



EDITOR'S DESK

Here we are once again in the middle of summer, and so we send along our warmest greetings to all of you. (By the way, here's a little-known fact to impress you: as of this mailing, you are now part of a regular mailing list for **the assumptionist ...** of 17,643! Wow!)

This issue introduces a very special element in the ministry of the Assumptionists at Saint Anne's Shrine in Sturbridge. The Angel of Hope is one more way in which we are committed to strengthening the community of the Kingdom of God. In fact, throughout the issue we share with you some of the building blocks of community that are so important to us.

Learning Christian community is at the heart of the experience of the Assumptionist Center in Brighton. There's a quick look at some of the latest news from there.

People are clearly what community is all about. Brother Stephen was a powerful presence in the Brighton community ... and in the lives of so many people (including many of you). May he rest in God's peace! And good things are happening with our young men in formation, as you will see.

The Assumptionists are officially known as Augustinians of the Assumption (that's what the A.A. after their names says.) This edition's "added flap" reflects on the two elements of that title: Saint Augustine of Hippo (whom we celebrate on August 28) and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (August 15.)

Again, we encourage you to share with us what's going on in your part of our community. We're always looking for stories and photos.

Please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at: [newsletter@assumptio.org](mailto:newsletter@assumptio.org).

For more stories and information on the Augustinians of the Assumption, please visit our website at: [www.assumption.us](http://www.assumption.us).

**AN ANGEL OF HOPE** by Patricia Morin Haggerty

Cary Landry tells us that "peace is flowing like a river; flowing out of you and me." However, to the many parents who have lost a child, this is not the case. These parents struggle with the loss of their little angels, and they try to find the means to cope with each passing day.

To many, the Angel of Hope is their source of consolation. Not only is the Angel of Hope a statue, but it is also a network of grieving parents. One can find this symbol of solace on the grounds of Saint Anne's Church and Shrine.



The beautiful statue on its white pedestal beckons those looking for relief. The angel welcomes all with its outstretched wings that appear ready to enfold everyone with its comforting wingspan. On one wing is engraved the word, HOPE.

This statue, though unique to Saint Anne's Shrine, is not unique at all! In fact, there are 72 others throughout the country. However, this Angel is only the second one in the state of Massachusetts. The other is located in Easthampton. The grounds of Saint Anne's were chosen for their peaceful environment and central location in the state. The Angel of Hope group felt that Saint Anne's

would be the perfect location for the statue and for those needing to find comfort. The group raised \$40,000 for the statue and surrounding landscaping. The statue was finally dedicated on September 15, 2007. There was an additional vigil that took place on December 6th with hundreds attending. This date holds significance to the original angel mentioned in the book, *The Christmas Box*, from which the angel statue had its origin.

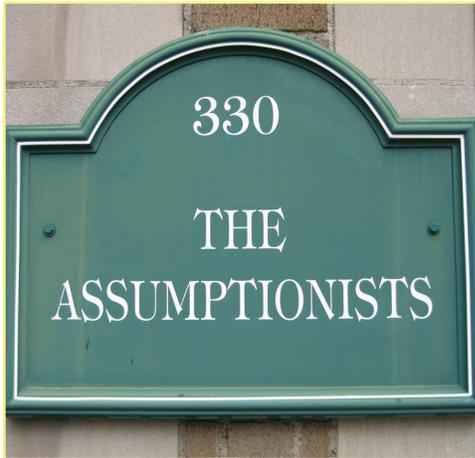
Father Peter Precourt, pastor of Saint Anne's, told me, "Not a day goes by without visitors to the statue of the Angel of Hope. This is true even in the winter months." Father Peter went on to say that Saint Anne's is "giving grieving parents a place where they can come to reflect on their children and also share with other parents their loss. It has become a place of solace for them."

The community of Saint Anne - Saint Patrick's, especially the Shrine, has

continued from page 1 reached out to meet the needs of the community. The Church and Shrine are living their mission statement of supporting the community and providing a place of respite, solace, and comfort to those seeking peace. Carey Landry was right—"peace is flowing like a river." It is flowing at Saint Anne's in the form of a beautiful statue that is a symbol of HOPE for all those parents wishing to keep their little angels among them.

