

A Word from the Postulator

We are all called to become saints. That is the vocation of every baptized Christian. It is baptism that truly makes us saints, because it grants us the grace to become children of God. It gives us the power to participate in his divinity; we become heirs of eternal life. This is a totally free gift from God, that does not depend on our meriting it. It is like the imprint of the holiness of God himself inscribed in our being, and it is also like a seed that must be tended and made to grow within us. This is the teaching of the Second Vatican Council in the beautiful pages it presents on holiness (we reprint here a few of those paragraphs).

We know how much Fr. d'Alzon loved to recall the date of his baptism. For him it was the real date of his birth, because on that day his journey toward holiness began. We also know how much he insisted that his own disciples and directees become saints. For him, the true Model of all holiness is Jesus Christ. But he also said that the Virgin Mary is a model closer to us...as are the saints.

May Fr. d'Alzon be for us today a model of holiness close at hand. In him we have so many virtues to imitate!

Fr. Julio Navarro Román, a.a.

A Passion For Holiness

Throughout his life Emmanuel d'Alzon had an obsession with Christian perfection, expressed in terms of conversion, holiness, and ministry, for himself and for all those to whom he was sent. "Oh! If we were only saints!" This exclamation expresses at once the regret of not yet being so and the urgency to become so as soon as possible, for the coming of the Kingdom of God in us and around us. In his eyes, here could be found the connection between all the riches and demands of the Christian faith.

Once he understood that he was destined to «a higher service,» he sought to reach «all the perfection of which his being was capable». (...)

The love of Christ, then, would be for him «the perpetual spur pushing him toward the holiness of the state to which he was called.» Christian, priest, religious, apostle, founder --- under grace there would take place the building of his entire personality, called to reproduce the very life of Jesus Christ. For «the

apostle is nothing apart from the one who sends him and he must love those to whom he is sent,» since he participates in «the same mission of love and mercy». (...)

His grave barely closed, voices rose that were unanimous in acclaiming the passage of God in his life. «The love of God, of the Blessed Virgin, of the Church, and of souls filled his life», declared Fr. Pernet, and Fr. Galabert would write: «I am convinced that all of us must take as a first task the cause of the canonization of him who, after having guided us on this earth in the ways of Christian perfection and having given us an example of all the virtues, has become our guide and protector in heaven.» May he, and even more so in a way that is fully shared by the entire Church, lead us to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity by the love of Christ and for the coming of his Kingdom.

(Fr. Pierre Touveneraud, A.A.,
*Emmanuel d'Alzon au service de
l'Eglise 1810-1880*, Centenary
Series #1, 1980, p. 55ff.)

Fr. d'Alzon speaks to us

*Holiness is to be found in the perfection of obedience, in love.
Let us no longer simply remain ordinary men. The graces we
receive are treasures for which we must render an account. God
gave us these graces in view of a single goal --- our sanctification.
(E.S., 809, 863)*

The Universal Call to Holiness

The Church, whose mystery is being set forth by this Sacred Synod, is believed to be indefectibly holy. Indeed Christ, the Son of God, who with the Father and the Spirit is praised as “uniquely holy”, loved the Church as His bride, delivering Himself up for her. He did this that He might sanctify her (cf. Eph 5: 25-26). He united her to Himself as His own body and brought it to perfection by the gift of the Holy Spirit for God’s glory. Therefore in the Church, everyone whether belonging to the hierarchy, or being cared for by it, is called to holiness, according to the saying of the Apostle: “For this is the will of God, your sanctification”. (I Th 4:3; cf. Eph 1:4). (...)

