



**Bulletin No. 4  
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*Renewing Our Lives...*

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

It is still Christmas. God has approached us in the most concrete way; he has come to share our humanity. The last day of the year has arrived.

In this past year we've lived through joys and sorrows; we've had good experiences and we've made mistakes. We have loved and suffered. Something new has grown in us and something has faded away. That is our truth, we are those people.

We are leaving behind one more year, and we are about to start a new one. The idea of a new year is not only full of restlessness, it's something beautiful, unknown and full of possibilities.

That's why it's even better that we ask ourselves: Can I be "a man made new"?; can new ideas and feelings be awakened in me?

Perhaps what can introduce the most newness in our lives is our way of living. The beginning of a new year is a call to renew our own life.

Fortunately, at the beginning of a new year, the Church calls us to raise our eyes to Mary. With the care and tenderness of a mother, Mary will be our guide throughout our days. She will take care of our faith and will encourage our hope.

After all, her fidelity to the word of God, her identification with the humble people of the world, her closeness to the life of Jesus, her motherly presence in the Church, and most importantly, her role as mother of he who is "God-with-us," all make her the Mother of our faith and our hope.

Finally, I am convinced that the newness of this year will not come from outside of ourselves. Real newness of life can only sprout from our interior.

Therefore, this year will be new if, more than anything, we learn to believe in a new and more confident way, if we find new and kinder ways to live alongside our neighbors.

Let's take advantage of today to review the year and take away all we can learn from it, and start 2019 with renewed encouragement, as if it were a completely fresh beginning. May we find joy in every moment.

**Very Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year to  
you all!**

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## *D'Alzonian Encounter: youth rally 2018*



The Assumptionist community of Tlilapan celebrated with joy the 20th D'Alzonian Youth Rally in the chapel of San José Jalapilla from November 23rd to the 25th. Around 200 young people from Orizaba, Córdoba and Mexico City participated with enthusiasm and joy. According to them, it was a wonderful and energizing encounter with the Lord Jesus that they will never forget.

This meeting is geared toward all young people, as well as committed lay people, who have walked with us in holy week missions, summer missions, advent missions, youth encounters, community life, youth Easter celebrations, prayer nights, retreats, etc. The encounter concentrates on three dimensions:



This is the main Assumptionist youth activity in Mexico that takes place every year to celebrate another anniversary of our founder Fr. Emmanuel D'Alzon's passing into the fullness of life.

**The existential**, which leads the young person to reflect on his life, family, environment, and see himself as a contributing member of history, with responsibilities to himself and others.

**Missionary animation** places the young person before the Kingdom of God project, urges him to bear witness to the Christian faith and share his faith with others through missions, and to actively participate in his local community in service to the Church.

**Vocational promotion:** helps the young person to consider the possibility of living an experience of vocational discernment where he will discover if God is calling him to religious life or the priesthood, to life in a religious community or a diocese, or as a layman engaged in society.

The last dimension was fostered by a vocational conversation among institutes of consecrated life for men and women, diocesan priests, and lay people committed to give testimony of their lives.



*Hno Dagoberto, P. Jesús, Hna María de los Ángeles*

We met with the intention to encounter on a deeper level the life and work of our founder, his time and challenges, his spirituality and thought. We also shared about our lived experiences of the Christian life with inspiration from our founder.

Finally, during the three days of this youth rally, the proposed objectives that are summarized in the building up of the Kingdom of God were realized in the lives of young people, like an awakening of a civilization of love towards the search for a Jesus who calls young people to be happy in the fullness of their lives.

**Brother Hugo Ballesteros, A.A.**

## *Fourth Meeting of the Lay Commission in Chile: 2018*



Maricarmen

From November 17 to 24, 2018, the fourth meeting of the lay commission was carried out in Santiago, Chile. Representatives from other parts of the Andean province participated, including: Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, and Columbia. Spain and Mexico were also invited and attended. The motto of the meeting was:

of the lay Assumptionists could participate. This was done so that we could analyze and share with the other participating countries the highs and lows of our walk as lay and religious Assumptionists.

