of my young confrères recently wrote. He had just made an important decision in his life and was trying to understand why that was so difficult, especially for young people today. This is how he explained it and how he hoped to address the challenge. "Many find it hard to make a commitment, whether in marriage or in religious life. Let them learn to take a risk. To embark finally on an 'adventure of responsibility'. What they seem to be lacking in fact is hope in a better future. As Pope Benedict XVI said..., the socio-political situation in our countries...has led

young people to be totally lethargy. I think the way to help them is to meet them and invite them to be courageous, to learn how take risks and to believe in God, the master of history."

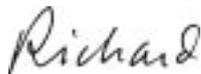
"The adventure of responsibility!" Isn't that what it's all about? It really is an adventure. I'm reminded of what the Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote from prison in 1943 on the occasion of his friends' marriage: "Every wedding must be an occasion of joy that human beings can do such great things, that they have been given such immense freedom and power to take the helm in their life's journey." It's not just a matter of being "responsible", of bearing the burden of responsibility. Bonhoeffer speaks of it as a motive for joy; my brother wrote about it as a sign of hope.

Well, it may be an adventure and a motive for joy, but as my confrère suggested we're not always ready to assume responsibility...for the major decisions that can orient our entire life or even for what we do and say on a daily basis: for the way we treat people, for the quality of our work, for the consequences of our decisions and actions, for the concrete living out of our solemn pronouncements and commitments.

Hasn't this crisis in the Church been provoked in good part because we find it difficult to be responsible? I am thinking of those whose crimes have in good part caused this crisis and of their victims. I am thinking of Church authorities who have managed or mismanaged events in the past. I am thinking of journalists and lawyers who have been important players

in this drama. The crisis in the end is a failure of responsibility. As adults, we have choices to make; no one can assume our responsibility in our place. Religious and priests have responsibilities toward those they are committed to serve. Bishops and other authorities in the Church do not just officiate from a distance, but are meant to exercise leadership efficiently, responsibly and with pastoral concern for persons. Journalists have responsibilities to advance the cause of truth more than that of their reputations; lawyers have justice not profit as their primary responsibility.

We all have choices to make, and we need to be clear about the criteria that will guide our choices and be courageous in acting. This is how we “take the helm in our life’s journey”; it’s what makes us genuinely human.



Richard E. Lamoureux, a.a.



To find the editorials of Fr. Richard Lamoureux: www.assumptio.org

Cover photo: A. Brombart, Monastery of Rila, Bulgaria

On Saturday, May 15, during graduation services at Assumption College, in Worcester, Massachusetts, USA, Fr. Richard Lamoureux, the superior general, received the President’s Medal from the College to honor the Assumptionists, sponsors of the school, during this bicentennial year. Fr. Richard addressed the 730 graduates and more than six thousand of their families and friends and called upon Assumption College graduates to “manifest *pietas*, a particular combination of respect and love, toward parents, toward country and toward all to whom you owe a debt of gratitude...they have been for you a source of life and well-being... and have shaped the way you think and made you who you are today. What will you do now to ensure that others enjoy these same benefits?”

In his own remarks, the president of the College, Dr. Francesco Cesareo, said, “We celebrate your commencement today during a special year for the Assumptionists throughout the world, namely the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fr. Emmanuel d’Alzon, founder of the Augustinians of the Assumption, the founders and sponsors of Assumption College ... Fr. d’Alzon’s answer to the situation he found in post-Revolutionary France was ...an education that integrated civic, moral, philosophical, and religious elements rooted in the Christian faith. Assumption College founded in 1904 as the fulfillment of Fr. d’Alzon’s desire to establish a university, continues to be animated by his vision in the midst of similar societal and cultural challenges.”

In presenting the President’s Medal to Fr. Richard, Dr. Cesareo added, “Ignited by the bold vision of Father Emmanuel d’Alzon, ardent in their love of God and global in their reach, the Augustinians of the Assumption have proclaimed the Gospel to the world for more than 160 years. Infused with the spirit of their visionary founder, the Assumptionists have promoted the Reign of God in the hearts of men and women, in the structures of society and in the fabric of human relationships.

In recognition of the Assumptionists’ extraordinary contributions to the world and to this community of scholars and learners, and in honor of the d’Alzon Bicentennial, we are honored to bestow upon the Augustinians of the Assumption the Assumption College President’s Medal on this fifteenth day of May 2010.”

Fr. John L. Franck, A.A.



Very Rev. Richard Lamoureux, Superior General, with his Council, has called

to ordination to the priesthood

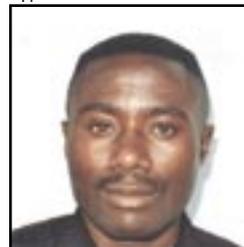
1. ERHART Jean-Claude (France)
2. KASEREKA SALAMU Germain (Africa)
3. RANDRIANANTENAINA Romuald (Madagascar)
4. TRAN MINH Paul Hai (France)

to ordination to the diaconate

5. KAHINDO WASUKUNDI Zacharie (Africa)
6. KAKULE NGULIRAH Kizito (Africa)
7. KAKULE VYAKUNO Paulin (Africa)
8. KAMBALE MBAVUGHA Justin (Africa)
9. KASEREKA MUHINDO Antoine (Africa)
10. KASEREKA MUKOSA Eric (Africa)
11. ON'GERA OMWOYO Peter (Africa)
12. PALUKU KIKENYE Daniel (Africa)
13. SOMO MBAYITERWA Vincent de Paul (Africa)

to perpetual profession

14. AQUIJE MATTA Willian (France)
15. KAKULE KOMANDA Gaston (Africa)
16. KAKULE KYAHWERE Jeurie-Bertrand (Africa)
17. KALEKENE SISIVIRWA Vincent (Africa)
18. KAMBALE MAPENDO Waleghirwe (Africa)
19. KAMBALE TASI Augustin (Africa)
20. KASEREKA KIRIMUMBO Omer (Africa)
21. MUMBERE PEMBENI Godefroy (Africa)
22. RAKOTONANDRASANA Davidson Thomas (Madagascar)
23. TRAN DUC Long Pierre (France)
24. VELOSOA Georges (Madagascar)
25. GUYEN NGOC Thang J. Baptiste (France)





On June 4, 2010, Father General named

Fr. Michel Jary Vice-Provincial of Madagascar,

for a second mandate of three years beginning July 1, 2010. On the Big Island where more than sixty Assumptionists work and study, Michel is once more able to imagine the future with courage and optimism.



On June 4, 2010, Fr. General named

Fr. Juan Carlos Cisterna Bastias Provincial of Chile-Argentina

which also includes the communities in Colombia and Ecuador. The mandate for three years will begin on July 12, 2010. Having been involved for many years in parochial ministry and small Christian communities, a formator of young religious and provincial treasurer, Fr. Cisterna has quite a few arrows in his quiver to be able to guide a vast and diversified province. Best wishes to him from all of us!



Fr. General has approved the nomination of the following as masters of novices :

Fr. René Mihigo in Togo where the novitiate will be erected in Sokodé,

and Fr. Jean-Claude Erhart at Juvisy in France.

We wish them many novices!



After 13 long and distinguished years of service in the Archives,

Fr. Jean-Paul Périer-Muzet has been named by the Provincial of France to the community of Vincennes.

AAINFO has spoken of the Archives of the Congregation in recent issues. See www.assumptio.org.



Beginning September 1, 2010, until the next General Chapter,

Fr. Jean-Daniel Gullung has been named temporarily in charge of the Archives.

We wish him well in his new work!

In order to follow up on the requests of the Council of the Congregation (see page 16), the General Council has decided that a **Committee of Economic Solidarity** to study solidarity requests and budgets be composed of :

FF. Arnold Castro, Luc Martel and Jean-Daniel Gullung as well as Br. Didier Remiot,

and that the Council of the General Treasurer for oversight of the general treasury, the Solidarity Fund, and the work of economic trends forecasting would include Mr. Ghislain Lafont, Bros. Anastasio Calle and Didier Remiot and FF. Marcel Poirier and Jean-Daniel Gullung.

Between now and the next general chapter, work will not be lacking !!

AGENDA OF GENERAL COUNCIL

Upcoming meetings of the General Council:

- September 6-24, 2010
- December 3-22, 2010
- March 7-26, 2011.

The next meeting of the Council of the Congregation will take place in Paris, February 17-19, 2011.

