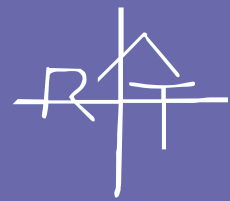


FINAL VOWS

...continued



THE ASSUMPTIONISTS
AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION
330 MARKET STREET, BRIGHTON, MA 02135



Elmer Vergara

On June 19, 2021, I professed my definitive commitment to Jesus, to his Church and to our small family, the Augustinians of the Assumption. It was held in the parish of Our Lady of Pentecost in Quezon City, Philippines. It was a special celebration attended by the Assumptionists in the Philippines and some friends of the congregation. Rev. Fr. Jay Lituánias, representing the Superior General received my profession of vows. My family and friends participated through live streaming on Facebook. The Final profession of Vows is a much awaited event to every Assumptionist. Our founder, Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon reminds us to be good religious and it entails commitment to love and to mission. We exercise our freedom to be involve, participate and commit in building the Kingdom of God in us and around us.



Dagoberto Rodriguez

On December 25, 2021, I am grateful to God and to the congregation for this blessing of consecrating my life to God, to the church and to the Assumptionist community of brothers. I am studying theology in Buenos Aires, Argentina and serving in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, where every day helps me to grow in the love of God through service to his people.



A NEW HOME FOR OUR ELDER ASSUMPTIONISTS IS ON THE WAY

We are excited to announce that renovations will begin soon on Emmanuel House, on the campus of Assumption University, to create an addition specifically dedicated to our elderly Assumptionists who need a certain level of special care but are still able to live in an active community. We thank Assumption University for their collaboration in this effort and look forward to the completion of this project in 2023.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY

Providing a comfortable and caring environment for our senior brothers is possible only with significant help. We are grateful for the annual grant of about \$25,000 that comes as our share of the annual collection taken throughout the parishes of the United States Church for the National Religious Retirement Office.

Our elder brothers themselves contribute financially through the small Social Security Pensions they receive, as well as other modest stipends they may receive through chaplaincies, etc.

Finally, we could never provide this care without your financial support as well. The generous contributions you make become a significant way for you to say "Thank you" to our brothers who have given their lives so that others may know Christ.

Please know that we continue to remember you daily in our special prayers.

THE ASSUMPTIONIST

AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION

PROVINCE OF NORTH AMERICA | VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2022



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE ASSUMPTION,

There is a contentious saying of Fr. d'Alzon in which he exhorts his brother Assumptionists to "work for four" in their apostolic life. At the superficial level, one might think he was calling his brothers to a kind of workaholicism. The opposite is the case. Our apostolic zeal has its source, not in self-sufficiency but in love of Christ (and His love for us) - this is what gives energy to the apostolate; this is what enables a brother to work tirelessly even as he approaches 80 years old. This devotion and dedication to our charism is apparent in the lives of our retired-aged brothers, many of whom are still deeply committed to an apostolate.

As our elder Assumptionists share favorite moments from their long and rich apostolic life, they all express through their lives the Assumptionist charism. They are all engaged in active ministry or in formal retirement, offering longer moments of intercession for the Church and the world. May we all see the elderly as valuable members of society who contribute to the common good in unique and generous ways.

We take this moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your prayerful and financial support of our Assumptionist mission and apostolic works in the United States and around the world. May this season of Lent and Easter be a time of prayer and peace for you and your family.

Fr. Alex Castro, A.A.
Provincial Treasurer



RETIREMENT IS NOT A DESTINATION

For us religious, retirement is not a destination that so distinctly marks the transition from a working life to putting together our "bucket list." Nevertheless, nature does have a way of taking its course and, like most everyone else, we do lose something on our fastball.

But like those wily pitchers who make late career adjustments, those of us with accumulated mileage have some other resources to draw upon. Experience does not automatically translate into wisdom, but experience reflected upon, prayed over and suffered through is not such a bad thing to have in one's quiver.

Those of us who belong to the next cohort of "retiring" Assumptionists are mindful of all the graces that have brought us to where we are (how did we get here?) and mindful, too, of the innumerable companions along the way. If life has not knocked us around enough, we find ourselves humbled by love received, from those in the wider Assumption family and from so many who have helped to sustain our ministry. A hundredfold return on our investment. Thank you!

