



# FRAT NEWS

## NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCE

FEBRUARY 2, 2024



### IT'S OFFICIAL!

#### PROVINCIAL'S WHEREABOUTS

**Jan 8-17:** COP in  
Mexico

**Jan 22-24:** Winter  
leadership  
gathering in  
Houston

**Feb 9-10:** Board of  
Trustees in  
Worcester

**Feb 26-29:** Bayard  
Canada in  
Montreal

**March 4-8:** New  
leader workshop in  
Maryland

**May 30-June 8:**  
CGP in Worcester

Upon the recommendation of Fr. Louis Kivuya, the Regional of Mexico and with the consent of the Provincial Council, Fr. Chi Ai Nguyen admitted:

- Br. Eliú Ituriel Tlecuile Zepahua to the novitiate
- Br. Eduardo Arrijoja Gutierrez to temporary profession
- Br. José Alberto Mejia Peña and Br. Jenaro Pulido Rivera to the renewal of vows.

Fr. Louis Kivuya approved the election of Rafa Martinez as the lay member of the tandem for the lay-religious alliance in Mexico. He also appointed Fr. Sebastien Bangandu as the religious member of the same tandem.

After talking to his Council, the Provincial appointed:

- Br. Elmer Vergara as referent person for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults
- Br. Elmer Vergara (chair), Br. Daniele Caglioni, Br. Blair Nuyda, Br. Binh Nguyen, Fr. Dinh VoTran and Jon Bishop as members of the Vocation Commission in the US
- Fr. Simon Njuguna (chair), Fr. Dennis Gallagher, Fr. Richard Lamoureux and Fr. Dinh VoTran as members of the Formation Commission in the US
- Chantal Rouette and Fr. Jean-Bosco Kambale Kanyama as the tandem for the lay-religious alliance of the first group in Quebec; Catherine Sugère and Fr. Edward Shatov as the tandem for the second group.

## EMMANUEL D'ALZON, APOSTLE, SPIRITUAL MASTER, EDUCATOR---“IN WORDS THEY CAN UNDERSTAND”

On November 20th, to celebrate d'Alzon Day and the publication of the English translation of the Spiritual Writings of the Founder, Fr. John gave a lecture at Assumption. He began by presenting the translation of Fr. D'Alzon's Spiritual Writings and later initiated a discussion on the founder's vision of education. The presentation raised quite a few questions and comments from those present: faculty, administrators, members of the Assumption family (AAs, RAs, Lay Assumptionists,) and friends. A video of the presentation can be found at: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/886931405>.



### **HERE IS AN EXCERPT OF JOHN'S PRESENTATION:**

By way of an introduction, I would like to say a word about what motivated d'Alzon to do what he did throughout his life. This overall glance at what gave meaning to his life will help us understand much better, I think, his vision of education. Who was this man who went literally from riches to rags, from aristocrat dressed in fine clothes to a monk buried, as he requested, in his threadbare religious habit?

D'Alzon's whole life really was a question of taking profound, life-shattering risks. First of all, there were the not inconsequential risks he took by virtue of shunning the aristocratic status of his family and the powerful fortune that he would inherit, a fortune that would easily establish him as a man of noble standing and public influence. I was never more impressed with the extraordinary legacy that d'Alzon turned his back on than I did when leading a pilgrimage in his footsteps on the occasion of the bicentennial of his birth in 2010. On that pilgrimage we found ourselves one day standing on the terrace of the once stunning chateau of Lavagnac where d'Alzon spent most of his childhood and where he would return regularly throughout his life. This aristocratic residence, which his sister eventually inherited, was once described as the Versailles of southern France. Standing on that terrace, wherever you looked --- to the north, to the south, the east or the west, whatever your eyes could take in belonged to the d'Alzon estate --- 3,000 acres (1200 hectares) of luxuriant vineyards, lush orange groves, stately poplars and shady chestnut trees, whole forests actually, teeming with wildlife, and even with a river running through it, the Hérault. All of it belonged to the d'Alzon family and all of it, and much more elsewhere, did d'Alzon stand to inherit one day as the eldest child and only son.