The General Chapter will take place in Rome, April 30-May 26, 2011.

Fr. Richard Lamoureux :

- In Brazil, July 1-20.
- In the USA, July 20-August 18.
- In Nîmes, celebrations of the Bicentennial and vacation with the Council, August 29-September 4.
- In Argentina, September 25-October 3
- In Paris, October 5-7, meeting of the general councils of the Assumption Family
- In Nîmes, October 8-10, Bicentennial celebrations.
- In France, October 27-November 3.

Fr. Julio Navarro :

- In Lourdes, August 11-16, International Pilgrimage of the Assumption.
- In Nîmes, August 17-23.
- In Nîmes, Bicentennial celebrations and vacation with the Council, August 29-September 4.
- In Paris, October 5-7, meeting of the general councils of the Assumption Family.
- In Nîmes, October 8-10, Bicentennial celebrations.
- In Chile, October 17-28.

Fr. André Brombart :

- In Brussels, July 1-August 28.
- In Nîmes, celebrations of the Bicentennial and vacation with the Council, August 29-September 4.
- In Paris, October 5-7, meeting of the general councils of the Assumption Family.
- In Nîmes, October 8-10, Bicentennial celebrations.



Fr. Emmanuel Kahindo :

- In Africa until August 3.
- In Nîmes, celebrations of the Bicentennial and vacation with the Council, August 29-September 4.
- In Brussels, October 1-4.
- In Paris, October 5-7, meeting of the general councils of the Assumption Family.
- In Nîmes, October 8-10, Bicentennial celebrations.

Fr. Jean-Daniel Gullung :

- In Lourdes, August 1-17, preaching a retreat and National Pilgrimage.
- In Nîmes, celebrations of the Bicentennial and vacation with the Council, August 29-September 4.
- In Paris, October 5-7, meeting of the general councils of the Assumption Family.
- In Nîmes, October 8-10, Bicentennial celebrations.

Fr. Lucas Chuffart :

- In Lourdes, August 10-17, Assumption Booth and Cyber-Pélé.
- In Valpré, Assumptionist European Summer University, August 26-28.
- In Nîmes, celebrations of the Bicentennial and vacation with the Council, August 29-September 4.
- In Paris, October 5-7, meeting of the general councils of the Assumption Family.
- In Nîmes, October 8-10, Bicentennial celebrations.
- In Rome, October 21-28, session on religious life with the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres.



HAPPY FEAST-DAY
To One and All
in the Assumption Family,
Religious and Lay,
August 15, 2010

A WALKER



Did you know that a member of the Due Pini community left le Puy (in France) for St. James of Compostella (Spain), that is, 1,700 kilometers by foot? (one thousand seven hundred)

We're talking about Fr. Bernard Le Léanec, the brave. Bernard, a name which means «strong and courageous», would like to celebrate his 60th birthday « on the road, », «as a pilgrim who gives thanks and who prays», in his own words.

We look forward to the news he sends from week to week, following the major stages of this long pilgrimage: Conques, Layrac, St. Jean-Pied-de-Port, « the French route », etc.

No one doubts that, having meticulously prepared his trip, Bernard has made many friends along the way, benefiting from the exchanges and encouragement he has had at the various guest-houses.

If you'd like to leave him a message, you can do so using his telephone number: (00 33) 06 472 283 02.

He understood, as did other pilgrims, the petition : «Pray for us at Compostella» and has been supported in his humble and courageous journey by the prayers of his family and community.

His return by plane was foreseen for the end of July 2010.

email : bl1719@gmail.com



EPHÉMÉRIDES

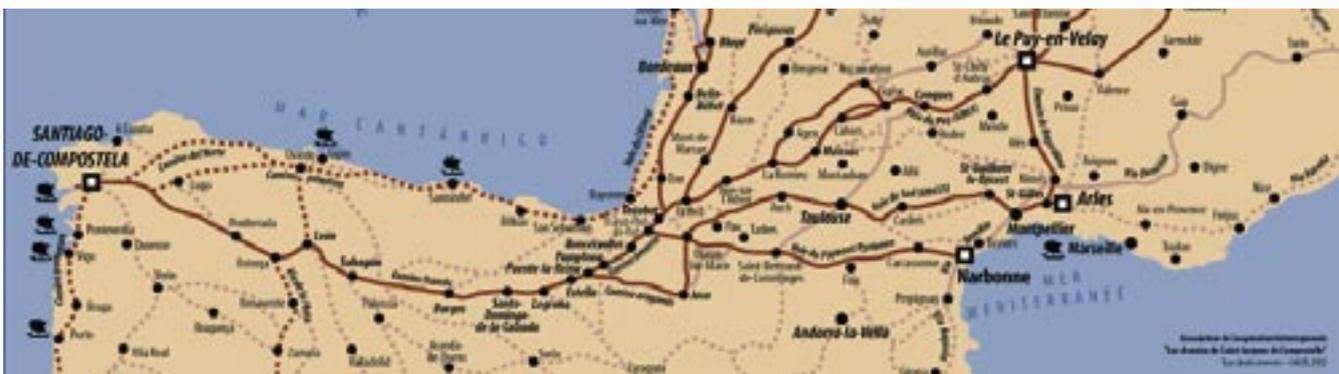
In the « Ephémérides » of the community of Rome, not to be confused with the Agenda of the General Council, nor with the list of community guests, the following dates stand out:

- May 25, 2010, the celebration of the 135th anniversary of the founding of the Oblate Sisters of the Assumption, missionary religious, with the four sisters at Due Pini: Lina, Martinette, Janine and Yvette. ART!

- also on May 25, we welcomed the first pilgrimage in the footsteps of Fr. d'Alzon to Rome, after visiting Paris and Nîmes, organised by Assumption College of Worcester and Bayard USA! See the Bicentennial Diary # 6, Insert.

- May 28-30, a community weekend getaway to Florence, a project that had been in the works for at least 10 years and finally realized thanks to the welcome we received from our Italian, Bulgarian, and Romanian brothers at Borgo Pinti. This get-together allowed us to know each other better and to get a sense of the multi-dimensional apostolic activity of this community in Italy.

-The weekend of June 13 afforded the General Council the opportunity to be welcomed by the community of Bose founded by Enzo Bianchi whose monastic, ecumenical, and liturgical insights have a way of seducing one. Sunday, after visiting the beautiful exposition «Gesù, il corpo, il volto nell'arte» (see the bibliographical note on page 26), in Turin, the Council went to pray at Our Lady of Consolata, in union with the entire Congregation during this bicentennial year of Fr. d'Alzon.



INTERVIEW WITH LOREDANA GIANNETTI

Dear Loredana, many readers wonder how AAINFO « comes out » every three months, in color and in four different languages?

«Well, that is both a miracle and due to a lot of hard work. In addition to the secretarial material coming from General Council meetings, Fr. Lucas gathers articles, begs for information and photos from all the provinces, if possible, and from Rome as well. Often everything has to be rewritten, precisions have to be made, and additional information sought out. My work consists in putting everything into an A 3 format for a given number of pages and also to foresee inserts, and during this bicentennial year, the Bicentennial Diary edited by Fr. Jean-Daniel Gullung.

How much time does this take?

«Well, of course, that depends on the length of the articles, because it is hard to reduce them, to synthesize, to obtain the authorization of the «authors», to find photos in an acceptable resolution, but it usually takes a good two weeks in addition to the ordinary work of the secretary's office. Then, after several re-readings for corrections, it is necessary to send the galleys to the various translators in English, Spanish, Dutch (may they be blessed!) and, about two weeks later, to set up the translation on the same «model», number of pages, text per page, including photos and their captions! It's not easy, but, with experience, I've learned how to deal with it little by little. At that moment in the process I begin to panic because there are usually only a few days left before the end of the month that follows General Council meetings and it's necessary to send the galleys to the print-shop, which is far, in Venice, and which prints without any possibility of corrections. That causes a lot of distress concerning the colors requested (will they turn out right?), concerning the titles, concerning the length of the articles, of lines which can « jump», and finally of all the whims of computers and software which have a «logic» of their own that we often don't understand!

What do you get out of all this work?

«I am happy to see the finished product and AAINFO being sent out to the four corners of the world as a means of communication with communities and lay-people. As one American reader said: «Be assured that the baby (an issue of AAINFO) is awaited in suffering, but once it arrives it is beautiful!»