**ASSUMPTIONIST CENTER** by Father Claude Grenache, A.A.

Living, building and celebrating Christian community is what defines the Assumptionist Center. The religious community in Brighton has opened its doors to a growing extended Assumption family. Study and learning are an important part of the common life of the Center and, on Sunday, May 25, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the community gathered with several friends to celebrate Mass and honor members who had recently received advanced academic degrees. Brother Dinh and Tomasz Kierul both received degrees in Theology from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology. Tomasz's wife, Natalia, received a Master's in Education from Boston University and Sheila Vargas, Rodini's wife, received a similar degree from Boston College.



In his remarks at Mass, Father Claude noted that we are all members of the Body of Christ by virtue of our Baptism and that whenever one member accomplishes something we all rejoice. He also reminded the recent graduates that as members of the Body of Christ, they are called to use their knowledge, wisdom and experience for the spiritual and intellectual growth of the Body of Christ.

Mass was followed by a delicious cookout and congenial conversation on a beautiful sunny day. We also celebrated and toasted Tomasz and Ana Jaster (albeit "in absentia") who had become citizens of the United States on May 22. And we expressed our gratitude and best wishes to

Brother Dinh who is leaving the Center in mid-July to assume his duties on the Campus Ministry Team at Assumption College ... and to Rodini and Sheila Vargas, who are returning to the Philippines this summer (though we hope for only a short time). Study, prayer and celebration are all integral to life at the Assumptionist Center. We invite you to come and see us when you're in the area. Come for a few hours (for prayer or a meal); if you like what you see, consider applying to join us.

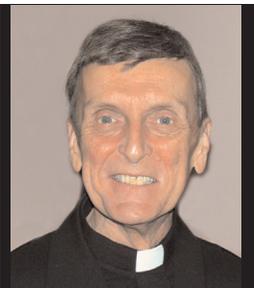
.....www.BosCenter.com.....

**DEVELOPMENT OFFICE CORNER**

*We, the Assumptionists of the US Region depend heavily on our fundraising campaigns. Without the support of our Friends, we could not continue our services and ministry.*

*In this annual appeal request it is important for you to know that the Assumptionists must rely on the generosity of good people like you. With your ongoing support, we will continue to pursue our mission by extending the Kingdom of God. It really takes every individual's support to help us maintain the many ministries we do in the US Region. It also helps us provide for our elderly brothers and continue the training of future Assumptionists.*

*Please take the time to reflect prayerfully upon God's many blessings in your life. We ask you to please consider a donation to our annual appeal as you "walk humbly with God." In this annual appeal, we urge you to support the Assumptionists. Please help us in our financial needs. Your donation of \$10, \$20, \$50 or more, combined with donations from other Friends, will enable us to continue our ministry and mission.*



**Brother Steven Goguen, A.A.**  
Born: September 15, 1937  
Professed: February 28, 1960  
Reborn: April 19, 2008

*Our hearts are restless  
until they rest in you.*  
Saint Augustine

**the assumptionist...**  
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**FATHER PETER PRECOURT, A.A.**

Born in Taunton, Massachusetts, Peter studied with the Assumptionists at Our Lady of Lourdes Seminary in Cassadaga, New York and at Assumption College, became a Novice in 1967 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1976.



Father Peter worked in Campus Ministry at Assumption College and served there for many years as Vice President for Student Life. He remains involved as the Chair of the Trustee Committee on Student Life and Campus Ministry.

As Vocation Director he played a major part in bringing the Assumptionists to the Philippines and young Filipino's to the Assumptionists.

As Pastor of Saint Anne – Saint Patrick Parish and Director of Saint Anne Shrine, he has already left his mark on the people and the grounds. The Parish community has added hundreds of new families to its rosters, as well as many new programs, services and ministries. The Parish Center was recently renovated to house Saint Joachim's Chapel (to handle the increased numbers at week-end Masses); parking lots have been redone and the outdoor Pavilion just got a major face-lift.