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Life at the chateau not only suited the refined tastes of this patrician family --- the private tutors, the corps of servants, the prestigious visitors, the wonderful library d’Alzon’s well-bred father had collected, but such a life also prepared the brilliant and ambitious young d’Alzon for an illustrious career befitting his blue-blooded ancestry --- a politician like his father in the chamber of deputies in Paris, a diplomat like his brother-in-law, Anatole de Puységur, a judge, or even a military leader like one of his other relatives, someone who could restore the erstwhile glory of his beloved France.

But just as he was to sacrifice the genteel and privileged life at Lavagnac, so, too, was he to renounce the almost guaranteed life of prestige and power in French society in one of the careers his family ties would easily occasion.

And why? As he was to write to one of his best friends, Luglien d’Esgrigny in 1830, “I have decided to consecrate myself to the defense of the faith. Yes, to be sure, I have considered many careers --- the army, the rostrum, the chamber. But little by little this has all disappeared and I am resolved to consecrate myself totally to God --- for I no longer feel any attachment to the world. The only thing I see before me is the possibility of dedicating myself to God alone.”

Greatly influenced by one of the brilliant lights of the post-revolutionary period in France, Félicité de Lamennais, d’Alzon saw that the only thing that could regenerate European society was a recognition of the rights of God and the authority and freedom of the church of Rome. But interestingly, for his age, Lamennais strongly emphasized not only the essential need for a new brand of churchman but also the absolute necessity of an avant-garde Catholic laity, fully instructed in the faith and involved in this new world.

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Let me end with this quote from Fr. D'Alzon to another close friend, Alphonse de Vigniamont, a few months after his ordination in 1834. I think this quote summarizes in a few phrases d'Alzon's life project. He writes, "dear friend, the most intimate thought of my soul is that the world needs to be penetrated through and through by a Christian idea; otherwise it will fall apart. And the world will not receive this idea but from individuals who will be taken up with it above all else in order to proclaim it in every form it might assume. Some would say the world is evil. It is true that passion turns it away from what is good. But I believe most of all that the world is ignorant. Therefore, we need to teach it and do so in words it can understand"

..."Penetrate the world by a Christian idea; otherwise it will collapse"; his deep intuition, his conviction, that without a commitment to the rights of God les droits de l'homme (the rights of man), proclaimed by the revolution, as he saw them in opposition to the rights of God, would lead to devastating consequences (remember that the span of d'Alzon's life covered that of Marx, Nietzsche, and Auguste Comte who gave rise to communism, nihilism, and positivism).

..."From individuals who will be taken up with it above all else"; the founding of a congregation dedicated first of all to teaching in all its forms and, in an original twist, with the collaboration of a dedicated lay faculty.

..."to teach the world in words it can understand": the primacy of teaching, but also preaching and the publication of good books. Perhaps influenced by Lamennais, d'Alzon insisted on the need to understand the new world that was coming to birth and to address it in a way it could understand. He once wrote, "an old world is dying and a new one is coming to life."





**THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME...**  
**LET'S LIVE THE GOSPEL!**



After a long wait, the time has come to celebrate the D'Alzonian Youth Meeting 2023. Since 1997, the Assumptionist lay alliance together with the religious in Mexico had the initiative to hold a youth event with the aim of celebrating the Feast of our Founder, Father Emmanuel d'Alzon, and to present the charism of the Assumption to young people specially those who would like to know more about their vocation. At the encounter there are several moments that have characterized the d'Alzonian since the beginning and have been updated over the years. There is a role of workshops according to the motto, a rally, a moment of adoration, a talent show and a vocational panel where testimonies of the different vocations are presented and the young people have the opportunity to ask each panelist about their experience in the vocation they have chosen.

