



DIARY OF THE CHAPTER

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

Men – and Women ! – of communion

This orientation of 2005's Chapter manages, this week in Rome, with an important presence of lay delegates

Editorial

The Lay People are coming

Sr. Cristina Ocaña, r.a. (Spain)

Our common charism (A.A. and R.A.) has much to offer to the Church of today. It is powerful because our Founders knew how to present the values that our world needs today and which are fundamental to religious life, such as the warmth of community in the face of individualism, a simple life style in solidarity, obedience and fidelity to a person or a project. When lay people become aware of this they realize that something more is needed in their life of faith and this generates in many of them the desire to share in the construction of a Church that is better adapted to the realities of this world.

At this time, the Assumption which has always worked with lay people, is taking a further step going beyond sharing a mission. It also shares a spirituality that comes from the treasured charism which by being incarnated in lay people grows, is enriched and extends beyond our wildest imagination.

All of this is not easy. There are fears and resistances on both sides (lay people and religious). Leaving our comfort zones and doing things differently is always costly. It is the price we pay for life and renewal. Later on, we become aware that all this has allowed us to overcome the barriers that would prevent us from savoring the life that the Risen Christ brings us.

I am very grateful for the invitation to participate in this experience with the delegates to the Chapter and with the extraordinary group of lay people who seek sincerely to live this Alliance and who represent other groups everywhere in the world.



Fr. Vincent Kambere, Provincial of Africa

An appeal for Africa

The presentation of the Provincial of Africa made us aware of the fact that this Province is today the largest of the Congregation with 258 religious (of 834 in the Congregation), with an average age of 36 years old, with 29 religious (more than 10%) outside of the Province for studies and for various apostolic works.

It is easy enough to imagine that the Province will be even larger in 2017. It is clear that our brothers in Africa are seriously lacking in material and financial resources. For that reason they are unable to realize all of their projects at home or abroad. Self-financing is limited and cannot respond to all of the needs. To be realistic and in solidarity with the Province, we would have to find other development solutions, and this would have to be a "general" concern. For example, would it not be possible to imagine that our brothers, rather

than helping out in one or another mission, would actually assume responsibility for the mission? I note that the Congolese Oblate sisters have assumed responsibility for a senior citizens' residence in Italy. One suggestion: why not foresee in the Northern hemisphere a project confided to our African brothers, for example among migrant populations? Africa, humanity's cradle, is in many areas unstable and poor, marked by corruption and violence. Gradually, it will assume responsibility for its own development. We should be prepared. Who could have imagined in 2005, at the time of the last General Chapter, that a black man would today occupy the White House, if it had not been for that cry spoken by Martin Luther King on August 28th, 1963, "I have a dream!"?

Bernard Le Léannec, aa
(Rome – France)



My voice at the Chapter

It is with the eyes of a beginner that I approach this General Chapter. In my home country I sometimes hear: "Has religious life a future?" Already the effervescence of this beginning invites me to respond "yes" for very different reasons.

A General Chapter is first of all a history... This history, we can sense it present in the Chapter assembly: the history of our Congregation, enriched this year by the bicentenary; the history of the Church to which we belong – what a beautiful sign to begin under the watchful eye of Blessed John Paul II! -, but also the history of our human and spiritual commitments, whether modest or more vigorous, which we will discover little by little. Today, Assumption is present on all continents, at one and the same time "small" and "vast"...on a world wide scale.

A Chapter is also a consciousness. Yes, Assumption has a sensitivity which is both proper and necessary: "Men and women of communion, proposing the faith in solidarity with the poor..." This "charism", as we say, does not come from us but from the Spirit. It is up to us now to gather and develop its fruits. Not only for us, but for all those who, whether within or outside the Church, find our intuitions right and want to share them. What a joy it is to see this assembly advance henceforth with motivated laity coming from the four corners of the world...

A Chapter finally is a whole project ...God has not said his last word with us. He convokes us once more to meet him. If there are zones of fragility in certain places – lack of apostolic generosity, deficits in the formation, signs of ageing – they should not hide the brightness of the face of the Congregation.

In short, the Assumption need not blush concerning its past ... nor of the multiple ways of envisaging its future. So then, off we go! To be bold, generous, disinterested... with a pinch of the supernatural, this is what I wish at the start of this Chapter.

Jean-François Petit
Province of France

(Fr. Jean-François Petit, secretary of the Chapter, celebrates today his 45th birthday: our best wishes !)



My word as a lay person

This is my second Chapter. There are many familiar faces and other new ones. I feel like I belong. We all hope that the Alliance will take some important steps. Seeing these distinct realities and cultures, I understand how DIVERSITY is a great treasure for the Assumption. During these next weeks, lay people and religious will share a common reflection that will help us to be faithful to Emmanuel d'Alzon for the coming of the Kingdom.