Any wishes? for 2010 and thereafter

«That the Assumption always consider communication to be worth the challenge, that there be established some form of complementarity with the website www.assumptio.org, that our readers react to our work, and that local correspondents send us short, universally appealing articles and photos ----- on time! »

Bravo and thanks!

www.assumptio.org and lucas@assumptio.org



*Loredana with her great friend, Fr. Dominique Bouverot.
Photo taken at Lorgues in December 2005.*



OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS

During the second trimester of the year 2010, marked by the feast of Easter and the Council of the Congregation, we were happy to welcome, among others:

Lay friends: Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Louis and Danièle Garnier; Mr. and Mrs. Tarralle and their grand-children; Mr. Frédéric Vigneron of Mmémotique; Ms. Eléonore ter Berg; Mr. and Mrs. Patrice and Marie-Agnès Roussiale; Mrs. Pierrette Clerc, Mrs. Ginette Clerc, Mr. and Mrs. Denis and Simone Rade, Mr. André Clerc, former cook at Valpré; Mr. Jean-Pierre Le Ray, a lay associate of the Alliance; Mr. and Mrs. Léon and Mariette Fransis Bamps, lay associates of the Alliance from Zepperen; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard and Anne Hanquier; Mr. Frédéric Mounier, correspondent in Rome for *La Croix*; Mr. Sean Regan from New Zealand; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Merlet; a large group from Worcester with Dr. Francesco Cesareo, president of Assumption College, and several members of the faculty; Mr. Paulo Marques, from our parish in São Paulo; Mrs. Aurora Maltos; Mrs. Roselyne Chevalier and Maurice Selvais.

Priests and religious: Franc Cardinal Rodè, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life during the Council of the Congregation; Most Rev. Janvier Kataka, bishop of Wamba (D.R.C.); Rev. Temo José Amaral of Figueiredo, from the diocese of Jalès; Sr. Barbara Standing, Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption from South Africa; Sr. Breda O'Brien, Srs. Pilar and Margarita Chavarri from Spain; Srs. Béatrice (Ugandan), Eugénie (Malagasy), Antoinette (Kenyan) from the Blue Sisters; Sr. Claire Rabitz, Superior General of the Oblates of the Assumption and Sr. Mercedes Martinez, Superior General of the Little Sisters of the Assumption; Msgr. Emmanuel Mwanapenzi, vicar general of Butembo (D.R.C.); Srs. Ana-Lucia Molinari and Judith Balikwisha, O.A; Revs. Domenico and Paolo from the diocese of Noto in Sicily; Revs. Pedro Ferreira, Antonio Carlos Silva and Daniel Miranda, from Brazil; Revs. Bernard Yao Kwadjio and Bruno Kwassi Yao, for the international retreat for priests.

Assumptionists : Fr. Lucian Dinca; Fr. Nicolas Tarralle; Fr. Jean-Baptiste Kambale Migheri; Fr. Arnold Castro; Br. Anastasio Calle; Fr. Edgardo Munoz; Fr. Roger Kasereka Syayipuma; Fr. Niceto Calle; Br. Didier Remiot; Fr. Jan Zuiker; Fr. Sylvain Gasser; Fr. Benoît Grière ; Fr. Michel Jary ; Fr. Marcel Poirier; Br. Bernard Jouanno; Br. Martin Dulchev; Fr. Lwanga Kambale Kalolerya; Fr. Dominique Greiner; Fr. Sandro Laini; Br. Nicolas Potteau; Fr. Leo van der Klaauw; postulant Nguyen Van Duc Antoine; Fr. John Franck; Fr. Joseph Delvordre; Fr. Gervais Mulumu.



Photo © Gilles Allard

**THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST
CAME TO AN END IN JUNE 2010.
A EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION IN THE CHAPEL
OF DUE PINI, IN ROME, DECEMBER 24, 2009.**

N.B : If you would like to stay, it is absolutely essential that you notify us as soon as possible :

Fr. Bernard Le Léannec,
guest-master:
bll719@gmail.com

also, to make sure:
assunzione.roma@libero.it,
as indicated in the *Directory of Religious*, page 1.

«AVOIR PIGNON SUR RUE»

This expression in French, at least, means: to be known or recognized, or, as well, «to enjoy a good reputation» (historical dictionary, Alain Rey). That's why the *Lettre du 21*, the monthly bicentennial newsletter of the Province of France, (see the special website <http://www.alzon-2010.org>) was entitled, in April: «Un Jubilé avec pignon sur rues et de quatre!» (literally, «A Jubilee with a gable on the street, even four of them»).

According to the erudite research of the Congregation's archivist, Jean-Paul Périer-Muzet, three towns in France have already dedicated one of their streets to Fr. d'Alzon : Bordeaux sometime after 1892, Nîmes in 1934 and le Vigan in 1950.

From now on two other sites should be added: Pont-l'Abbé-d'Arnoult in France and Andradas in Brazil. In fact, the members of the town board of Pont-l'Abbé-d'Arnoult (Charente Maritime) unanimously decided on January 26, 2010, to give to the road that passes in front of the former seminary of the missions, otherwise called 'novitiate', which became an Assumptionist community and retirement house, the name «Emmanuel d'Alzon Street, 1810-1880, Founder of the Assumptionists.»

And also in Brazil, in the state of Minas Gerais, in Andradas, the Oblate Sisters of the Assumption, religious missionaries, who have lived there for more than 20 years and run a much appreciated pre-school program for more than 200 children, informed us of a certain plaza ('Praça' in Portuguese) that is supposed to bear the name of our common founder, Emmanuel d'Alzon. It was Fr. Berthold de Kruijff, A.A., a Dutchman, who stayed in Andradas from 1987 to 1997, who had obtained this favor on the occasion of his golden jubilee of priesthood. We received this information from Sr. Marie de la Compassion Le Féron d'Eterpigny, O.A. Alas, in spite of the municipal decision the plaque indicating the name of the Founder had not yet been installed as of April 2010. Don't hesitate to request that local authorities consider naming roads or other sites after Emmanuel d'Alzon, « pour avoir pignon sur rue », to have him better known! If we have overlooked any other such locales, please let us know at AAINFOlucas@assumptio.org and at the Main Archives in Rome: ArchivesACR@yahoo.fr.



Fr. Rospide and the mayor of Pont l'Abbé in front of the plaque, on the new street.

SUD OUEST

SudOuest.fr

Regional Newspaper

On Saturday, April 24, at 11 A.M., there took place the inauguration of Emmanuel-d'Alzon Street (the former rue de la Pouchaume de la rue Bouhet-au-Calvaire) in the presence of Fr. Emmanuel Rospide, assistant provincial of France of the Assumptionists, members of the town board, Benoît Combeau who had put his expertise at the service of the town, many priests, brothers, and sisters of the Congregation, Rep. Didier Quentin, Michel Doublet, senator, etc.

Arrival in 1934

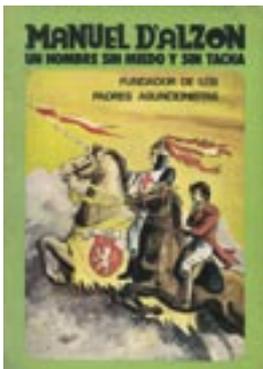
Didier Mayau, mayor of Pont-l'Abbé-d'Arnoult, began his remarks with these words: «I stand before you as a Republican and I do not intend to speak to you about religion. The Assumptionists here present can do so if they wish (and that is just what Fr. Emmanuel Rospide did). If the Town Board decided to honor the memory of Mr. d'Alzon, it is by virtue of the fact that he was the founder of the Augustinians of the Assumption. This reality links him to our town since the congregation acquired the Bonnet property in 1934.»

History of the chateau

The speech continued with the history of the chateau of the Chaume and the pastors who served the parish. And to continue, «I want to greet in a special way our Assumptionist brother who was so involved in the life of Pont l'Abbé, the one who supported so many young people, organizations, schools and the parish, Br. Roland Duny, living here in town since 1948. » The moment to unveil the plaque having arrived, the mayor, Didier Mayau, Rep. Didier Quentin, and Fr. Emmanuel Rospide went about the task of doing so. Immediately afterwards, everyone went to the courtyard of the chateau of the Chaume where Br. Roland Duny was honored and received from the hands of Nicolas Tabary his portrait painted by Iznogoud.