**Father Peter spends a very special ten days every summer as Chaplain at America's Camp: a wonderful program, created to serve any children who lost a parent or a sibling in the disaster of September 11 (and for children and siblings of firefighters and law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty at any time). You can read more about this special place at [www.americas-camp.org](http://www.americas-camp.org) And don't hesitate to ask Father Peter about it; he has some wonderful stories to share with you!**

The Shrine has been made even more beautiful and prayerful ... a special place for people from the Parish, the Diocese and beyond to come to find healing and peace. A gem in this renewed setting is the Angel of Hope, featured in these pages.

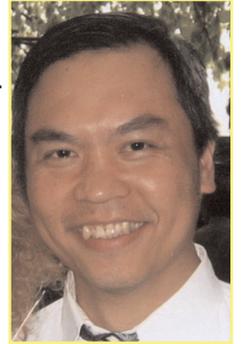
Our congratulations – and our special prayers of thanks and support – go to this Assumptionist at work for the coming of the Kingdom of God in the hearts of so many!

**Lived in this way, our common life fosters the fulfillment of each one's vocation. In a divided world, it bears witness that Christ is alive among us and uniting us for the proclamation of the Gospel.**

Rule of Life #12

**BROTHER DINH VO TRAN GIA, A.A.**

Brother Dinh completed his academic program at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After successfully defending his thesis entitled: *Living Water: Mission in Many Modes A Study of the Church in Vietnam [1975-2000]* he was awarded the Licentiate in Sacred Theology on May 16.



During this second year of annual vows as an Assumptionist, Brother Dinh received the Ministries of Acolyte and Lector. He will renew his religious vows for another year on August 28 (with Brother Ronald). In addition to some work with Vietnamese communities in the area, Dinh spent much of this year in devoted service in the care of Brother Stephen Goguen.

Following six weeks of intensive English language study this summer, Dinh has left Brighton for his new assignment to the Emmanuel House community in Worcester where he will take on a new position as a member of the Assumption College Campus Ministry Team.

**BROTHER RONALD SIBUGAN, A.A.**

Ronald's first year as a professed Assumptionist Brother was a busy and eventful one. He spent many caring hours with Brother Stephen, his former and friend. He also found himself back in school, for his first year of the pre-Theology program at Saint John Seminary in Brighton. He collaborated with Father John Franck, the Region's Vocation Director. And we certainly can't forget the hours that Brother Ronald spent bringing smiles and hope to the elderly residents at the Jeanne Jugan Residence in Somerville.



He is getting a much-needed change of pace (and training for Youth Ministry) as a Counselor at Camp Fatima in Gilmanton Iron Works, New Hampshire (a summer camp for 300 boys aged 6 to 15 sponsored by the Diocese of Manchester). We're sure that "BroRo" will leave his mark on Camp Fatima and will be a richer Assumptionist after the campers finish with him!

Brother Ronald will be moving to Worcester to join the Emmanuel House community where he will live with other young men in formation as Assumptionists, and will complete the second year of his pre-Theology Program.

**WE ARE COMING TO SEE YOU!**

Some of the Assumptionists have been traveling this summer for the Mission Cooperative Program, visiting a number of parishes in various cities and states throughout the country to talk about our missionary work in East Africa, Mexico and the Philippines. We still are scheduled for these parishes. Look for us, and introduce yourself to the Assumptionist who comes to your parish.

**August 16-17**

Church of the Good Shepherd - San Francisco, CA  
St. Mary Church - Milford, CT  
St. Peter Parish - Northbridge, MA

**August 23-24**

Holy Innocents Church - Brooklyn, NY  
St. Patrick Parish - Cumberland, RI

**August 30-31**

St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish - Narragansett, RI

**September 13-14**

St. Bridget/St. Bernard Parish - Sharon, CT

**October 4-5**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Fitchburg, MA

