“Our little family” is the way that Father d’Alzon used to refer to the Assumptionists of his time. From our earliest days, this family has included both vowed religious and lay people ... and that vision continues today. The religious are at the center of this reality but they make little or no sense alone. Called by God, with Father d’Alzon as our Guide, we all become Assumptionists and together we devote our lives and energy to the Assumptionist mission. We are partners for God’s Kingdom!

During this time when we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Emmanuel d’Alzon, the Assumptionists of the United States Region have become more attuned than ever to this understanding of who we are. On August 14th, the vigil of the feast of the Assumption, we will gather around Father Richard Lamoureux, our Superior General, to celebrate the family that we are.

In this issue of our newsletter, we want to open the pages of our family photo album. We belong to the family in many different ways and times and places. We can’t show you all of it, but we want you to get a sense of what this family looks like! We hope these scenes will remind you of many others that we have shared and in which we all continue to participate. We hope you enjoy them!
Assumptionists present to the Campus
"Committing ourselves to collaborative leadership and formation for the Church..."
(Mission Statement)

"...availability requires of us an openness of mind and heart to the cultural, social... values of people from various backgrounds..." (Rule of Life #20)

Bayard USA gives witness through the power of the press.
"From the very beginning, our apostolate has taken on various forms... communications media..." (Rule of Life #18)

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It’s clear that we cannot just talk about Assumptionist religious; we have to talk about religious and lay members of the Congregation. We can’t just talk about collaboration (lay people helping out, working with the ones who are running the show). And here I am not simply talking about structures or power. I’m talking about shared vocation, about lay men and women who, through their experience or contact with the religious and in their work, sense an affinity with the spirit of the Assumption that is so important to them that they begin to think of it as a special grace, even as a vocation. We religious cannot ignore that personal call.

... And you are right. But we can’t lose sight of the fact that Assumption is a reality that belongs to at least 27 different cultures. Whatever meaning it has locally, in one’s own culture, must have its source in that common reality, and must return to that source frequently lest it be changed into something other than the Assumption.

... And more importantly, it is a matter of breadth of vision. Either we choose to limit ourselves to our own local, cultural sensitivities, or we open ourselves to the world that d’Alzon envisioned:

“To have narrow, simply personal, and petty thoughts in the face of such a great undertaking, I consider that abominable..., find a better word if you can. What’s more, if you consider...the idea of making a fourth vow to extend the reign of Jesus Christ in souls..., then you understand why we need to have a heart as broad as the Church, that immense ocean in which God has poured all of his treasures.” (ES 665, talk to the Religious sisters of the Assumption, 1870).
"I am most impressed and moved as much by Emmanuel d'Alzon's passion as by his piety. He has been quoted as saying "As far as the great cause of God is concerned, minds and hearts have to be stretched. It appears to me that he was a man driven to action and forward movement. He was clearly a leader who was not satisfied with simply founding something, rather he was set on building and growing something. In my efforts to cooperate with the Assumptionist mission I am supported by his enthusiasm and encouraged by his energy."

Bret D. Thomas, President and CEO, Bayard, Inc. (USA)

"Father d'Alzon's wish to see originality in his teachers has freed me from following conventional approaches in teaching. At the same time it has also challenged me to "seek the teaching that meets the needs of our time."

Marc LePain, Theology Professor, Assumption College, Worcester, MA

"What I find most attractive about Fr. d'Alzon was his willingness to give up a promising future as a lawyer, politician, military leader, or landed nobleman in order to give his life over to the cause of God at a time when the Church was in shambles. Although the prospects for success may have appeared to be dim, he pursued his convictions with passion, intelligence, and creativity."

John Franck, A.A., Director of Vocations, US Region

"D'Alzon's vision of education which emerged during a period in Europe's history that was very similar to our own day in terms of the rise of secularism and relativism. Fr. d'Alzon's commitment to an educational philosophy grounded in the Gospel and making Christ known to students, who in turn would make Him known in the world resonates with my understanding of education as formative in nature."

Francesco Cesareo, President, Assumption College, Worcester, MA
Thank You for being part of the Assumptionist Family