



DIARY OF THE CHAPTER

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

The Chapter is on track !

The steering committee, that the assembly has chosen, has already determined the agenda of the Chapter : there will be no wasted time !

Editorial

Benedict XVIth writes
to the Chapter

“As you recall the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Venerable Emmanuel d’Alzon, His Holiness encourages you to draw fresh inspiration from your founder’s vision, so timely in our day, of the great importance for evangelization of social communications, education and ecumenism.

In a world hungry for the word of life, the work of your Congregation in spreading that word and helping people to explore its depths makes a vital contribution to the growth of God’s Kingdom. So too, your founder’s perception of the moral exhaustion characteristic of 19th century Europe has striking parallels in the modern world. The Holy Father invites you to proclaim afresh, by word and example, this wise teaching of Blessed John Paul II: ‘Christian morality consists, in the simplicity of the Gospel, in following Jesus Christ, in abandoning oneself to him, in letting oneself be transformed by his grace and renewed by his mercy, gifts which come to us in the living communion of his Church’ (Veritatis Splendor, 119).

Commending all of you to the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, gloriously assumed into heaven, and to the intercession of your patron Saint Augustine, His Holiness gladly imparts his Apostolic Blessing to you and all the members of the Assumptionist family.”

(Letter sent on May 2nd, 2011

*By Mgr Fernando Filoni, Substitute,
To Fr. Richard E. Lamoureux)*



Three Weeks - Three Topics

No sooner elected, the steering committee attacked its main task: determine the agenda for the work of the Chapter. Already this morning, Fr. Andre Antoni, the Promoter, announced the major topics: each of the three weeks of the Chapter will have a specific goal.

The first week – already well on its way – will be dedicated to **evaluating** and **looking ahead**. The Provincial reports (Africa took the lead this morning), work in break-out groups along with plenary sessions will attempt to discover the expectations of our world, the Church and our communities for the future. These will be examined in the light of the three orientations given by the Chapter of 2005: To be men of Faith, men of communion, in solidarity with the poor. The week will conclude on Saturday with time dedicated to the lay delegates.

Next week, we will examine the question of **orientations** and hold the

elections. This will be the time to discern the apostolic priorities that will be those of the Congregation for the next six years, to select the new general team whose task will be to implement and determine the means (especially economic) to fulfill this mission. Finally, the third week will be a time for **decisions** and a **search for more profound ways** to live our traditional apostolic options. For example, our commitment to education and the media, youth ministry and vocation ministry, as well as the formation of our young religious. Simultaneously, workshops have been set up as of today to examine the three “heavy” dossiers of the Chapter agenda: finances (with Fr. Emmanuel Rospide as chairman), the new organization of the Congregation (with Fr. Andre Brombart) and the Lay Alliance (under the leadership of Marie-Pierre Girard). There is much chew on!!!



My voice at the Chapter

My impressions are positive; I underline the excellent beginning of this 32nd General Chapter and I note that it has been very well prepared.

The Chapter members coming from all over the world are all here. The election of the steering committee flowed well despite the number of new Chapter members. The committee that has been elected is relatively young and seems to have the necessary competence to be able to achieve the Chapter objectives. The fraternity reigns and this facilitates the good unfolding of the Chapter. Thus I expect from this Chapter a work that is very well executed and which takes into account the realities of each province and vice-province and which will stimulate all towards a more convincing and well thought out future.

This is the first time I participate in a General Chapter. I have a conviction; it is about the heavy responsibility which each Chapter member carries during this chapter, and it concerns a call addressing each member of this Chapter to bring the best of himself so that this most important meeting will bear fruit for all of the Assumption and in particular, for my vice-province of Madagascar; I thus expect from this Chapter some actions which will revitalize and give a new dynamism to the whole of the Congregation and the large family of the Assumption.