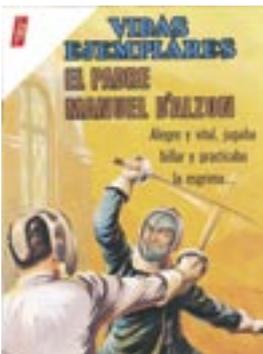
That afternoon and all day Sunday, in the reception hall of the Chaume, there took place an exposition, videos, and meetings on the theme: The Assumptionists at Pont-l'Abbé from 1934 till the present.

HONORING COMIC BOOKS



**We propose more specifically to extend the reign of Jesus Christ by....
the publication of books that can help Christian education.**

Rule of the Assumption,
Fr. d'Alzon, First Constitutions
(translation : Fr. Richard
Richards, A.A.)



Did you know that an organization in Belgium, CRIABD (Centre Religieux d'Information et d'Analyse de la Bande Dessinée/Religious Center for Information and Analysis of Comic Books), that promotes evangelization by using comic books, has organized an exposition which will be reproduced and which presents, among others, comic books on Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon? (see photo opposite). Br. Roland, S.J., will speak of the bicentennial of Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon in the CRIAB review « Gabriel » #50, which is scheduled to appear in June 2010!

One of the well-known comic books is entitled « *Le Lion des Cévennes (The Lion of the Cévennes Mountains)* », the text having been written by Fr. André Sève. Copies are rare now. It was translated into several languages, the Spanish version of which was completed by Br. Carlos Rubina, A.A. under the title « *Manuel d'Alzon, un hombre sin miedo y sin tacha* » and published by the Eco de Lourdes editions in Chili.

In Africa, for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a local artist, Docky Star Kam-bale, was able to design an «inculturated» comic book in 1987, modeled after the original. There are still a few copies around and the drawing plates, recently colored, have been copied on a DVD. Not long ago, Fr. Julio Navarro brought back from Mexico a small comic book of 32 pages, in the «Vidas ejemplares» #108, «*El Padre Manuel d'Alzon, el Hombre de Fuego*» completed under the direction of Fr. Carlos de Maria y Campos, S.J., in 1995.

Do you know of any other comic books on the founder? What of any new plans ?

There are whispers here and there that a few small films on Fr. d'Alzon were produced around 1950, well before the video «*Sur les pas du Père Emmanuel d'Alzon*» produced by Fr. Jean-Claude Poulignier, and that these films, miraculously re-discovered in Belgium, will soon be scanned and may be widely re-distributed.

lucas@assumptio.org

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT A THEATRICAL PLAY?

After trying for some time, we were happy to get in touch with Sr. Zoé Vandermersch, an Oblate of the Assumption, in Nîmes, who has shown a lot of luck in overseeing plans to put on a play for the bicentennial of Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, our common founder.

«In short,», she writes, «we're talking about a play, but also, without a doubt, a multi-media presentation (video, projectors, music) which recounts the life of Emmanuel d'Alzon up to the foundation of the Oblates of the Assumption. Then there will be a jump in time to our day: we'll speak of the life of the Assumptionists and the Oblates in today's world, on three fronts : Africa, Latin America and Asia.

It's quite difficult to coordinate such a project, because each Oblate institution in France is in charge of one or more scenes. There are between five and ten actors/actresses in each school and you have to pull

In October 2010, there will be a lot of you who will come to applaud this theatrical play which will take place in Nîmes and later in the four corners of France and why not the rest of Europe! If a DVD is made at this time, it could be translated and distributed widely. It would be a way of «reaching beyond the seas...», to quote Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon's recommendation to the Oblates of the Assumption.

all that together in the face of distance, schedules, emails that get lost, etc.! And it's not easy either to rally the faculty and students. Even at «D'Alzon-Nîmes», I feel a bit alone in carrying the project forward at the moment. Let's hope good will will prevail! I'm hoping things will speed

up in the near future. A teacher at «D'Alzon-Vestric» is going to accompany me as we visit the various institutions in April 2010 in order to take stock of the situation and get things moving.

I've also got to put together a request to obtain subsidies from the APPEL (Associations des parents d'élèves de l'enseignement libre – Organizations of Parents with Students in Private Schools).

Common rehearsals won't take place till just before the performances, between October 6-8, in Nîmes.

I don't have any photos from the individual rehearsals at the moment. That's part of what we still have to do: photos, posters, publicity, press releases. And we have to take into account that vacations are coming up.

On my part, I have been gathering 4-6 young women in the preparations. For them it has been an opportunity to learn a lot about d'Alzon : «What is a vicar general? A diocese? A bishop? Does a nun have the right to get married? etc.» Recently I brought them to the d'Alzon Memorial here in Nîmes which tells of his life and work: once again, they had lots of questions: «What's a Council? A monstrence? etc. »

There you have it. The project is exciting, but it is also a cross to bear. Thank you for all your support.»

*Sr Zoé Vandermersch,
Oblate of the Assumption in Nîmes.
zoev@free.fr*



Sr Zoé Vandermersch, Oblate of the Assumption in Nîmes.

42nd Council of the Congregation (CC)

Rome, April 20 – 30, 2010

In the garden of Due Pini, Photo © Gilles Allard



Council of the Congregation

PARTICIPANTS

BROMBART André (General Assistant)
CALLE Niceto (Provincial of Spain)
CASTRO Arnold (Provincial of Northern Europe)
CHUFFART Lucas (Secretary general)
DE OLIVEIRA Luis Carlos (Provincial of Brazil, absent)
GASSER Sylvain (Assistant Provincial of France)
GRIERE Benoît (Provincial of France)
GULLUNG Jean-Daniel (General treasurer)
KAHINDO KIHUGHO Emmanuel (General Assistant)
KAMBERE KAGHANIRYO Vincent (Provincial of Africa, absent)
KASEREKA SYAYIPUMA Roger (First Assistant of Africa)
JARY Michel (Vice-Provincial of Madagascar)
LAMOUREUX Richard (Superior general)
LE LEANNEC Bernard (General Procurator)
MUNOZ Edgardo (Provincial of Chile-Argentina-Colombia)
NAVARRO ROMAN Julio (Vicar general)
POIRIER Marcel (Provincial of North America)
REMIOT Didier (Assistant Provincial of France)
ZUIKER Jan (Assistant of Northern Europe)

Guest

Franc Cardinal RODE, Prefect of CICALSAL

Translators

CALLE Anastasio

KAMBALE MIGHERI Jean Baptiste

The agenda included two major topics: a follow-up of the work that had been done at the last meeting of the CC regarding economic issues and the financial management of the Congregation, and preparations for the General Chapter which is scheduled to meet in May 2010 in Rome. There were other items to be covered as well: reports from the Provinces and that of the general government, the question of a possible international center of formation for theological studies, a project regarding a possible campus of Assumption College (Worcester) at Due Pini, in Rome, and the status of the distribution and reception of the Congregation's document on the subject of sexual abuse.

PROGRAM

The members present at the CC 2010 addressed five important points announced by Fr. General in his introduction.



P. Jan Zuiker

P. Arnold Castro

Obviously, there was the question of the preparation of the General Chapter, including the theme of Community Organization and that of the participation of lay associates of the Alliance, financial questions, projects under consideration such as an international house of formation and Assumption College's wish to establish a campus in Rome, interculturality which encompasses questions of languages and translations in the Congregation and also the reports of the various Provincials studied by all and presented by each major superior present.

It should be noted that the reports of the Provincials and Vice-Provincial treated questions of the Bicentennial, the reception of the document on sexual abuse, the preparation for the Provincial Chapters, and the follow-up on the reflections on education.

Given we had only ten days, the agenda was full, even quite heavy for several members. Besides, some subjects such as interculturality were only briefly addressed.



DECISIONS

Concerning the General Chapter of 2011, it was decided:

- Electoral legislation which recognizes 20 *ex officio* members and calls for the election of 23 others.
- The participation of lay associates of the Alliance, to number 13 (including the five members of the International Committee of Laity and Religious), for the first week of the Chapter and with a financial contribution from them.

For further preparation of this General Chapter of 2011,

it was decided to hold a Council of the Congregation from February 17-19, 2011, in Paris. The issue of Community Organization, reviewed by the ad hoc committee, and financial matters, notably the approval of the 2012 budget, will be on the agenda.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

were once again a burning topic in this time of economic and financial crisis. The votes on twenty points passed with a clear majority and unanimously at times. It was decided, among other things:

- The approval of the 2009 accounts and financial statements
- The approval of the 2010 and 2011 budgets of the General Curia
- The increase in assessments only in 2012
- The allocations of the Solidarity Fund according to the requests but taking into account the losses in our investments
- The introduction of the requests regarding Asia within the overall packet of requests addressed to the Solidarity Fund, implying the suppression of the Asia Fund, which was temporary.