Fr. Dennis Gallagher, Provincial Superior of the North American Province

What has been your most meaningful/memorable assignment as an Assumptionist?



Barry Bercier

Barry: My most memorable assignment came with the permission I was given to head into the Arctic, to live with the Inuit People there and serve as their parish priest in the hamlet of Igloolik. Igloolik is a little island well above the Arctic Circle and off the northern tip of the Melville Peninsula. The Inuit had lived in that area for 4000 years before the arrival of European missionaries and Western culture just a century ago. They lived at the edge of the habitable world, under the most extreme conditions, in radical poverty and simplicity... But now their way of life has been almost annihilated by its encounter with the Modern world. The presence of the Gospel in a place like that is essential to shield them from the corrosive power of the dominant civilization. The story told by the Scriptures of man's need for salvation from Babylon and Egypt appears with luminous and even terrifying clarity in a place like Igloolik.

Roger: Hard to say but I would say I really enjoyed teaching Theology. My favorite classes are Introduction to Theology and The Problem of God. I don't enjoy lecturing as much but enjoyed the back and forth with the students, the discussion. I am never quite sure what is going to happen when I go into class. There is often two classes that I am teaching on the same thing but they can be totally different depending on the students.



Roger Corriveau

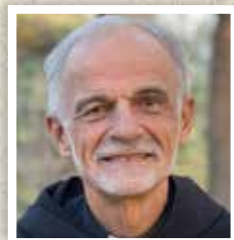


Theodore Fortier

Theodore: I had a variety of assignments in different places and I enjoyed them all. The main things of my assignments were teaching and doing foreign missions. I taught for 32 years from 1948 to 1980. First, I taught Latin, then some Religious Courses, and most of my time was with the Philosophy Department to which I belonged. After 1980, I started my Foreign Mission beginning with two years in Israel. I directed pilgrims there and was the chaplain for the Orantes of the Assumption. Then I moved to Africa as a co-founder of the Novitiate in Butembo where I worked closely with the Bishop. After 7 years in Africa, I was in Greece to minister to the Faithful (English speaking) in the Parish.

John: I would say that my most meaningful assignment as an Assumptionist was my assignment to Assumption College as dean of students. I didn't know what I was getting myself into. I shouldn't have worried. I had an opportunity to meet some remarkable young men and women and create relationships that have lasted to this day. I was also able to work side by side with some outstanding faculty members and administrators who had dedicated their lives to these young men and women. Their dedication to the education of future generations was a sign of hope for me.

Aidan: I was a member of our community in Nottingham, England



John Franck

for twenty-four years and taught at the Becket School, an Assumptionist high school. Nottingham is a city with a long and colorful history, including the exploits of Robin Hood who pounced on the rich to provide for the poor. The city has a castle built on a vast high rocky outcrop. In a cave in the rock there is the smallest pub in England, called the Trip to Jerusalem. In the 13th century crusaders drank there before setting off. Nottingham is my favorite place.

Dennis: No far-off adventures for me, my most memorable assignment as an Assumptionist was in the classroom at Assumption University. The sustained contact with a cross-section of Assumption students over the course of a semester of teaching was unmatched by any other assignment I've been given. Most of the "out of classroom" contacts with students—for counsel or future marriage preparation—were offshoots of this classroom relationship.

Richard G: My most memorable assignment could easily be the time I lived in Rome or in Israel and they certainly were memorable times. But I would have to say that it was the time I spent teaching at Tampa (FL) High School. The Assumptionists involvement with the school was certainly challenging but also the most rewarding experience I have had.

Roland: I had many assignments throughout the years, but I was



Aidan Furlong



Dennis Gallagher



Richard Gagnon



Roland Guilmain



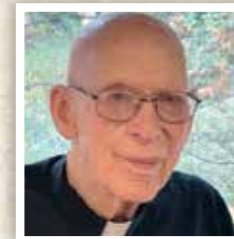
Richard Lamoureux



Donat Lamothe



Luc Martel



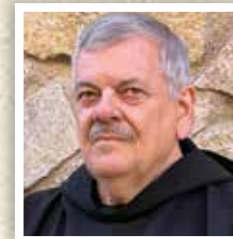
Norman Meiklejohn



Gerard Messier



Gary Perron



Peter Precourt

happiest in my assignments in Quebec and the United States. I received a special grace when I was ordained a priest—after that, I could not imagine myself being anything else besides an Assumptionist and a priest. I realized that wherever I was assigned was where God wanted me to be in that moment.

