



## MANY FACES OF THE ASSUMPTIONIST FAMILY

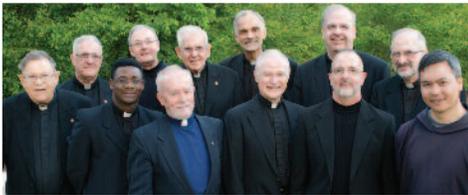
From an  
address to Lay  
Assumptionists at the  
International  
Gathering in Nimes,  
France in August, 2009

... The family of Fr. d'Alzon continues almost 130 years after his death to work for the Kingdom of God. Fr. d'Alzon remains alive through us.

... The Assumptionists are a family with many faces, men and women, young and not so young, religious and laity, of Europe, of Africa, of America, of Asia, and we are all heirs of Emmanuel d'Alzon. ... Emmanuel d'Alzon had a passion for the coming of the Kingdom of God ... and he wanted to share this passion with brothers and sisters in the Assumptionist family.

... You are members of our family without any restrictions. While maintaining your proper vocation as laity, fathers or mothers of families, you are 'Assumptionists' because Fr. d'Alzon from the beginning wanted to associate you fully with the mission of his congregation. You are not auxiliaries or suppliants; you are actors with full rights in our apostolate for the Kingdom. In your own way you have answered the call of the Spirit who invited you to join us to proclaim the Gospel. It is the same Spirit that pushed men and women to commit themselves in the religious life as Assumptionists who draws others to be laity of the Assumptionist family. It is the same Spirit that inspired Emmanuel d'Alzon to found his Congregation that urges you on today to continue his work there where you are. Thank you for having responded to the call of the Spirit. Know this, without you we would be handicapped in a very essential dimension of our community life and of our apostolate. We need you to answer to the needs of the Gospel today.

*Fr. Benoit Griere, O.A.,  
Provincial of France*



Courtesy of Assumption College

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!





Pilgrims and Parishioners at St. Anne journey together in prayer and faith. "... we collaborate with all those who are involved in the work of evangelization." (Rule of Life #17)



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



Educating to/for service and ministry. "Called to freedom, we wish to be servants of one another through love." (Rule of Life #39, Gal 5:13)



Mass Association continues to grow thanks to a great commitment of Mary Ann and Patti "The intentions of our prayer are those of the Church... living... deceased..." (Rule of Life # 49)



Assumptionists present to the Campus "Committing ourselves to collaborative leadership and formation for the Church..." (Mission Statement)



Inviting others to experience community life at the Assumptionist Center in Brighton, MA



Lay and Religious Assumptionists gather to shape the future. "availability requires of us an effort toward initiative and inventiveness..." (Rule of Life #21)



Cassadagans... and others... touched by the Assumptionist Spirit. "Our love for God... is manifested in the genuineness of our relationships." (Rule of Life # 7)



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)



**the assumptionist...**  
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## FROM THE GENERAL SUPERIOR TO THE LAY-RELIGIOUS COMMISSION

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).

Courtesy of Assumption College



Richard Lamoureux, A.A., Superior General of the Augustinians of the Assumption

## D'ALZON IN YOUR LIFE

"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



THE ASSUMPTIONISTS  
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*Thank You*

*for being part of the Assumptionist Family*