Furthermore, in view of the financing of the Congregation and the establishment of a medium-term plan for our needs, especially in buildings and real estate (formation centers, the Institute for Higher Education, etc.), it is necessary to come up with a new investment fund, of the real-estate type, and a new economic policy for the entire Congregation founded on belt-tightening and the search for new sources of income. This received an unanimous vote!



© A. Brombart

Fr. Richard Lamoureux, Fr. Jean Baptiste Kambale, Fr. Lucas Chuffart

DECISIONS

OTHER POINTS were voted on by the CC 2010:

- That vocations from Rwanda be received and accompanied by the Province of Africa with the help of the Vice-Province of Madagascar.
- That each religious read and sign the document entitled, «Norms Applicable in the Congregation of the Augustinians of the Assumption in cases of Sexual Abuse – Procedures to be Followed in the Case of Accusations of Abuse and the Prevention of Abuse.»
- That the document on an international center of formation be distributed to each Provincial Chapter.

Fr. Jean Daniel Gullung, Fr. Jan Zuiker



© A. Brombart

SEVERAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CC 2010

In addition to the meetings, group summaries, and exchanges in language groups, it would be important to point out several highlights that took place during the CC.



© A. Brombart

Franc Cardinal Rode

There was a meeting with Franc Cardinal Rode, a Vincentian, prefect for the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL), a Mass with our Oblates of the Assumption in Rome, as well as those of Genoa, in the chapel «ad caput » in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica, where Fr. d'Alzon celebrated his first Mass, and attendance at the papal audience of Wednesday, April 28, during which, under a scorching sun, the Assumptionist contingent was given special recognition.

It is still possible to follow the daily schedule of CC by going to the website www.assumptio.org in order to read the daily «line of thought» illustrated with expressive photos.

THE CLOSING MESSAGE

of the 42nd Council of the Congregation to the entire Congregation, in order to follow up on our efforts in financial matters and on the objectives of our apostolic mission on the eve of Provincial Chapters and the General Chapter, summarizes important points and reminds us of the truth of our religious life during this Bicentennial of the birth of Fr. d'Alzon.

Dear Brothers,

Last year we sent you a letter recommending a number of practices to enable us to respond to the critical financial situation of the Congregation and more broadly to the economic challenges being faced in all of our countries. We decided it would be good to write again this year to tell you what has been accomplished in the twelve months since our last meeting.

We are doing so in the context of the 200th anniversary celebration of our founder's birth. Do you recall the financial problems he had to deal with in his life, and most especially during his "years of crisis" in the 1850s? More to the point, do you remember how he responded? He was neither obsessed by the problems, nor defeated by them. He continued to be a zealous apostle, never lowering his sights or down-sizing his missionary ambitions. Instead, he learned how to be a prudent and better manager and most importantly how to rely more on the Lord of the harvest. These were times when Emmanuel d'Alzon developed the kind of zeal and faith that characterize the greatest of saints.

“

Our discussions and the work that you have done during the year allowed us to make progress in our effort to put flesh on our vow of poverty. Now we must beg the Lord to help us continue in the same spirit.

”

....

In the end, we are grateful for the opportunity we've had this year and last year to reflect on these important questions, but we also realize that our work is far from finished. In fact, it has only begun. Not only is it inaccurate to think that the world's economic problems have been solved, it is also an illusion to think that the Congregation has the means to meet all of its needs. It doesn't have them today, and we foresee that the discrepancy between needs and resources will grow in the years to come. Major changes need to be made, and in every Province we have to be very serious about finding new sources of income.

All of this has to do with the material aspects of our life, but it also touches upon the very heart of our commitment to follow Christ. Our discussions and the work you have done during the year have enabled us to make progress in giving flesh to our living out of the vow of poverty, but now we must pray that the Lord will help us to continue confidently in this same spirit.

Faternally,

*Members, 42nd Council of Congregation
Rome, 30 April 2010*

FR. PETAR LJUBAS, ARCHIMANDRITE



Most Rev. Proykov and Fr. Petar Ljubas

On May 13, 2010, on the feast of the Ascension, the patron feast of the Eastern Rite Parish for which the Assumptionist community in Plovdiv has responsibility, Fr. Petar Ljubas was raised to the dignity of archimandrite by his bishop, Most Rev. Christo Proykov.

This honorary title has as its purpose to underline the human, spiritual, and pastoral qualities which have characterized the life of a priest in his apostolic duties among the faithful who have been entrusted to him.

Bishop Christo Proykov indicated clearly in his homily that Fr. Petar, since his arrival in Plovdiv 15 years ago, has succeeded in gaining the respect and gratitude of parishioners as well as that of priests and religious throughout the entire diocese. As a matter of fact, it should be said that at the beginning Fr. Petar was reluctant to accept this decision of the bishop to confer on him this distinction, because in his humility he didn't see himself being raised to such a honor.

The hearts of all the parishioners who participated in such great numbers in the solemn liturgy were filled with joy and pride for their much beloved pastor.

The Apostolic Nuncio, Most Rev. Bolonek, together with a dozen or so priests concelebrated the Divine Liturgy, presided by Bishop Christo Proykov.

We should add that Fr. Petar's elevation to the dignity of archimandrite follows a prestigious tradition. In fact, three other Assumptionists have been called to the same dignity in the past: Fr. Ivan Vitchev (brother of Fr. Kamen), Fr. Velik Vitchev (nephew of Fr. Kamen), Fr. Gorazd Kourtev.

The Apostolic Nuncio assured Fr. Petar of the blessings and prayers of the Holy Father; then in his short homily in French he drew attention to the fact that the Ascension of the Lord opened the doors of heaven to all Christians and that from then on heaven and earth were not separated but met.



AT WHAT STAGE IS THE PREPARATION FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER?

In less than a year, the 32nd General Chapter of the Augustinians of the Assumption will be completed. A Chapter is undoubtedly important – but aren't they all? – taking into account the profound changes that will affect the Assumption and the world.

In order to prepare this Chapter, the General set up a preparatory Commission (CPC) composed of five religious. Its mission is to suggest themes for reflection and to organize several tracks for the work of the Chapter. It is also to reflect on the great articulations that can improve the functioning of the heavy-duty mechanism that a General Chapter comprises.

In the course of a first session, last September, the CPC elaborated a document suggesting a theme and an approach for the Chapter. All of the communities of the Congregation were then invited to give their reactions and suggestions to this document. Again reunited at the beginning of March 2010, the CPC oversaw a synthesis of the answers of the communities, and, starting from there, wrote up an outline for a program for the General Chapter, as well as a questionnaire destined for the Provincial Chapters.

These documents were submitted to the Council of the Congregation in April. Finally, in the last days of May, a limited group of the CPC finalized the



Fathers Emmanuel Kahindo, Marcos Antonio, Richard Brunelle, André Brombart, Michel Kubler

“So, the ball is in the hands of the various provinces and in particular in the hands of the provincial chapters.”

questionnaire for the Provincial Chapters, by taking into account the remarks of the Council of the Congregation. There will remain to include the last reflections and proposals concerning the community organization that an ad hoc work group will elaborate in the very last days of May.

At the same time, the Superior General has sent to all of the religious an official letter of convocation of the General Chapter. The major themes and the great stakes of the Chapter are outlined in it.

The ball is now in the hands of the various provinces, and in a special way the hands of the Provincial Chapters to be held at the end of 2010 and

the beginning of 2011. Once their answers will have been collected by the CPC, it will meet again in February 2011, and try to compose an “*instrumentum laboris*” which, even now, it hopes will be simple and modest. The fruits of the labor of an extraordinary Council of Congregation, scheduled from February 21 to 23, 2011 in Paris, will be integrated as much as possible into the work. This “working document” will have as its main goal to stir the capitulants and “whet their appetites”; it is understood that the Chapter is sovereign and master of its daily agenda.

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



National Meeting of Lay Assumptionists in Chile

On Saturday May 15, in the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción community (in the Robert Kennedy neighborhood of Santiago), there took place the first annual meeting of the National Coordinating Committee of Lay Assumptionists of Chile. Two changes contributed to making this meeting more relaxed: the fact that it took place in the late afternoon and in the house of religious.