On November 20 we had the masterful participation of Father José María Arnaiz, who gave a workshop that provided a definitive orientation about the Lay Religious Alliance.



Communion and Mission for a Shared Life. This fourth meeting was the fruit of a journey of fraternal collaboration between lay and religious, an encounter that our founder, the venerable Emmanuel D'Alzon, envisioned.

The first meeting took place in 2010 as a celebration of 100 years of the Assumptionist presence in Argentina. In 2011, Mexico hosted the second meeting with the motto: Men and Women of Faith: Communion and Solidarity with the Poor.

In 2014, the third meeting was held in Bogota, Columbia with the motto: Baptized by One Spirit, to Form One Body. This year we continue building up the church with this great fourth meeting, which serves as a motivation for every one of us who is a part of this world-wide Assumptionist family. This gives us the energy to continue to work on this initiative with the same audacity and detachment from worldly things that has allowed us to be witnesses to our charism.

The meeting began on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the house of the Salesian brothers in the town of Lo Caña.

The fourth meeting was opened by the provincial superior Juan Carlos Marzolla A.A. to work on the same worksheets that were previously sent to us so that all

On the 21st of November, on the occasion of the passing into eternal life of our founder, the solemn Eucharist was celebrated with the promises of the laity renewed. This mass was held at the sanctuary of Lourdes that is under the care of Father Médard A.A.

On the 22nd and 23rd we visited the convent of the Benedictine Sisters, Saint Anne's Parish, and the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Valparaíso, which is under the care of Father Josaphat. We concluded on the 24<sup>th</sup> at the Parish of Our Lady of the Angels.

All of these events were experienced with fraternity and unity, maintaining in every moment an atmosphere of prayer. Through all the days of the encounter, we prayer lauds and celebrated mass in the afternoon. Soon the final document of this excellent encounter will be shared by the lay Assumptionists in our communities in Mexico City and at Santiago Apóstol Parish in Tlilapan-Veracruz.

***Mariadelcarmen Martinez Alvarez***

## *Patron Day Celebration in la Palma*



Maru

San Andrés Totoltepec Parish, sponsored by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is located to the south of Mexico City.

The chapel of Palma, under construction for more than 15 year, is one of the eleven chapels that make up this parish.

This chapel is located about two kilometers away from the parish and can fit a maximum of 200 people.



This past December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Christian community of this chapel celebrated the feast day of its patron saint, Our Lady of Guadalupe. On this occasion, the bishop blessed the chapel. Mrs. Maru Copado Guerrero provides us with comments about the event:

Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our patron saint, The Blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe. More than 200 of the faithful gathered at 10 o'clock, among them were the different groups of movements that make up the chapel as well as those who live nearby. On this special feast day

for the community, we had the great honor of hosting Monsignor Andrés Vargas Peña, Auxiliar Bishop of the Archdiocese of Mexico, residing in the eighth vicariate (Xochimilco).



We took advantage of his presence by having him bless the chapel at the beginning of the Eucharistic celebration, in which some children received their first communion. The Rev. Father Joseph Mahamba, pastor of the chapel, was present at this mass.

In his homily the Rev. Bishop exhorted us to be a community, to live an authentic communion with Christ, and be true brothers and sisters to one another. He also reminded us that we have a mother: the Blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe who cares for each one of us and is the mother of the one true God.

At the end of the mass in the atrium of the chapel, we had a little party. With the simplicity and humility that characterize the Bishop and our parish priest, we shared the food with the community as a sign of love and an example of unity. With that gesture, the Church manifested itself as a family of families.

**María Eugenia Copado Guerrero,**  
*Lay Assumptionist*

## 2018 Celebration of Saint Andrew, Patron Saint



Hna Arlette, O.A.

At once they left their nets and followed him. (Mt 4:20)

### Who is Saint Andrew?

Saint Andrew, the patron of our St. Andrew Tenejapan community, was one of the first two apostles who met Jesus on the banks of the Jordan River; they followed him, abandoning their work to be fishers of men.