The theme chosen: « Faithful to Emmanuel d'Alzon ... for the coming of the Kingdom » is a challenge to be met over the next 6 years. This requires, in my opinion, a re-reading of the life and spirit of our founder as well as a spirit of openness and of freedom in the realization of our mission as "Assumptionist". I also expect from this Chapter resolutions which are more prophetic, that is, resolutions which will push us to be true witnesses of God to our brothers toward whom we have been sent and to have a faith which is still more active with regards to our fundamental orientations (men of communion announcing the faith and in solidarity with the poor) and with regards to our apostolic priorities (the mission in Asia and in Eastern Europe, youth and vocations). I underline especially the communion which we have spoken of a great deal since the last Chapter of 2005. It is my wish that this Chapter of 2011 finds still and even more a new way more probing and more original of living the communion at the heart of the congregation and of the church.

**Raymond Tongamana
(Madagascar)**

My word as a lay person



To come to the General Chapter of 2005 was very noteworthy for me for it plunged me for the first time into the international family of the Assumption. I discovered a great value and my eyes were opened to realities which I could not imagine like, for example, the construction in the D.R.Congo of a prison by the Assumption.

To return in 2011 is to replunge myself in this family, to root myself and to meet again lay persons from distant places with whom I correspond regularly by e-mail. Baptized, lay Assumptionist, it is also the occasion to share common convictions, and a new possibility to enrich myself by what the lay and religious live in their daily reality.

This meeting allows me also to observe the road travelled, to fill myself with the spirit of openness and of freedom which seduced me at Assumption. Here I relive the confidence and the boldness manifested by the religious in the alliance. I come also to be strengthened for the mission in France by listening to the testimonies of the other lay persons who give of themselves to be men and women of communion, of faith and of sharing.

Mandated by the laity of my Province, I come to bring their words, their convictions, their questions.

In conclusion, I would say that to replunge myself during this week in the international Assumption to reflect on the six years to come, remains for me a challenge that I am happy to share with a family which has allowed me to grow and to have a much broader spirit.

**Marie-Pierre Girard
(France, International Commission)**

The day's number

258

This is the number of religious, of which 105 are priests, that currently comprise the Assumptionist Province of Africa, according to the report presented by the Provincial Superior, Fr. Vincent Kambere. In 2005, there were 197 religious, of which 59 priests.



The oath of the tellers (here Fr. Marcos Antonio Dias from Brazil) with the Superior General



Correction

The composition of the 32nd General Chapter, as it appeared in yesterday' edition of the 'Diary of the Chapter',

included at least one error: the lay representative from the Province of Spain is not Carlos Jimenez Colorado, but, as our readers will have themselves corrected, **Francisco Rentero**, alias "Paco". May those concerned please excuse the lamentable confusion!

Letters from our readers

Thank you for helping us to participate in the General Chapter of the Augustinians of the Assumption. We are keeping you in our prayer. Work well.

Marguerite Ngodasi

Dear Brothers, Augustinians of the Assumption, Thank you for this beautiful and fraternal initiative of keeping us aware of the unfolding of your General Chapter!

Congratulations for the way in which you present the 'Diary of the Chapter'!

The Oblate Sisters of the Province of Romania accompany you with their prayer so that the Holy Spirit illumines you with his inspirations on the roads of the Kingdom of God among men!

Thank you also for your precious collaboration in our common missions, in particular those of the Eastern Mission!

Fraternally,

*Sr. Felicia Ghiorghies, oa
Provincial of Romania*

Good and holy start of the 32nd General Chapter with the very real presence of Emmanuel d'Alzon! May the message of John-Paul II help you to remain faithful to your charism for man is the way of the Church and Christ is the way of man.

Fraternally,

Elisabeth Rimbart-Pivot

Thank you for these first echos of the General Chapter which I read with joy.

Courage and be assured of my prayer and of the other sisters of the community!

Sr. Martine Tapsoba

Hello to all ! Thank you for the message on this feast of Philip and James, two brother apostles of the Lord ! Good work, patience, courage and imagination ... ! I will not fail to read your messages and to pray for you... !

*Jacques Tournecuillert
(Ecully, France)*

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- Subscribe to the Journal du Chapitre, edited daily by Loredana Gianetti 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