Delegates from «active communities» of lay-people participated and they were accompanied by the religious of the community and by Fr. Edgardo Muñoz, Provincial, Fr. Aldo Gajardo and Br. Rafael Hidalgo.

The first topic for reflection was the situation that we are experiencing today as Church; the letter written by Fr. Aldo served to get us going. Fr. Edgardo then shared with us the

conclusions of the Council of the Congregation which took place in Rome, especially those matters dealing with the participation of lay-people at the General Chapter of 2011. In terms of a national program we decided:

1. Because of the events in the aftermath of the earthquake, the meeting of the second semester of 2010 will not take place (assembly and/or retreat).
2. The CEVA communities (Communities of Assumptionist Spirituality and Life --- the acronym comes from the Spanish title) will get together to celebrate the bicentennial at the Shrine of Lourdes in Santiago.
3. We are awaiting a response from Argentina before deciding who will attend the celebration, in

Buenos Aires, of 100 years of Assumptionist presence in that country.

4. The national lay committees (communications, formation and mission) will be re-launched.
5. The next meeting scheduled for the month of July, which was supposed to be in Rengo according to the program, will be held in Lota, as a sign of our solidarity and support of this community during this difficult time that they are experiencing.

At end of our meeting, the community of Lota gave thanks for the moral support and assistance sent by the Santiago communities after the February 27 earthquake.

*Jimena García (May 26, 2010)
jm_garcia16@hotmail.com*

A PARISH DISTRICT IN MADAGASCAR

Taken from an article of VAOVAO, April 2009.

Fr. Charles Razafimanantsoa, 46 years old, has been working in Anakao for 3 years, as a curate. He is beginning to get to know the Vezo people.

«There are three communities in the district of Anakao: Soalara (about 12 kms to the north), Beheloka (33 kms to the south) and Anakao itself. Anakao is 40 kms from Tuléar. It's faster to go by dugout canoe or boat; but overland one has to take a detour via Bétioky. Most people along the sea make a living from fishing and from transporting goods or people via canoe. They earn money quickly when the weather is nice and the sea is calm. But they spend it just as quickly!

ANAKAO:

Anakao is known because of the island of NOSY VE which lies directly across from it. This island attracts many tourists, several thousand a year. That's why there are so many large hotels and restaurants. On this island there lives a rare kind of bird called «the Red-tailed Tropicbird». You can also find many different kinds of fish, crustaceans, and coral reefs that are of interest to snorkeling and scuba enthusiasts. Whales allow themselves be seen here once a year!



Fr. Charles Razafimanantsoa

“**As for development, fortunately the Catholic Church is present: first of all at St. Peter's School and then with the Tealongo doctors who can be found in the most remote villages.**”

On the one hand, tourist activities and fishing enrich Anakao. The locals are able to earn more money than villagers in the surrounding area. But they also spend their money very quickly and the young are drawn to «night-clubs» that are forever multiplying. On the other, the population doesn't have a sense of the common good and has no concern for cleanliness. Nor do they have any respect for the environment; they throw everything on the shore or in the water. And what's more, in the case of death, when it is a question of helping families in mourning, Malagasi soli-

arity has been forgotten. Life in Anakao can be described as loose and unbridled. As far as participation in the life of the Church is concerned, we're talking mostly about the students of St. Peter's School run by the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres who come to church. Parents and young people have stopped coming. The Christian community is experiencing a lack of leaders. As for development, fortunately the Catholic Church is present: first of all at St. Peter's School and then with the Tealongo doctors who can be found in the most remote villages. In short, in Anakao, there's lots going on both socially and economically!



BEHELOKA:

The village of Beheloka is located 78 kms from Tuléar by the sea route but 275 kms by land. Its population is very young with an average age of 18. Access to the village is not easy: it takes 12 hours by canoe or an entire day by bush taxi. It is situated in a semi-arid region, with little rain. This year, for example, it rained only once, in January, when a cyclone passed by. That is why there is a problem with drinking water in this region where brackish water abounds. Two ethnic groups share this village: the Vezo, fishers and sea specialists, with a standard of living a little

bit higher, and the Tanalana, herders and farmers, somewhat poorer.

Overall, the people are welcoming: the 'vahiny' such as the doctors and teachers who come from elsewhere are all well received.

As far as Church life is concerned, Christians are numerous. The Assumptionists and the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres go there once a month, more or less, to say Mass and maintain contact.

But many still maintain traditional practices: such

as the practice of the «Tromba» (possessed). They slaughter lots of oxen and goats for funerals. They hold to belief in the 'fady' (what is forbidden and taboo).

As for development, health centers have been established in the region, as well as public schools. A private school for little children will soon be opened. French organizations (ABC Domino) are funding the construction of a public high school, on the Ambola side. This school is already open.

Parents want their children to go to school. They help out actively with tuition and with the purchase of school furnishings.

Well, that's what can be shared with you with regard to the district of Anakao, where the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres and the Assumptionists work.»

secretariatbelem@moov.mg
Fr. Charles Razafimanantsoa

CELEBRATION OF 75 YEARS



OF ASSUMPTIONIST PRESENCE IN BRAZIL

In order to celebrate in prayer and in joy the 75th anniversary of Assumptionist presence in Brazil (1935, cf. the report of Fr. Crispin Crispinjs, A.A), the Assumption in Brazil, Assumptionists and Oblates, surrounded by many lay members of the Assumption Family, gathered at the national shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

Parishes and communities chartered buses (11 of them just for the 12 small Christian communities from Campinas! Following the example of the twelve tribes of the People of God...); families came by car across this great and beautiful land of Brazil. Together with other pilgrims, there were more than 40,000 of us gathered

in this immense, cruciform basilica decorated by Claudio Pastro, for the Eucharist presided by Most Rev. Dario Campos, O.F.M., a friend of the Assumption. Our own José Géraldo Da Cruz, A.A. was immobilized in convalescence after a hip and femur operation.

This televised Mass was an immense act of thanksgiving for the presence and apostolic activity of so many Assumptionists and Oblates. In his homily the bishop underlined the charisma of Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, whose bicentennial of birth we were also celebrating, a man at the service of the Kingdom of God, "for



See also the website
Of the Province of Brazil:
www.assuncionistas.com

life, justice and peace, » in the words of the preacher.

The prayer petitions entrusted to Our Lady of Aparecida brought together all Assumptionist and Oblate provinces in one movement. The presence of religious from Paraguay, the United States, Africa, and Europe... was a sign of our common mission

“Fazei-nos, Senhor, pescadores do Reino !”

(Make of us, Lord, fishers of your Kingdom !)

May the celebration of April 17, 2010 at Our Lady of Aparecida be for the Assumption in Brazil a source of vocations and renewed missionary zeal!

*Fr. José Ignàcio,
joseaig@yahoo.com.br
and Fr. Lucas Chuffart,
lucas@assumptio.org*

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR AT DUE PINI

On Wednesday, June 9, the community at the general house welcomed Most Rev. Piero Marini. His name may not ring a bell, but there is little chance that you wouldn't recognize the face of the one who, for twenty years, had been the 'master of papal liturgical ceremonies.' He is the one who oversaw the public celebrations of John Paul II, next to whom he was never far during an event. In 2007, Benedict XVI replaced him with... Most Rev. Marini, Guido being his first name.

The idea for inviting Piero Marini came to us from Claudio Pastro, the artist responsible for the renovation of the chapel at Due Pini. Both were deeply taken up with liturgy and knew one other well for having encountered each other at Eucharistic Congresses. So, the first thing this visitor did when he came to the house was to visit the chapel, which he admired as Fr. Richard gave him a tour before he presided the Eucharist there.

During his homily, which he built on the first reading of the day – the sacrifice of prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel –, Bishop Marini called to mind the sacrifice of Jesus and that of Christians. As for Elijah, who abundantly watered the offerings before invoking the fire of the Lord, Jesus' sacrifice is marked by an apparently unfavorable context: not the Temple, but a place of damnation, outside the city; not a victim surrounded with honors, but one subject to humiliations and insults... For the Christian also, the true sacrifice, the one where there is no other recourse but the «fire of the Spirit», takes place in the most difficult circumstances: being sick, alone, forgotten rejected, persecuted...

