



# PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

Province of North America | CoP Special Issue no. 2 | January 9, 2024



## DAY ONE AGENDA

Reports from Canada and the  
United States by Fr. Chi Ai

Developments in Mexico  
by Fr. Louis

Lay Religious Alliance  
Perspectives by Pat Haggerty

Updates from the CGP, Formation  
to Leadership and Actions from  
the General Chapter by Fr. Chi Ai

Some news from El Paso  
By Fr. Peter and Fr. Chi Ai

## *Echoes from the Council of the Province*

Our first day featured engaging presentations and meaningful discussions. Here are the highlights:

**Reports from Canada and the U.S.:** Fr. Chi Ai provided insightful updates on our progress and challenges in these regions, giving a clear picture of our work and impact.

**Developments in Mexico:** Fr. Louis shared the latest news and achievements from Mexico, underscoring the growth and activities of our community.

**Lay Religious Alliance Perspectives:** Pat Haggerty shed light on the invaluable contributions of our lay religious members, emphasizing their crucial role in our mission.

**Updates:** Fr. Chi Ai discussed the ongoing efforts since the last General Chapter, including leadership formation initiatives at Assumption University.

**El Paso Activities:** Fr. Peter and Fr. Chi Ai updated us on recent events in El Paso, illustrating the dynamic nature of our work there.

Yesterday's sessions also explored important topics such as the integration of the elderly into our community life, training of young leaders, and our presence in educational institutions. These discussions brought forth a variety of viewpoints and ideas, enhancing our collective understanding.

This newsletter is not just a summary of our first day, but also a catalyst for further reflection and action as we continue our discussions at the Council today and tomorrow.

## **From the Provincial's report**

“As you can see, a former Provincial becomes the first Assistant and an Assistant to the General becomes the Director of formation. The lack of leadership among young religious is a very busy issue. The Provincial is committed to forming a new group of leaders in collaboration with the other Provinces.”

“To train religious in leadership, the Provincial adopted the mentorship method. This involves training young leaders by placing them in a real-life situation, with the help of an experienced leader.”

“Since July 2023, the elderly brothers at Old English Road have moved to the Assumption University campus. The fact that the young and old live in the same space is a witness to the University community. Indeed, in a world where utility dominates, there's a tendency to cast the elderly aside when they are no longer; useful to society. The new make-up of the Emmanuel House community thus demonstrates an anthropological vision. We care for each other at every stage of life. We are fully alive until we die.”

“We need to ask ourselves the following questions: in the future, will we be able to assume an Assumptionist presence within the University? If so, in what form? What will be our new way of being present at the University? What can we invent through our apostolic imagination?”

## **From the report of the Provincial tandem for the lay-religious alliance**

“The group lost a long-standing and dedicated member on December 3rd, Claude Lamontagne was instrumental in moving the Alliance forward in Canada. He was also an integral part of the Board for the Center of Culture and Faith. A three-night prayer vigil was held for him in the Chapel and on Zoom. His funeral will take place on January 20th.”

“The lay Assumptionists in Sturbridge recently held a commissioning and recommissioning and will welcome a new member at the next meeting.”

“Mexico: three stages of development for new group: identity, unity, and sense of mission.”

## **What did the General Chapter ask of us?**

“Encourage greater integration of lay members of the Alliance into our structures of animation and government: presence of lay members at Chapters (local, provincial,

general); presence on animation commissions; systematic invitation to be part of the Council of the Province; occasional invitation on particular subjects to the Provincial Council.”

“In our parishes and educational institutions, create ‘Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation’ (JPIC) commissions to provide the necessary training and spiritual/pastoral animation leading to concrete actions and commitments.”

“Pursue knowledge of the Eastern rites in order to foster plurality within the Church and maintain the liturgical, spiritual and ecclesial heritage of the Assumption.”

“Live an authentic ecumenism of charity through service to the poor, the sick, the lonely and migrants, as well as through mutual concern for the integrity of Creation.”

“The missionary availability is one of our recruitment criteria.”

“Our way of being missionary and doing mission must become more ‘synodal’ and oppose all forms of individualism and clericalism.”

“Promote synodality in the animation and governance of our parishes and works.”

“We are committed to training religious and lay members of the Alliance in a better understanding of media and digital culture, their anthropological and ecclesiological consequences, and even their pastoral and professional use.”

“We have to learn to work with young people, not just for them.”

“Dare to say who we are”

“Make D’Alzon’s life and apostolic work better known, including through communication media that are more accessible to the greatest number of people: videos, cartoons, slideshows.”

#### COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE

##### **Ex-officio Members**

Chi Ai NGUYEN  
Dennis GALLAGHER  
Miguel DIAZ AYLLON  
Rodel CERVANTES  
Louis KIVUYA

##### **Elected Members**

Daniele CAGLIONI  
Oswaldo GARCIA SANCHEZ  
Sadiki KAMBALE KYAVUMBA  
Irvin MARTINEZ  
Blair NUYDA  
Peter PRECOURT

##### **Lay Alliance**

Patricia HAGGERTY  
Sébastien BANGANDU