Richard L: Certainly my years of teaching at Assumption College (now University). Getting to know the students and reflecting with them on basic human life issues as evoked by great works of art—all that was great fun and a real joy. I also enjoyed my years in Rome, as Superior General. Though that assignment came as a surprise, it provided me with an opportunity to know the Assumption in all of its "flavors," and to reflect and talk about the spirit that makes us one religious family. Additionally, my assignment to Austin House back in the late 70s/early 80s, living that closely with students early in my time at Assumption was really formative: humanly, spiritually, apostolically. I have fond memories of those days and of those students, even if they were intensely and ridiculously busy.

Donat: I have had only one assignment: In 1963, I began teaching at Assumption College and remained there over fifty years. And any absences from the college were to pursue graduate degrees. I particularly enjoyed my three years in Strasbourg, France (1977-1980) where I obtained a PhD in Musicology. I often went to a parish on weekends to do ministry. I enjoyed meeting people there and the pastor was most gracious.

Luc: At the Assumptionist General Chapter in 1981, I was elected Assistant General and Treasurer General of the Congregation. This assignment changed my life and set in motion a ministry path – in service to congregational structures and African universities - that has continued to this very day.

Norman: My years in Moscow were my best years. I was there for 13 years. During those years, I was the representative for the Vatican, was responsible for my own life, and worked with many African students. I became good friends with many of the students who were parishioners at my parish. I worked with many

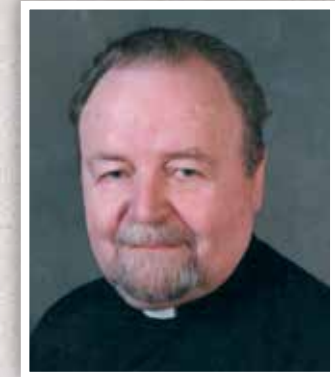
different embassies on a variety of policies. I came back to the states in 1999.

Gerard: The best "moment", from 1960-1970 at the residential Prep School; teaching, engaged in extracurricular activities, being available and present to the students; where reigned an atmosphere of communal, unquestionable, d'Alzonian commitment "that Christ be formed" in the young men we Assumptionists served, ever renewed in prayer bordering on the monastic.

Gary: I have been serving at Emperatriz, Mexico since the fall of 1987. Serving the people in Mexico gives me high fulfillment and gratitude to be able to be part of the mission of the Assumptionists in Mexico. At my older age, I enjoy singing, dancing, and board games.

Peter: I have never ranked them. They have all been very meaningful but my current assignment in El Paso serving migrants has been very different. Since it is a new mission, it comes with its own challenges and meaning.

IN MEMORIAM OF RECENTLY DECEASED ASSUMPTIONIST BROTHERS



Fr. Theodore Fortier
February 9, 2022
May he rest in peace



Fr. Jerome Lively
February 27, 2022
May he rest in peace

FINAL VOWS

As I think back to my Final Vows a few short days ago, one experience sticks out: laying prostrate on the floor of the Chapel, praying as the congregation sang the Litany of the Saints. In attending these Masses for older brothers, I had always become emotional at this point in the Mass, so I was fully expecting to have to call someone to mop up my tears after this prayer. To my surprise and gratitude, I did not cry during the Litany. Instead, I felt a deep sense of peace that I won't soon forget. I felt like I was wrapped up in a weighted blanket of prayer, and I thought, "Yes, putting my life in your hands is the best place to put it, Lord." This was the peace that comes with trust, with a renewed hope. Yes, there will be moments of heat and drought in the (hopefully) many years ahead, but I will always come back to this truth: I know who I am because I know whose I am. Christ has claimed me as His own, come what may. In that is my greatest joy.



Daniele Caglioni

continued...