Afterwards, over a very relaxed cocktail, Bishop Marini quite freely answered questions that members of the community posed to him. It was an opportunity for some very interesting reflections on the profound meaning of the Eucharistic liturgy and the way in which sacred architecture can enhance it.

Finally, as with any good encounter, this one ended with a meal which good weather, finally having settled in Rome, forced us to enjoy on the terrace. Our guest admired the magnificent view of the city—and especially of the dome of St. Peter's – before partaking of the delicious cold platter prepared by Stella, our cordon bleu chef and our super-devoted Oblate Sisters. Visitor and visited bid one another good-bye in giving thanks for the wonderful atmosphere, simple and fraternal, which reigned during our time together and in promising to do it again sometime.

André Brombart, abrombart@gmail.com



Bishop Piero Marini



© A. Brombart

'GENERALS BROUGHT DOWN'?

Amazing! If you had come up to the second floor of general house, Due Pini, during the past month of May, just after the Council of the Congregation, you would have noticed the rather odd scene of the portraits of the last four superiors general leaning against the wall, in a very humble position on the ground. Right away the question would be posed: Was there an earthquake? Was this the result of a democratic uprising? Or a result of a majority decision by raised hand at the last meeting of the Council of the Congregation held in the same house a few days before? The uncertainty would remain until you realised that one of the frames had suffered from the effects of a clear case of mildew, attacking the hood of the Superior General in question and risking little by little to devour his face! Darn it! In fact, a leak coming from the shower behind the wall secretly worked its way into the outer plaster and contaminated with humidity the aforementioned 'generalissime' portrait!

After a meeting of the local and general treasurers, the local superior, himself an assistant general, and our own Angelo, Italian national and our treasured jack-of-all-trades, once repairs have taken place, everything should be put back in order--- 'general' order, that is to say. That way each of the paintings of the last four superiors general will take its place on the wall of Generals' portraits. Whew! Before the next, very near General Chapter of May 2011, it is hoped that everything will be in order, both memories of the past and accommodation for the future.

N.B . An observation: there remains room to place, if need be, a future portrait following the elections of the Chapter. Everything will be revealed in #24 of AAINFO!

*lucas@assumptio.org
(son of a framer).*

Letter #13 of Fr.

Letter #13 of Fr. General: .. **in the East and in the West. Our mission in Asia...and «at home».**

Written under the inspiration of Pentecost 2010, this Letter is addressed to all Assumptionists and laity of the Alliance. It falls in line with the three priorities of the General Chapter of 2005, that is, the Eastern European Mission (Mission d'Orient), Vocation Ministry, and, now, our Mission in Asia.

With a beautiful Asian cover, this Letter deals with the pivotal points of our recent foundations on the great Continent of Asia, the needs of the Church, the challenges to be

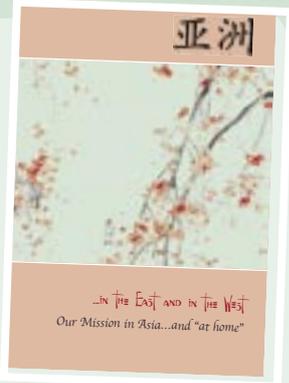
met, given our small numbers and limited means, and the risks of inculturating Assumptionist religious life with its own charism. The formation requirements for young Koreans, Filipinos, Vietnamese, and Chinese are enormous. «The rice harvest depends on the planting», as the proverb goes.

But this Letter #13 is not of interest solely to the religious in Asia nor to those Provinces directly involved in this Mission. It is a summons to everyone, religious and lay alike, to maintain «at home», in us and around us, this missionary and apostolic spirit inherited from



THE A.A. LIBRARIES OF DUE PINI

General



our Founder and his first disciples. Nothing great will happen over there, if here «at home» we are not involved, at various levels to be sure, but in a real way, in this Asian Mission, even if it is only by our interest and prayer.

N.B : this Letter #13 will also be found at:

www.assumptio.org.

Among the innumerable libraries of Rome, from the Vatican and its well guarded secrets, to the modest shelves of better known intellectuals and researchers (such as an Italian friend of mine, a specialist of the Libyan desert), the general house, «Due Pini», contains no less than four libraries! Did you know that?

In the semi-annual report (May 2010), drawn up by Fr. Julio Navarro Roman, a.a. «incaricato della Biblioteca» and la Dottoressa Lidia Laudenzi, librarian, there is news about the four libraries.

The first library contains modern books and periodicals. No less than 9,195 volumes are catalogued in this library, among which there are 1,152 works by Assumptionist authors! (a word of thanks for the exchanges worked out with the library of Valpré and the shipment of books from Juvisy). The periodicals number 21 (mostly reviews) and we had to, on the advice of the library committee of the community (Ah, yes, such a committee exists and ‘functions’) suspend our subscription to many reviews, for financial reasons.

The second library is an Assumptionist Library (AL), a section or subset of the first, which currently numbers 770 works and 15 reviews. All Assumptionist authors are invited to contribute a copy of their publications here, but many forget or hesitate.

The third library is known as «d’Alzon», in another locale, in the basement of the archives, an air-conditioned area for the proper conservation of the books. This section contains 1,663 volumes (for 964 titles, since there are several collections). These books are believed to have belonged (and certainly have been certified as such) to Fr. d’Alzon himself (tablets, notes in his own writing, etc.). The history and origin of these books still remain to be written. It’s on the ‘to-do’ list of our

librarian.

The fourth library is still known as «the storeroom». The majority of the books in this storeroom come from «Tor Di Nona». Frs. Julio Navarro and Lucian Dinca, among others, have gotten down to sorting out this storeroom in view of sending books to various destinations: donations (especially to Santa Croce University for canon law, to the Institute of Religious Sciences of the Claretians for questions of religious life, etc), shipments to Valpré or to Juvisy or to Denfert according to requests, shipments to the Emmanuel d’Alzon Institute of Higher Education in Butembo for several boxes, and especially shipments already foreseen to Bucharest, for the new ecumenical library of the soon-to-be-refounded community.

Placing the catalogue on CD-ROM allows for easier research for all the members of the community in Rome and this will be continued for the entire collection and especially for all the reviews and, in particular, the patristic collections.

If, at Assumption, a site could gather all of our riches in terms of the books of our libraries and foster exchanges, research, and the filling in of collections, we would certainly have taken a huge step, at little cost, in making more profitable and useful our collections of printed matter. Is this a pious wish or a prophetic stance? For, at the moment that iPads flourish and electronic books multiply, there still remain beautiful days to read books and manuals in print.

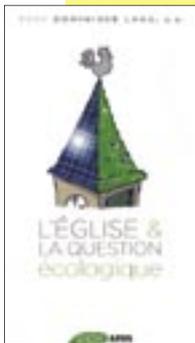
«The day that religious stop studying at the Assumption,» said the founder, Emmanuel d’Alzon, «will be the day it should cease to exist!» Let’s do everything to delay that day a little!

julionavarroman@hotmail.com

lucas@assumptio.org



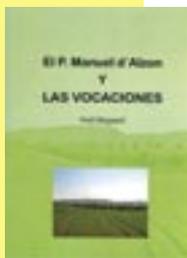
L'Église et la question écologique



L'Église et la question écologique: a handsome presentation of different Church texts on ecology, in order to understand the commitment of Christians in this critical domain for the future of humanity... by Fr. Dominique Lang, aa. (200 pages) aadomi@wanadoo.fr

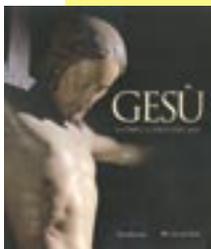
El P. Manuel d'Alzon y las vocaciones

Thanks to Fr. Tomas Gonzalez, this Spanish translation of the 1980 booklet of Fr. Noël Bugnard, A.A., on Fr. d'Alzon and vocations. Still relevant! 2010.



Gesù, il corpo, il volto nell'arte

Silvana Editions, La Veneria Reale, 2010, a photo book on Jesus, his body and his face in art, in Italian. Fr. Richard Lamoureux contributed an article to this work on Michelangelo, sculptor. The exposition itself in Turin was superb.

