

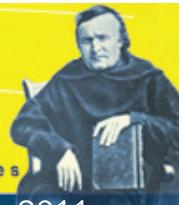


AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION

the assumptionist...

United States - The Province of North America and the Philippines

Volume 9, Issue 3



Summer 2011

THE PROVINCE OF NORTH AMERICA AND THE PHILIPPINES

EDITOR'S DESK

As we approach the close of a "hot" summer, we come to tell you about some "hot" moments in Assumptionist life throughout the world and here in our own Province. 50 Assumptionists from around the world met in Rome in May for the General Chapter to evaluate the Order's last six years and to plan ahead. In early July, 20 of us met in Worcester for a second session of our own Provincial Chapter.

Such gatherings strengthen our fraternal bonds and fill us with hope and enthusiasm for the future. The Assumptionist family is alive and ready to give our lives for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Resources are limited ... faith is not. With a few loaves and two fish, Jesus fed crowds of thousands.

In these pages we share with you some images of our vision for the next few years. Notice the language: Provincial unity, mobilizing, new impetus, together, goal to pursue, solidarity, next step, confident.

We invite you to continue to be partners on this journey.

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You can find more details and more images at the website of the Order (www.assumptio.org) and at our local website (www.assumption.us). And please share with us your own thoughts,
(newsletter@assumption.us)



...held the second session of its Provincial Chapter from July 5th through the 9th at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. Father Miguel Diaz, AA, the newly appointed Provincial presided over the Chapter which included fifteen brothers from Canada, the US, Mexico and the Philippines as well as five lay delegates.

The Province is alive and creative. The Chapter acknowledged the progress made in the last ten years - the recognition and acceptance of its regional realities. Now, we need **to live and work even more closely as members of one body**, religious and lay.

To promote Provincial unity, the Chapter decided unanimously to suppress the current semi-autonomous Regional structure and to establish four Delegations, each with its Provincial Delegate, whose responsibilities and authority will reflect the specific needs of each Delegation. The Provincial may also name Delegates for Provincial Missions (such as Bayard Press and Assumption College) as needed. The Treasurer, with the aid of a group of experts to oversee budgets and financial statements, will review the management of Provincial funds and make appropriate recommendations to Provincial leadership.

The Chapter **re-affirmed** the Province's apostolic orientations and mission. Each community will be responsible for **deepening** their understanding of these orientations. A third Chapter session (next summer) **will refine the apostolic priorities** for the Province while being attentive to local community situations.

At the service of this **common provincial mission**, the Chapter decided to create **two new Provincial offices**: an Office for the Promotion of the Charism, including programs of formation for both religious and lay people and a Mission Advancement Office, a provincial development office which will seek funding, assure better methods to communicate our apostolic projects and mobilize religious, lay people and benefactors to become "Partners for God's Kingdom".

For more information go to the News section at www.assumption.us



Provincial Chapter Delegates with Sculpture of
Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon and Students at Assumption College

A WORD FROM THE GENERAL CHAPTER TO OUR ASSUMPTIONIST BROTHERS, TO LAY ASSUMPTIONISTS, AND TO SISTERS OF THE ASSUMPTION FAMILY

The 32nd General Chapter of the Assumption began on May 3 in Rome. Our Assembly was composed of 43 brothers from around the world and 12 lay people, chosen from each province of the Congregation to give a new impetus to the mission we share. ... "faithful to Emmanuel d'Alzon...for the coming of the Kingdom."



goal we want to pursue in the next six years - without giving in either to the atmosphere of pervasive gloom or to the fear that the world engenders. The Chapter reaffirms its trust in the future which God gives to the world, the Church, and the Assumption Family.

With our lay friends, we agreed on the definition of a Lay Assumptionist: "a man or woman who is committed to live his/her baptismal call and the mission that flows from it, in the Assumption, in the Church, and in society" and we expressed the hope that a "Way of Life" would soon be produced. Henceforth, the Assumption is composed of men and women, religious and lay!

The second week was dedicated to our new community organization. What we understand by this is the reconfiguration of the diverse geographic entities that form the Assumption throughout the world ... moving in the direction of a territorial organization of a continental type. [This requires] ...the adaptation of our structures of governance in order to foster greater solidarity and collaboration ... and collegiality ... in the mission.

The third week was one of decisions and a deeper understanding of the fields of our apostolic endeavors. Each province presented works that represent one aspect of our charism in keeping with the great causes of God and man, works that can "mobilize" the entire body of the Assumption. The needs are tremendous. Yet, at the same time, we realized that we no longer have the resources to undertake them all. ... We will need to use our imagination, accept to make changes in our life style and find new solutions for funding.

We are confident and assured that together, brothers, sisters and lay friends, we will play the part that God confides to the Assumption ... in a song that already fills her with joy.

Fr. Benoît Grière, A.A., Superior General and the members of the 32nd General Chapter Rome, May 23, 2011



General Council - Bro. Didier Remiot, A.A., Rev. Emmanuel Kahindo, A.A., Rev. Benoit Grière, A.A., Rev. Macelo Marciel, A.A., Rev. John Franck, A.A.