The theme of the d'Alzoniano 2023 was: The Kingdom of God has come... Let's live the Gospel! This theme gave us the opportunity to share some topics such as unity in St. Augustine and Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, the Kingdom of God in today's youth, etc. This year the big difference was the pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, since the venue for the meeting was the parish of San Andrés Totoltepec, which is forty minutes away from the Basilica. On the second day of the meeting, instead of the traditional rally, we decided to go on pilgrimage to the Basilica to make the Assumption family present in the most important shrine of our country. About sixty people, including teenagers, young people, religious men and women, and the presence of the lay-religious alliance could not be missing. Several came from Veracruz, Puebla and Mexico City. It was also a great joy to have the presence of almost the entire Assumption family, since our Religious Sisters of the Assumption, Oblates of the Assumption, the Orantes of the Assumption and the Augustinians of the Assumption were present.

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The d'Alzoniano involves effort and a lot of work to achieve the goal, to buy t-shirts, materials, transportation, and various necessities, so we are very grateful to our brothers (Father Jesus, pastor of the Emperatriz parish and Father Roberto, pastor of St. Andres parish) for their support and attention to make possible the d'Alzoniano. Moreover, it is the Assumptionist youth ministry that is in charge of organizing these events. The Assumptionist youth ministry has been called FRAS, which stands for *Fraternidad Asuncionista (Assumptionist Fraternity)* for seven years now. They are in charge of various events throughout the year, mainly focused on the youth. During this d'Alzoniano 2023 the members of FRAS renewed their desire to continue belonging to the Assumptionist youth ministry. Now the Assumptionist Fraternity becomes bigger, since there are young people from Veracruz, Puebla and Mexico City who joined the FRAS group.

At this moment, the FRAS group, with the collaboration of the religious in formation, prepares the national pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Christ the King in cerro del Cubilete in the state of Guanajuato. This will also be an opportunity to make the Augustinians of the Assumption known at the national level, since there are many places where the Augustinians of the Assumption are not yet known. It is also an opportunity to promote vocations for the Church in general and for the Assumption.

This D'Alzonian encounter was a beautiful experience, we shared the joy of following the footsteps of Fr. d'Alzon. It was a moment to remember that we are called to transform our lives with the help of God's grace in order to be witnesses of His Kingdom. We young people also want to be witnesses of God's Kingdom in us and around us!





## THE LAY ALLIANCE: ON THE RIGHT PATH



I have a terrible sense of direction. I always have. Just ask my husband! I have always relied on the tools around me---first it was maps, then came MapQuest, and now it is Google Maps and Waze. They have helped guide me to wherever I need to be. What do we rely on to guide us on our journey as members of the Lay-Religious Alliance? We are fortunate to have many resources, among which are our Way of Life and Rule of Life. Most currently, we have the wisdom of the documents of our Provincial and General Chapters. It is within these documents that we can find direction and clarity for our pilgrimage toward the Kingdom.

Father General noted, in his first editorial for AA Info, that we must “take one step further.” That was the mantra for the General Chapter, and it continues to be our mantra as we move forward in our provinces. Both in the General Chapter documents and in our Provincial Chapter documents, we considered the next steps for the Lay-Religious Alliance. How can our Alliance bring about the coming of the Kingdom in our current realities and in our own time and space? It will be important to look at Document #14 (from the General Chapter) and section II (from the Acts of the Provincial Chapter). Let me offer a few highlights that could provide us with a starting point. The opening paragraph of the text on the Lay-Religious Alliance from the General Chapter reads in part: “We appreciate this reality of the Alliance which is for us one of the privileged places of witness to the proximity of the Kingdom. It is also through the Lay-Religious Alliance that we live the hope of the Gospel and announce it to the men and women of our time.” This is echoed in the section on Fraternal Life and the Lay-Religious Alliance from the Acts of the Provincial Chapter: “We are religious who live out the charism in partnership with those who take part in the Lay-Religious Alliance. The importance we attach to welcoming and listening to one another, call it Assumptionist ‘hospitality,’ will enable us to hasten the coming of God’s Kingdom in us and around us.”