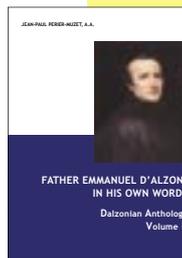


Vienne ton Règne

In the now extensive series «Vienne ton Règne», the Oblates of the Assumption, missionary religious, present themselves through their history and their charism, inherited from Fr. d'Alzon: 'afire with zeal for humanity'. In collaboration with Prions en Eglise. May 2010. secregeneraloa@free.fr



Dalzonian Anthology



Volume II of the Dalzonian Anthology of Fr. J.P Périer-Muzet was translated by Fr. Eugene Laplante and edited by Fr. John Franck in English: Dalzonian Anthology II. A beautiful presentation of 50 important texts of Fr. d'Alzon. jlf Franck@aol.com.

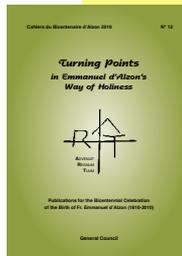
Bicentennial Booklet # 11.

Completes the history of the Province of France from 1952 to our day, under the attentive pen of Br. Nicolas Potteau, with biographical notes, graphics and tables. 280 pages. June 2010. nicolas_potteau@yahoo.fr



Bicentennial Booklet.#12.

Six significant moments in the way of holiness of E. d'Alzon; separate installments in four languages, 76 pages. June 2010. Six important stages in the life of the Founder by the six members of the General Curia. Intended for reading, recollection, formation of lay associates of the Alliance, etc.



Bicentennial Booklet #13.

A world tour of the communities of the Oblates of the Assumption in 28 countries, 200 pages, by Sr. Fortunata Maha, the Oblate archivist. A long and lovely trek across the history and geography of the Oblates of the Assumption to whom Fr. d'Alzon said: «My daughters, you will travel beyond the seas....» secregeneraloa@free.fr



To be read without moderation during the summer – in the Northern hemisphere



YOU SAID IT!

The delivery of AAINFO by e-mail (more than 280 copies in four languages), its presence on the Congregation's website www.assumptio.org, and another 430 printed copies in the four official languages of the Congregation, not to mention 40 in Portuguese, elicit lots of reaction, support, and questions. Here are a few:

« Shalom ! Take heart and keep up the good work. I read my copy of the news of the Congregation from cover to cover in order to stay up with what's happening in our beloved family and to understand its priorities better.»

Br. Zacharie Wasukundi, A.A. Nairobi. (Kenya)

In Italian: Caro Padre, ... Grazie di cuore per il giornale ricevuto per la sua email. Ho letto gia. Ricordiano nelle preghiera. »

Cha Phero Nguyen Van Huong (Rome and Vietnam)

« Thank you for AAINFO #19 which we just read very attentively.»

Sr. Jean-Léo Muhindo, Oblate of the Assumption (Ivory Coast).

«Many thanks for AAINFO which will first be scanned, then read, and finally become the source of meditation, as it should be.»

Br. Anastasio Calle (Spain)

«I was touched by the international newsletter of the Assumption, with news of friends from around the

world: Madagascar, Greece, Italy, France, etc. I loved the piece on Fr. Alexandre Psaltis with whom I maintain contact (AAINFO #19, page 10) as well as older members of the Assumption.»

Louis Merlet (France).

«Thanks for the copy of the newsletter #19. The contents are quite varied, the images beautiful, and finally Brazil is spoken of! But how can we resolve the lack of contributors? »

Nathalie Jolivet. (France). [without a doubt, by sending articles with photos?!]

«My sincere thanks for this #19 of AAINFO, always rich, full of interesting information. Reading this newsletter keeps us in touch with the Congregation and that's important. »

Gilbert Dhego, Caritas, Goma (D.R.Congo).

« Serge and I read the AAINFO newsletter with interest.»

Marie and Serge Gau (France).

«AAINFO arrived safe and sound. So now we have material for our monthly meeting of the lay associates of the Alliance in Goma. Fraternal greetings.»

John Kirere, L.A, Goma (D.R.Congo). [see as well: www.assumptio.org !]

«I would like to continue receiving news of your religious family which I have known for a long time.»

Br. J.Marie Makuta, Canon Regular of St. Augustine (France).

«In the last issue of AAINFO, I appreciated the place given to lay associates in your vision of the Church.» Jean Malfroy, diocesan priest, chaplain at Lourdes during the Assumption Pilgrimage (France). [pages 4, 11, 26, etc.]

«Besides the AAINFO newsletter, I go to the Assumption website, www.assumptio.org, to discover the spirit of this Congregation which I like so much. Best wishes.»

Alfred Vancassel, former aluminate student. (France). [the newsletter and the website complement one another!]

«I was happy to receive and read AA-Info and the different d'Alzon Bicentennial booklets now available. Thanks for having sent them via the lay associates of the Alliance.»

Br. Robert Migliorini, a.a. (France).

As Jacques Lanzmann says in his novel 'le Raja' (Ramsay 1995) «From now on, the weight of words and the shock of photos may upset people.» Is that true of AAINFO, in print or on the web www.assumptio.org? That's for you to say!

lucas@assumptio.org

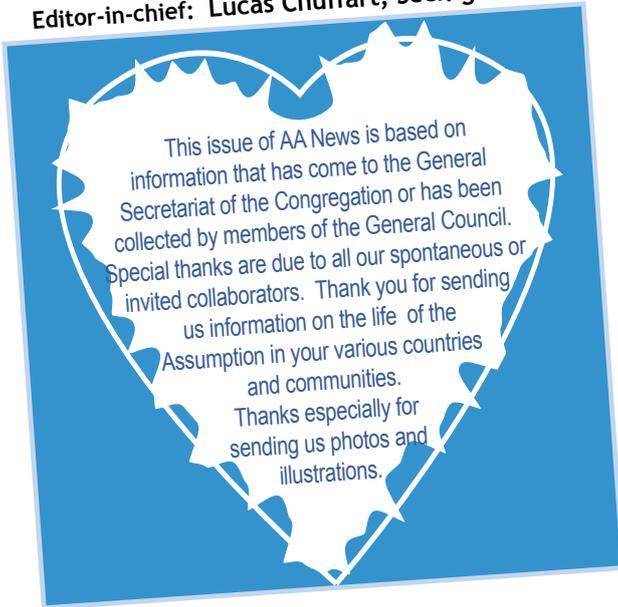


NEXT AA-INFO (OCTOBER 2010)

- Preparation of the General Chapter (May 2011)
- End-of-the-Bicentennial Year Celebrations
- Your articles, photos, and sublime strokes of inspiration!



Editor-in-chief: Lucas Chuffart, Secr. general



Assunzione@mclink.it

Translators:

Richard Lamoureux and John Franck, English
José Antônio Echaniz, Spanish
Kees Krijnsen, Dutch

Proof-readers:

Julio Navarro and André Brombart

Production editor:
Loredana Giannetti

Written June 30, 2010

This #20 of AA-Info consists of 430 copies:

265 in French
50 in English
60 in Spanish
55 in Dutch

and 280 electronic copies.

| | |
|--|----|
| Editorial: Church in crisis | 2 |
| Official | 4 |
| Calendar | 6 |
| Rome | |
| A Walker | 7 |
| Ephémérides | 7 |
| Interview with Loredana Giannetti | 8 |
| Our Guests and Visitors | 9 |
| Fr. d'Alzon | |
| Avoir Pignon sur Rue | 10 |
| Honoring Comic Books of d'Alzon | 11 |
| Bicentennial | |
| You were talking about a theatrical play? | 12 |
| Mission d'Orient | |
| Fr. Petar Ljubas, Archimandrite | |
| May 13, 2010: day of celebration in Plovdiv | 17 |
| General Chapter 2011 | |
| At what stage is the preparation for the General Chapter ? | 18 |
| Lay Associates of the Alliance | |
| National meeting of lay associates of Chile | 19 |
| Madagascar | |
| A parish district in Madagascar | 20 |
| Latin America | |
| Celebration of 75 years of AA presence in Brazil | 22 |
| Rome | |
| A distinguished visitor at Due Pini | 23 |
| Do you know | |
| Generals 'brought down'? | 24 |
| Letter #13 of Fr. General | 24 |
| The AA Libraries of Due Pini | 25 |
| Publications | 26 |
| Mail from our readers | 27 |
| The Assumption of Heaven | 28 |

The Assumption of Heaven



| | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------|----|
| 11/04/2010 | Fr. BLANC Christian | France | Albertville | 70 |
| 20/05/2010 | Br. CHENAL André | France | Albertville | 84 |
| 25/05/2010 | Fr. PONT Jacques | France | Layrac | 73 |
| 13/06/2010 | Fr. FREDETTE Joseph | North America | Michigan | 77 |