The first week, with our lay friends present, was dedicated to evaluating and looking ahead. We recalled and updated the three orientations given at the last Chapter: "Men of Faith, men of communion, in solidarity with the poor". These express what we sense as most important ... for ourselves and for those who ... wish to share them. They allow us to determine the

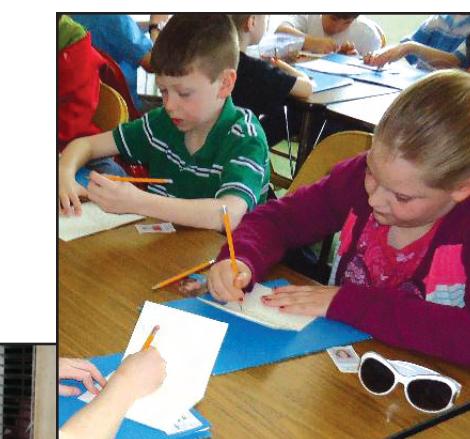
ASSUMPTION IN MISSION...



CANADA



USA



PHILIPPINES



...THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

"THE CHARISM OF THE CONGREGATION AND ITS FUNDAMENTAL ORIENTATIONS ARE BECOMING EVER MORE PART AND PARCEL OF THE LIFE OF LAY PEOPLE. IT IS A SOURCE OF LIFE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND A MUTUAL ENRICHMENT FOR ALL."

(Acts of the 2011 General Chapter, #142)

The following proposal was presented by the lay delegates and was unanimously approved by the Provincial Chapter.

LAY – RELIGIOUS ALLIANCE

It is proposed to keep the LAY – RELIGIOUS TANDEM of each country in place, because the delegation reality is so particular and different.

It is proposed that a vowed Assumptionist, in collaboration with the delegation tandems, coordinates the Lay – Religious Alliance at the provincial level.

The tasks of the coordinator would be:

- 1. To work with the delegation tandems;*
- 2. To communicate information from the tandems to the provincial council and from the council to the tandems;*
- 3. To visit each delegation within two years;*
- 4. To assure an appropriate formation for laity in collaboration with the formation commission;*
- 5. To serve as a link between the tandems and any provincial structures that affect laity;*
- 6. To encourage communication between tandems;*

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7. To assure the translation of documents into three languages;
8. To check annually that the process, plan, and programs of the tandems are working;
9. To jointly assess their collaboration efforts after the first 6 months;
10. To ensure the link with the Lay – Religious International Commission.



Elaine O'Connor (US), Claude Lamontagne (Canada), Claude Grenache, A.A., Tomasz Kierul (US), Bollo Maltos (Mexico), Chantal Rouette (Canada), Claire Bertero, O.S.F., Oliver Blanchette, A.A., Tomasz Jaster

Following the approval of this proposal, Fr. Miguel Diaz, A.A., our recently appointed provincial, appointed Fr. Claude Grenache, A.A. as Coordinator of the Lay – Religious Alliance for this province. Fr. Claude comes with a wealth of experience and passion in working with laity in the Church, as did the Assumptionists' founder Fr. d'Alzon. Early on, Fr. Claude studied at the Catholic University of Lyon in France where he earned a licentiate in theology in 1965, after writing his major paper on, "The Priesthood of the Laity." After having taught at the congregation's high school in Bury, Canada for 15 years, Fr. Claude also did parish work and was in charge of youth ministry north of the border. Back in the U.S., he was assigned to St. Anne's in Sturbridge, MA and later in Worcester was campus minister at Assumption College, Babson College in Wellesley, MA and then Bentley University, Waltham, MA. It was with great joy and enthusiasm that the lay delegates welcomed him to this position!

**Our communities wish to share
the joys, the sorrows and anxieties
of the men and women of their time...**

Rule of Life #14

THE ASSUMPTIONISTS
AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION
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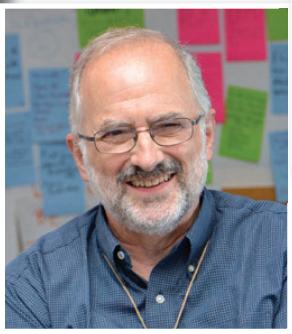
TRANSITIONS



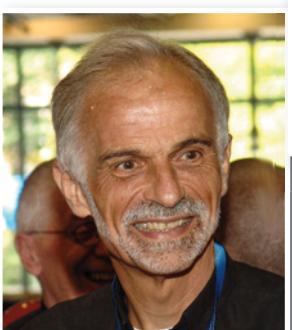
Welcome to Fr. Benoit
Griere, A.A., General
Superior



Welcome to Fr. Miguel
Diaz, A.A., Provincial
Superior



Welcome Home to Fr.
Richard Lamoureux,
A.A., former General
Superior



Good – Bye to Fr.
John Franck, A.A.,
General Councilor



Thank You to Fr.
Marcel Poirier, A.A.,
former Provincial
Superior