This feast day celebration was prepared by the municipality (the fair and decorations) and by our parish, led by Fr. Oswaldo García Sánchez with his parish administrators, as well as the oblate sisters of the Assumption. We prepared a pilgrimage through the communities in the municipality of Saint Andrew's: from Teopanahualco to Saint Andrew's.



Each stop ended with a celebration of the word in one of the chapels. We also scheduled a novena.

Starting on November 15, the pilgrimage began as planned and on the 21st, the pilgrims of the communities joined to adore the Eucharist. On the 25th, we celebrated with the children who received the sacrament of Confirmation administered by Vicar Monsignor, Alejandro Márquez Cruz, accompanied by Father Sébastien Bangandu, Father Fataki Mwirawivu and Deacon Rodel Sapalo. There was a little party at the Oblate's house afterwards.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the solemnity of the feast day was celebrated with mass. Father Sébastien Bangandu, parochial vicar, presided. It was a strong moment of thanksgiving to God, of sharing and coming together as a community and as pilgrims.

The festivities came to an end in the homes of the



parish administrators in Quiñiatla. Sister Monica Ante, OA, participated in the celebrations while visiting our community.



These celebrations helped us to venerate our patron more, remembering his protection of the parish, and invigorated our traditions. Let us learn from the virtues of Saint Andrew, a man open to the world, ready to leave his job and his family for something greater.

I pray that St. Andrew's intercession motivates us to commit ourselves more to the Kingdom of Jesus, to grow in our faith by approaching the Word of God and witnessing to it with our lives. Live Jesus! Long live Saint Andrew! Long live the Assumption!

**Sister Arlette Kanzira**  
Oblate Sisters of the Assumption

## *Emmanuel D'Alzon, a Model for Young People*



Iris

This D'Alzonian youth rally 2018 was filled with many emotions. The event hosted young people who found themselves in a different environment from their daily lives, young people out of their comfort zone, young people with addictions and other problems. Despite all of this, we did not lack the joy so often found in young people,

who are always moved and driven by the spirit, the same spirit that accompanied Emmanuel D'Alzon.

Each young person contributed to this great event their enthusiasm, expectations, and endless smiles with an eye to the Kingdom. Among the youth you could sense an atmosphere of great joy. With the help of the coordinators and Assumptionist missionaries, each participant let their enormous capacity to love and be loved blossom.



At the rally, each participant had the opportunity to think about different vocations. This is how the young person is motivated to go further, putting at the service of others everything that is necessary. The only goal is to have the love of God in themselves and in others.

One sentence that totally changes the mentality of a young person committed to the service of the Church is: "we are specialists in love, but a temporary love." These words may sound meaningless in our society. But, guided by one of the Assumptionist fathers, they whisper in one's mind and heart that which the world really needs: "youth for the Kingdom."

Each "D'Alzonian" will have a different experience. You will always have the opportunity to see new faces or maybe the same faces as always, but no matter what, you will see love reflected in the face of each young person. Sometimes us young people are judged by "the crazy love" that we have for God, perhaps because of the way we act, dress, and think. And it is difficult to be ridiculed by others. Sometimes we even lack the support of our own family and friends.



But it is important to always keep God in your heart, because he was often judged, mocked, and spit upon. But he always had his face held high toward the Kingdom. For he who loves us unconditionally despite everything, we have to hold our heads up and continue to carry the message "Thy Kingdom come" everywhere we go.

In conclusion, my experience of this twentieth D'Alzonian Encounter can be summarized by these words, "Take up your Cross and follow me," words that encourage us to be strong in faith, like Fr. D'Alzon.

**Iris Tello**

**Assumptionist Fellowship**

## Collaboration of the Assumptionists stars in la Pastoral



Deacon Marciano

We Assumptionists have started to collaborate with the pastors that work with the most vulnerable of our society. Through this collaboration we began participating in the Pastoral Society of the Zongolica mountain region, whose population is mostly made up of indigenous peoples.