Farther d'Alzon dreamt of an Assumption made up of lay people and religious. I don't have the slightest doubt that this 32nd Chapter will give birth to new ways of exercising fraternity and will make decisions that will become realities for the XXI century with each one living his/her vocation with the charism of the Assumption in the service of the Church and the world. Lay people and religious in our various countries are united with us in prayer, so that the Spirit will breathe and that we will listen.

Jimena Garcia
Lay Assumptionist, Chile



The Lay delegates to the General Chapter

Correo de los lectores

Estimados Hermanos y Hermanas en la Asunción.

Es bueno compartir con ustedes la cercanía que vamos experimentando desde las obras educativas de la Asunción Argentina, en los dos colegios que poseemos.

En estas semanas compartiremos junto a nuestros alumnos, padres y personal institucional la oración del tiempo de Capítulo. Hemos motivado a todos para que comprometiendo nuestras oraciones de cada mañana en las formaciones, seamos también participes de esta experiencia renovadora de animación. *(ver foto adjunta)*

Niños y niñas de 3 a 18 años, aproximadamente unos dos mil corazones nos comprometemos a orar por ustedes.

En Jesús y María de la Asunción.

P. Juan Carlos Marzolla Laius a.a.

(Instituto Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Sanros Lugares – Argentina)

Queridos hermanos en la Asunción!

Es una alegría el saber que se ha iniciado nuestro capítulo general, estoy convencido de que es el momento justo para revitalizar nuestra vida asuncionista, dejando que en todo sea el Espíritu del Señor Resucitado el que anime y haga de cada miembro capitular un don que se entrega para dar vida a nuestra espiritualidad. Que sea un tiempo de gracia, de luz y de mucha esperanza. Abrazos desde Bogotá...y buen tiempo capitular!!! Les seguiré día a día, muy buena la idea del diario...

Unidos en oración y acción

Eduin Alexander Rincón Galarza a.a.

(Bogota, Colombia)

Ayer en nuestra reunión de comunidad nos unimos de mente y corazón a los miembros del 32º Capítulo general asuncionista. Nos propusimos acompañarlos cada día con nuestra oración, y mantenernos cada día informados de sus actividades.

El tema central del Capítulo, es decir «Fieles a Manuel d'Alzon... para el advenimiento del Reino» nos parece a la vez fiel al pasado y proyectado hacia el futuro. La figura del Fundador deberá inspirar a la Asunción del tercer milenio, para encarnar sus intuiciones en la diversidad de nuestros países. Y será al mismo tiempo, el broche de oro del Bicentenario de su natalicio.

Buen trabajo, hermanos: cuenten con nosotros como nosotros contamos con ustedes, enlazados “en una sola alma y un solo corazón”.

P. Héctor García O., a.a.

Comunidad de Lourdes (Santiago de Chile)

Queridos Hermanos, el Capítulo será la respuesta de Dios a nuestra misión en el mundo. Guiados por Manuel d'Alzon queremos responder a los hombres y mujeres de hoy desde el Evangelio. Que la alegría de habernos encontrado con Jesús, que nuestra decisión de seguirle y nuestra opción decidida en favor de los más pobres sea nuestro mejor testimonio de que el Reino ya está entre nosotros. Que el Espíritu de Jesús los anime, nuestra oración los sostenga y la experiencia de estos días, laicos y religiosos reunidos anticipen la fiesta de pentecostés.

Un gran abrazo a cada uno

Aldo Gajardo .a.a (Rengo- Chile)



Today's Program

Morning :

Plenary assembly

- Province of Africa : responses to questions (1hr.)
- Community organization: presentation of dossier by Task Force (A. Brombart)

Language groups

- Work groups on : « Men of Communion »

Afternoon :

Plenary assembly

- Presentation: Province of Brazil: report of Provincial
- Presentation: Province of Chile-Argentina: report of Provincial
- Lay-Religious Alliance: Discussion on the proposals of the work groups
- Reporting back on “Men of communion”

Live the 32nd Chapter as if You Were There

- Visit the Congregation web site with daily updates posted by our webmaster, Fr. Jean Guillaume Kavasa Kasoko www.assumptio.org.
- Subscribe to the Journal du Chapitre, edited daily by Loredana Giannetti and free on line at the Congregation web site www.assumptio.org.
- React to the work of the Chapter members by contributing to Letters from our Readers on line. Send your messages...brief, please.. to the editor in chief... michel.kubler@gmail.com

Today's words

Gleaned from our discussions, here is a bouquet of words that express the Chapter's reflexion.

MEN OF FAITH HOMME DE FOI HOMBRES DE FE MANNEN VAN HET GELOOF

TÉMOIGNER
ESPERANZA
Conversie
vs behoud
RÉCONCILIATION
Nouvelle
évangélisation
Authenticity
FAMILIA
AUTHENTICITÉ
verzoening
testimoniar
New
EVANGELIZATION
familie
Nueva
evangelización
FAMILIE
Conversion
vs
conservation
Hope
witness
AUTENTICIDAD
ECHTHEID
GETUIGEN
Nieuwe
EVANGELISATIE
Dialogo
interreligioso
family
reconciliation
« parvis
des gentils »
reconciliación