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The Chapters underline the synodal aspect of the relationship between religious and lay as we walk together to welcome the advent of the Kingdom---as we are invited to become missionary disciples. Reinforcing this synodal approach is the aspect of formation, which should be an ongoing practice for us all. The General Chapter encourages “strengthening the formation of lay people and religious in the charism and mission of the Assumption. This is a privileged way to stimulate each other in the passion of the kingdom. Common training times are to be developed.” (G.C. #14)

The Acts of the Provincial Chapter assigns duties regarding formation to the Provincial Tandem: “The Provincial Tandem will adapt the Protocol of Formation for Lay Assumptionists according to the needs of the Province and its particular realities.” Also, “the Provincial Tandem along with the Director of Formation will develop strategies for the recruitment and formation of Lay Assumptionists.”

Re-defining and expanding upon strategies for formation are a means for us to “take one step further.” One step will lead to many, as we serve the “extension of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ” (Fr. Emmanuel d’Alzon).



Patricia Haggerty  
Provincial Tandem



## COMMISSIONING IN STURBRIDGE

On Sunday, November 19th, 2023, Fr. Chi Ai celebrated the noon Mass at St. Anne's, Fr. John Franck concelebrated.

In his homily ([click here](#)), Fr. Chi Ai showed the congregation a handkerchief and talked about what we wrap in our handkerchiefs, including our talents, faith and identity. We have a tendency to hide our talents and identify, but as Assumptionists, it is required that we get out of ourselves. We have a desire to make our identity known, and that is confirmed in the Provincial Chapter documents.

Fr. Chi Ai stressed that we must double our freely-given talents, as we are invited to be in the being of the Master. Additionally, he stressed that joy is fundamental. When we develop the gift given to us, we participate in the joy of the giver and in his life. We are all heirs of our Founder, Father Emmanuel D'Alzon. As heirs, we are also invited to be founders in the manner of our Founder. As part of the Assumption family, we all use our gifts to find a new way of being transformed.

New Lay Assumptionists, Chris Williams and Roland Malboeuf were pinned by Sister Clare after saying their vows. Then all the Sturbridge Lay Assumptionists renewed their commitment, which is as follows: In the presence of our brothers and sisters, and before you, Father Chi Ai, for love of Christ and to extend his Kingdom, we promise to God to commit our lives to the spiritual path of love for Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Church, according to the Way of Life of the Lay Assumptionists. After the Mass, the attendees enjoyed a meal in the Parish Center.



## CLAUDE BROUGHT WITH HIM A PART OF OUR LIFE INTO GOD'S LIFE

We lost a long-standing and dedicated member of the Lay-Religious Alliance on December 3rd. Claude Lamontagne was instrumental in moving the Alliance forwards in Quebec. 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 of the Montmartre and on Zoom. His funeral took place on January 20th in the same Chapel.



### **MESSAGE FROM FR. CHI AI, READ AT CLAUDE'S FUNERAL**

Dear Thérèse and family members,

I would have liked to be present at Claude's funeral, but was unable to attend due to a commitment. It is prayer and my fraternal affection that make me close to him and to you. Claude was a friend and a fellow traveler for me. From the very beginning of my time in Quebec, he supported me on my vocational journey. He also helped me to grow in humanity. I owe much of what I am today to him. He was a man of great humanity and solid faith. He was generous and discreet. He was a man of prayer and action. He was positive and realistic. He was serious and always in a good humor. When Claude heard I was going to do my diaconal internship in his home parish, Saint Apollinaire, he jumped for joy. Thanks to him, I felt like a son of Lotbinière.

I have many memories of Claude. Let me mention just one. Once, Claude and I returned from the United States after the Provincial Chapter. He drove the car on the highway. At one point, it seemed that the brake didn't work. After a few maneuvers in perfect calm, Claude managed to stop the car on the side of the road and miraculously the brake worked again. We continued our journey home in a spirit of gratitude. Being together in such a situation strengthened our friendship.

