



PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

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COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE

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Miguel DIAZ AYLON
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Sadiki KAMBALE KYAVUMBA
Irvin MARTINEZ
Blair NUYYA
Peter PRECOURT

Lay Alliance

Patricia HAGGERTY
Sébastien BANGANDU

Today, we are gathered in Mexico City for the first Council of the Province, following the 2023 Provincial Chapter of Implementation held six months ago in Cuernavaca, Mexico, from August 20-24, 2023. We are seeking concrete actions from the General and Provincial Chapters. This is an excellent opportunity to reflect on the final day of the Provincial Chapter. Regrettably, we were unable to send you this journal earlier. Now, we are not only rectifying our oversight, but also seizing this moment to express our joy of being together as both religious and lay members of the Assumption Family.

The previous Provincial Chapter allowed the new provincial government to organize itself and align with the orientations of the recently concluded 2023 General Chapter. During this week-long event, the Provincial Chapter members deliberated and presented on various topics: Mission, Fraternal Life, Religious Alliance, Youth Ministry, Vocation Ministry, Formation, Community Organization, and Finances.

At the end, the Provincial Chapter produced two documents: the *Acts of the Provincial Chapter* and the *Statutes of the Province*. These will serve as our guiding principles for the next six years. The session concluded with the election of the Council of the Province members and alternates.

While this governance process is not new, a notable feature of this recent initiative is our Assumptionist adaptation of the See-Judge-Act pastoral method. This framework starts with “Signs of the Kingdom”, moves to “Needs of the Kingdom”, and ends with “Hastening the Kingdom”.

Fr. Chi Ai’s closing remarks at the Provincial Chapter of Implementation encapsulate this sentiment, inviting all our Province members to start “a new chapter” with renewed passion for the Kingdom. Indeed, this message gains greater relevance as the Council of the Province convenes today in Mexico City.

Closing Remarks - Provincial Chapter of Implementation 2023

Dear Provincial Chapter Members:

The Provincial Chapter is over, but a new chapter of the life of the Province is open before us. You were the delegates to the Provincial Chapter, now, you are the delegates of the Chapter to your local community and to your local lay Alliance. Tell them that we had good time together here in Cuernavaca (the weather was gorgeous and the food delicious). Tell them that we built a real fraternity among ourselves. Tell them that our fraternity is a sign of the joy of the Gospel, a witness to holiness in a world where violence, hatred, division and indifference dominate. Tell them that it is good to live as brothers and sisters in an international and intercultural context. Tell them that we try to find ways to face new challenges with hope and confidence. Tell them that we are able to turn our differences into strength. Tell them that together we can invent something new as we did in El Paso. Tell them that the existence of our Province is a prophetic sign for the whole world since the next soccer world cup in 2026 will be held in the three countries of our Province! For the first time in history, such an event is organized by three countries. Tell them that the Provincial wants to animate the life of the Province by implementing the decisions made of the Chapter and by focusing on three aspects: Animation of proximity and communication, formation to mentorship and leadership, collaboration with other Provinces.

1) Animation of proximity and communication

I will try to be present in the life of your community. I will visit you as the Rule of life requires me, but I want to do more than that. Let me know about some important events of your community (anniversary celebration, local chapter, retreat). I will be present there if I am available. I will spend time with you. Time is greater than place. The time of being present with you takes over the space that separates us from one another due to the distance of our Province. I will be present among you simply as a brother.

I will build the unity of the Province through communication. For this, I will create spaces of encounter, in person as well as through virtual platforms. My plan is to have a Newsletter for the whole Province. Its name is to be found, but something like “Frat News” can be good. It is an antidote to “Fake News.” Its purpose is not only to give news, but also to offer formation. Fr. Richard Lamoureux suggested the idea of having some teachings of Fr. D’Alzon in the Newsletter, “some brief passages from D’Alzon that we have ‘forgotten’ but that remain inspiring, challenging, and foundation for our life and work.”

2) Formation to leadership and mentorship

Our Province is facing a serious challenge: the lack of leaders. Of course, we had a new team of leaders in Mexico and in Quebec. Besides the need for the accompaniment of those leaders, we must think about a new generation of leaders for the US (El Paso, Saint Anne and Emmanuel House). We need to find new ways of being present at Assumption University and at Bayard, both in the US and in Canada. This project is not possible without the help from outside.

3) Collaboration with other Provinces

For me, we must continue the collaboration with our Brothers from Africa and Asia. We will ask them for help, for more help. But we are also going to offer them help. We have some important places for formation. We will offer them different kinds of formation with the help of our experienced formators and leaders: Richard Lamoureux, Marcel Poirier, Dennis Gallagher, Miguel Diaz, Peter Precourt. My principle is simple: A leader develops his skills by following another leader. One becomes a leader by learning from another leader. As it said in the document “leadership at Assumption,” leadership training “is most effective if it is gradual and informal.”

Now, a new chapter of our life begins. We can ask God to be a companion in our pilgrimage toward his Kingdom. Through his grace, we can hope for a better future. This future will be built in collaboration with our lay Brothers and Sisters, with our Brothers from the rest of the Congregation. If we walk together, we can go far, very far, into the Kingdom of God!

Fr. Chi Ai NGUYEN, A.A.
Provincial Superior