

COME, LEARN AND SERVE WITH US!



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



To learn and serve is the purpose behind the recent mission trip to El Paso (TX) organized by the Assumption Vocation Ministry last June. Younger Assumptionists, lay residents from the Assumptionist Center, and friends came to serve at our shelter.

Along with the Assumption Sisters in nearby Chaparral (NM), the El Paso volunteers were able to broaden their perspective on how a community can participate in this endeavor. The migrants inspired all of us, while we enjoyed the different cultural events.



The El Paso mission participants visit the Religious of the Assumption in Chaparral.

A future goal of this mission is to create a colorful mural on the outside wall of the center, which will call forth solidarity and action in a welcoming way at the US-Mexico border.

Please email us at vocations@assumption.us to participate further.

Bro. Blair Nuyda, A.A.
Director of Vocation Ministry

Whatever you do for the least of my people, that you do unto me.

—Matt. 25:40



Father Peter Omwoyo, A.A. preaches to children in rural Mexico during an Easter mission.

WHAT IS A BEQUEST

A bequest is a gift written in your will for a loved one or a charity. This gift allows you to leave your legacy with family, friends, or a charity close to your heart. There are two types of bequests:

- A Specific Bequest: you leave a specific amount or valuable possession to someone or an organization.
- Residuary Bequest: You leave the remainder of your assets to a person or organization, after the specific bequests have been distributed.

Getting Started:

It costs nothing for you to leave a bequest. Learn more on our website at assumption.us/will

Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.

—Matthew 25:40

THE ASSUMPTIONIST

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AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION



MISSION TO SERVE

We are all migrants searching for life and love, and the beauty of our earthly pilgrimage is to know and love God and to do so through our neighbor. Our Assumptionist brothers in El Paso, Texas, take migrants under their wing by leading the St. Francis Xavier parish community in providing a safe shelter, warm meals, clothing, and prayer.

“I feel at home here,” Jairo from Nicaragua shared, “You are angels that God has placed on our journey because God does not abandon anyone.”

Despite all the horrors that migrants encounter, shelters like these grant them hope. “Out of all the dangerous places I’ve passed through, to get to a place like this, you feel as if you have come to a family,” José from Colombia stated.

Jairo expressed his blessings for all those involved with the mission in El Paso: “I ask that God blesses you; may He provide for you more and more each day, and may organizations, institutions, and people support this mission because what you do is part of the great commandment; to love God and neighbor.”

With the migrants’ and our blessings, we invite you to pray for and contribute to our mission, and by doing so expand the scope of the love we share with each other on our journeys.

Veronika Jaster
Student and Volunteer



Parishioners and volunteers at the parish in El Paso



A group of volunteers from UMass Amherst sharing a meal with migrants



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

As chaplain at Assumption University, I've had the privilege to collaborate with young Latinos and the ALANA group, who are first generation students. This beautiful opportunity has opened my mind to new perspectives, and to value the intercultural richness of new insights. This has helped me to understand that in serving the Lord, there are no limits because the love of Christ is the universal language that calls us brothers and sisters from different cultures to be apostles and servants in his Kingdom.

Bro. Hugo Morales Ballesteros, A.A.
Chaplain and Student at Assumption University

GROWTH OF PROGRAMS FOR RECEIVING PILGRIMS

As pilgrims on our earthly journey, we can greatly enrich our faith by going to its geographical source. For several years, this has been the mission of Father Barry Bercier, A.A.

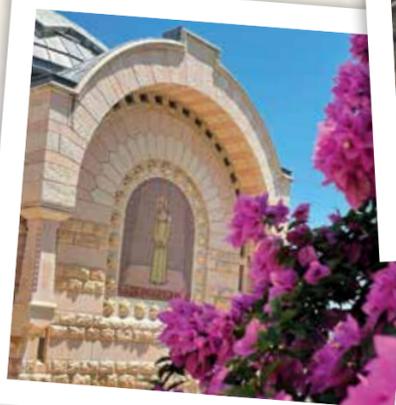
After a year of service at the Assumptionist Community at St. Peter in Gallicantu, Jerusalem, Father Barry envisions a growth of programs for receiving pilgrims, which is the center's main purpose.

"The place has tremendous potential," he said, "We've got a very large property here with rooms for a lot of people and space for classrooms."

His experience in teaching at Assumption University and leading many student trips to the Holy Land further sparked this spirit of faith formation. Now, Barry hopes to continue organizing these trips on a larger scale.

"I would like to see [students] discover the importance of the relationship between Christianity and Judaism that I found a long time ago," he expressed. "It brings a kind of new life to your faith."

Veronika Jaster
Student and Volunteer



Top: Father Barry shares his mission during a video interview, which is on the Augustinians of the Assumption—North America YouTube channel. Middle: Father Barry describes St. Peter's denial to pilgrims. Left: A side view of St. Peter in Gallicantu.



Above: Father Dinh and Vietnamese pilgrims visit the Old City in Jerusalem. Below: Father Dinh and pilgrims in front of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



LIFE IS AN ON-GOING JOURNEY TOWARDS GOD

I have had the privilege to lead several pilgrimages to some important sites of the Catholic faith. The decennial Passion Play of Oberammergau, Germany gives many faithful around the world an opportunity to encounter God in a form of art. With thirty other pilgrims, I organized a trip earlier this year to the Holy Land as preparation to later attend the Passion Play.

In the midst of many churches and sites in the Holy Land, the essence of pilgrimage became clearer: it is a journey within our existence to experience how much God forgives and loves us.

The Passion Play complemented the joy of experiencing the Holy Land, and both have helped us to understand that the goal of life is an on-going journey towards God, until it ends in God alone.

Fr. Dinh G. Votran, A.A.
Superior of Old English Road

CATHOLIC HISTORY, THOUGHT, TEACHINGS AND DEVOTIONS

I recently completed the course work for my PhD program in theology at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

As part of the program, I served as a TA, facilitating a discussion class on Fridays as a follow-up to the two lectures the professors had given earlier in the week. The undergraduates came from different backgrounds and faith perspectives.

It was a very challenging experience to present the whole panorama of Catholic history, thought, teachings and devotions.

Bro. Ryan Carlsen, A.A.
Student at Catholic University of America



LAY ASSUMPTIONISTS ON A MISSION

As Lay Assumptionists, we turn to our primary source, which is the "Way of Life". In a succinct way, we can find answers to major questions pertaining to who we are and what we should do.

When thinking about our apostolates, we can turn to Article #17: "We collaborate closely in the apostolate and the mission of the Assumptionist communities. We are always available to serve the local ecclesial community."



Left: The Lay Assumptionists sponsored a parish bake sale for the community's solidarity campaign at St. Anne-St. Patrick's in Sturbridge.

Right: Patricia explaining the campaign to a young parishioner.

Below: A group of Lay Assumptionists in Cuernavaca, Mexico.



We know that the Assumption family is diverse, unique, and anchored in interculturality. This gives us plenty of opportunities to "think outside of the box." Our Lay Assumptionist groups serve the youth of our Province; help the underserved; and support the education of young people whose families cannot provide financial resources. Therefore, our assistance supports our more global church.

Patricia Haggerty
Provincial Tandem for Lay Assumptionists