The Lord Jesus, the divine Teacher and Model of all perfection, preached holiness of life to each and every one of His disciples of

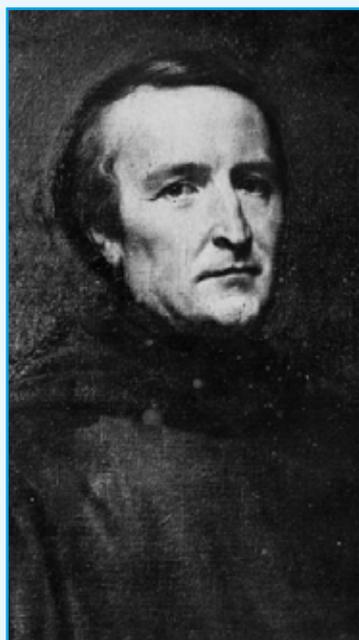
every condition. He Himself stands as the author and consumator of this holiness of life: “Be you therefore perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48). Indeed He sent the Holy Spirit upon all men that He might move them inwardly to love God with their whole heart and their whole soul, with all their mind and all their strength (cf. Mt 12:30) and that they might love each other as Christ loves them (cf. Jn 13:34; 15:12). The followers of Christ are called by God, not because of their works, but according to His own purpose and grace. They are justified in the Lord Jesus, because in the baptism of faith they truly become sons of God and sharers in the divine nature. In this way they are really made holy. Then too, by God’s gift, they must hold on to and complete in their lives this holiness they have received. They are warned by the

Apostle to live “as becomes saints” (Eph 5:3), and to put on “as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience” (Col 3:12), and to possess the fruit of the Spirit in holiness (cf. Ga 5:22; Rm 6:22). Since truly we all offend in many things (cf. Jas 3:2) we all need God’s mercies continually and we all must daily pray: “Forgive us our debts” (Mt 6:12).

Thus it is evident to everyone, that all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity; by this holiness as such a more human manner of living is promoted in this earthly society. In order that the faithful may reach this perfection, they must use their strength accordingly as they have received it, as a gift from Christ. They must follow in His footsteps and conform themselves to His image seeking the will of the Father in all things. They must devote themselves with all their being to the glory of God and the service of their neighbor. In this way, the holiness of the People of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good, as is admirably shown by the life of so many saints in Church history. (...)

Finally all Christ’s faithful, whatever be the conditions, duties and circumstances of their lives—and indeed through all these, will daily increase in holiness, if they receive all things with faith from the hand of their heavenly Father and if they cooperate with the divine will. In this temporal service, they will manifest to all men the love with which God loved the world.

From the desk of Secretary General of the Postulation



The Postulation Committee met in Rome on October 22, 2012. Its members include: Fr. Julio Navarro Román, A.A., postulator, Chilean, Sr. Salomé Kalonda Tulia, O.A., Congolese, Fr. John Franck, A.A., Assistant general, American, Fr. Bernard Le Léannec, A.A., secretary general, French, and Fr. Alessandro Laini, A.A., Italian. They mainly discussed the constitution of local secretariates responsible for promoting the Cause of the beatification of Fr. d’Alzon. Teams are already very active in Buenos Aires and Brussels. They are currently in the process of organizing those in Nîmes and Romania. We are hoping that they will multiply wherever there are members of the Assumption family (Assumptionists, Oblates, lay friends).



*Solemn Eucharist. «A morning at the Council», a photographic report
by Fr. François Bernard, A.A., 1962. Album in the Archives of the Congregation*

“God is love, and he who abides in love, abides in God and God in Him” (I Jn 4:16). But, God pours out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, Who has been given to us (cf. Rm 5:5); thus the first and most necessary gift is love, by which we love God above all things and our neighbor because of God. Indeed, in order that love, as good seed may grow and bring forth fruit in the soul, each one of the faithful must willingly hear the Word of God and accept His Will, and must complete what God has begun by their own actions with the help of God’s grace. These actions consist in the use of the sacraments and in a special way the Eucharist, frequent

participation in the sacred action of the Liturgy, application of oneself to prayer, self-abnegation, lively fraternal service and the constant exercise of all the virtues. For charity, as the bond of perfection and the fullness of the law (cf. Col 3:14; Rm 3:10), rules over all the means of attaining holiness and gives life to these same means. It is charity which guides us to our final end. It is the love of God and the love of one’s neighbor which points out the true disciple of Christ. (...)