The Pastoral Society has developed an alternative way to accompany these people who have been able to preserve their language (Nahuatl) their customs, their festivals, their typical clothing (used mainly by women), community work such as fishing, harvesting, etc.

This way of accompanying the indigenous population is called Indigenous Pastoral Care or Native Village Pastoral Care, which in the diocese of Orizaba includes around 16 parishes, which aims to "*promote integral and liberating evangelization, starting in the way of Jesus from our identity, with an indigenous face and heart, to dignify the roots of our peoples and to awaken the great longing for God*" and whose Agents of Pastoral Care are organized in the EAPI (Liaison of Indigenous Pastoral Agents) at the diocesan level, whose annual meeting took place at our parish Santiago Apóstol in Tlilapan on the 12th and 13th of October, with the theme "Weaving the Bed Mat" for the full life of our peoples.

The Pastoral Agents of Indigenous Peoples of the diocese of Orizaba prepared to participate in the regional meeting in Apitlacuilco, Tlaxcala, on November 5, 6 and 7, 2018.

The objective of the regional meeting was "to share and link our processes of organization, struggle and resistance, in order to support our people and celebrate the paths of justice and dignity."

In this meeting they shared the "megaprojects" that are threatening the territories and identity of the indigenous people: mining, hydroelectric power

plants, as well as organized crime, trafficking of girls and teenagers, drug production and use, kidnappings, etc.

Each diocese shared their struggles and failures, and reaffirmed that "we are a church that seeks, that fights, and that resists. We are here because we seek and love life and the God of life.

**Diacono Marciano Lopez Solis, A.A.**

### *Testimonies by young missionaries*

## Offering genuine service

For me, the mission is to set forth on a new journey with people from different cultures. To carry the message of God in the depths of one's heart. To give lessons with love. To help the people of the community with humility in order to offer them



an authentic service.

To be a missionary is not easy because you need to be an image of God before young people and society, but neither is it impossible, because we are daydreaming missionaries, flying without wings toward the incredible adventure of following Jesus with one's whole heart.

**Fernando de Jesús flores**  
*Assumptionist Fellowship*

## Testimonies of Young Assumptionist Missionaries

### Sharing the Joy

For me, being a missionary is sharing the joy that you feel when you experience the love of God. It's being filled with the experiences that help one to grow as a person. It's serving others, because there is no greater satisfaction than seeing the smile of another person. It's walking on, because we want to follow God.

It's laughing because the infectious happiness that the



children and other people you encounter in each community is beyond comparison. It's sweating, because the energy you spend in each game with the children is returned to you in their big smiles. Being a missionary is what makes me happy.

**Yuli Xocua**

*Assumptionist Fellowship*

### Appreciating the Gift of Life

For me, mission is not just helping people, but understanding and living with them. With each person that you meet along the way, there is an encounter between you and God.



Being a missionary helped me see the value in my life, gave me strength, motivation, confidence in myself and a lot of faith in God. As a missionary you end up with a

big heart, full of love and happiness for all of the moments you've experienced with the families, children, young people, and the missionary team.

There are no words or photos that can express the emotions that you experience in each moment as a missionary; you need to live the experience to be filled with those emotions and understand how great God is, and the important thing is that you do all things with love.

I just want to thank everybody that joined me in my journey, and to God for choosing me to live this incredible experience and pouring his love into me so that I could share it with others.

**Leonel López**

*Assumptionist Fellowship*

### Goodbye Father Teo!

Our Brother, Father Teodoro Asarta Fernández, who was a missionary in the U.S. and in Mexico for many years, departed for the Father's House on November 23, 2018 in Spain.

"Surely Fr. Teo is meeting with the Founder, preparing the missions, making protests and sharing his big heart, half Gachupin, half Mexican; great moments of teaching and experiencing life together. Thank you Father Teo. Assumptionist Mission Accomplished! (Nath.)

We join in prayer and affection with Fr. Teo's province of origin and his biological family in these difficult moments.



*We wish you*

*A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

**Fr. Sébastien Bangandu Mwanza, a.a.**

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