Therefore, all the faithful of Christ are invited to strive for the holiness and perfection of their own proper state. Indeed they have an

obligation to so strive. Let all then have care that they guide aright their own deepest sentiments of soul. Let neither the use of the things of this world nor attachment to riches, which is against the spirit of evangelical poverty, hinder them in their quest for perfect love. Let them heed the admonition of the Apostle to those who use this world; let them not come to terms with this world; for this world, as we see it, is passing away (cf. I Co 7:31 Greek text).

(Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, chapter V :
“*The Universal Call to Holiness in the Church*”)

Favors and graces received

Ten months ago I received the sad and unexpected news that my beloved father had colon cancer. The diagnosis was quite serious since the tumor had already spread significantly (...)

In January of that same year my friend Veronica circulated a prayer chain letter by email requesting the intercession of Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon. From that moment, everyday up to the present I asked him every night that my father might recover. I also prayed to the Virgin of Lourdes; after praying a little while to Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon I came to see that they have a lot in common! Incredible!

Well, nine and a half months after the cancer diagnosis, the oncologist told my father that the tumor had gone into remission and that the metastasis had shrunk to a small nodule less than a centimeter. The scheduled surgery never took place!

So it is that the miracle we had so hoped for took place. I don't have words to express our gratitude and how wonderful we feel. I would like everyone to know that, from the beginning of his illness, my father was always an example for me and for the whole family. I want to thank God, Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, the Virgin of Lourdes, and all those who have accompanied us during these difficult times. (Marcela F. Movellán, Buenos Aires).

By way of acknowledging my good Fr. d'Alzon on whom I have called and to whom I have addressed my prayers for many, many years. My daughter has been a teacher in an Assumption school. I just received a totally unexpected answer to a prayer. Also, how happy I would be if his holiness would finally one day be recognized because he surely deserves it. (Mrs. Paulette, Bordeaux).

Loyal to the veneration of Fr. d'Alzon for many years and indebted to him because of his protection manifested in the many graces he so graciously granted to me, I want to thank him, by this gift, for his goodness on my behalf. (Raul, Château Théry, France).

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**Postulator: Fr. Julio Navarro Román, A.A.
Via San Pio V, 55 – 00165 Roma – Italia
@: postulazioneassunzionisti@gmail.com**

News



*Crucifix which Fr. d'Alzon had in his hands as he was dying, saying: «My Jesus, I love you». The foundress of the Little Sisters of the Assumption, Mother Antoinette Fage, also breathed her last while holding this cross.
(Testimony of Fr. Picard)*

«The Prayer of the Crucifix» of Fr. d'Alzon

Fr. d'Alzon, with his spirituality centered on Christ, wrote for a group of devout women, 'the Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament,' as they were called at the time, in the 19th century, a prayer to the crucifix, entitled 'An Everyday Friend.' This prayer has often been edited under different forms, especially with the image of Christ on the cross. Here are two true stories that demonstrate how timely this is.

There is an Italian Oblate Sister of the Assumption who has several nephews and nieces. One of the nieces, knowing only that her aunt was "a religious," said to her one day: «Auntie, when you come to the house one day, I'll show you a beautiful prayer that I found that helps me to pray.» How surprised the sister was to discover that the prayer to the crucifix that her niece was using was that of Fr. d'Alzon and how happy she was to tell her niece: «But, this is the prayer of our Founder, because I am an Oblate of the Assumption!».

Another providential 'coincidence': a mother of a family, degreed in history, professor in a public high school in the northern part of France, once said, by chance, to an Assumptionist: «At night, when everything calms down, after days filled with work and parish duties, when I can pick up my crucifix, I simply say to Jesus this prayer of the crucifix. Perhaps you've heard of it? What peace, what happiness there is in feeling God's presence filling my whole life! It may not be too rational, but, my God, how refreshing it is!» (sic).

(stories gathered by Fr. Lucas Chuffart, A.A.)