Dear Thérèse,

You no longer need to lend Claude to the Assumption, as you have often said. He is now welcome in the house of the Father, of our Father. From now on, he can be both at home with you and with us, at Assumption, a family he has loved so much and helped to grow with all his talents and dedication. He brought with him a part of our life into God's life. A part of our life has now entered the divine life. And I believe that Claude never ceases to pray for you and for us, since he is closer to God than we are. Claude, remember us as you enter the Kingdom of God!



# NEWS FROM THE LAY-RELIGIOUS ALLIANCE

## IN MEXICO

The lay Assumptionists in Mexico will have an assembly on Saturday, February 10th. They are going to integrate the new members into the group and reflect together on what commitment means.

They want to review the final document of the lay commission that was made during the previous assembly and define a calendar of meetings to standardize the formation.

They will talk about the projects for 2024 and the way in which will collaborate with the religious.

Two lay women are part of the youth group. They left on January 26th for el cerro del Cubilete.

The work that Bollo, Maricarmen and Rafa do to prepare the groups of catechists of the Deanery of Tequila in Orizaba diocese restarted last Saturday, January 20th, in Tlilapan with more than 75 workshop participants.

The formation program for catechists has 11 workshops, of which they have already completed 9.

They have extended the Prayer Group to numerous intentions, in a special way for various people in Mexico and, in solidarity with the Ibero-American communities, also for the health of Fathers Julio Navarro and Bolívar. All through the intersection of Father d'Alzon and for his beatification.

## IN THE US

**Sturbridge:** The month of December was both quiet, yet busy, for the Lay Assumptionists in Sturbridge. One could find them doing what they do best -supporting the life at St. Anne's-St. Patrick's. They were decorating the liturgical spaces, singing at the various services, providing gifts for the needy, helping out at the liturgical celebrations and sharing in the prayer life of our community. They are looking forward to a January meeting and to welcoming a new member to the group.

**Worcester:** During a special recognition ceremony at Assumption University, Melanie Demarais, Lay Assumptionist and longtime friend of many, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Contribution to the Mission. Well deserved!



# CO-MISSION: A DESIGN THINKING PROCESS FOR PASTOR AND ARTIST PARTNERSHIP TOWARD CHURCH RENEWAL

By Br. Blair Nuyda, AA

Boston University School of Theology 2024  
Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Leadership  
(Focus on the Church and the Arts)

Bro. Blair successfully defended his dissertation for his Doctor of Ministry degree in “Transformational Leadership,” at Boston University.

Here is a summary of his dissertation:

In a world where the church often grapples with modern challenges, Co-Mission stands as a groundbreaking framework designed to redefine the collaboration between pastors and artists in the creation of sacred liturgical art. At the heart of Co-Mission lies the fusion of two powerful methodologies: the traditional See-Judge-Act pastoral approach, deeply rooted in the church’s leadership and community engagement practices, and the dynamic, human-centered process of Design Thinking, commonly associated with contemporary innovation and problem-solving.



Co-Mission is more than just a methodology; it’s a response to the evolving landscape of religious expression and the pressing issues posed by secularization. By combining the systematic pastoral approach of the See-Judge-Act method with the human-centric, creative process of Design Thinking, Co-Mission fosters a dynamic where empathy, ideation, prototyping, and testing become integral to sacred art creation. This collaboration is not just about producing art; it’s about nurturing spiritual growth, enhancing worship experiences, and being attuned to the faithful’s changing needs. The thesis not only theorizes this innovative framework but also puts it into practice. It includes assessment tools for the project, a case study on the commissioning of La Asunción Indígena by the author-artist during his visit to Mexico, and an illustrated chapter entitled Via Lucis Brevior for prayer and reflection by pastors, artists, and those involved in the commissioning of sacred art. This work contributes significantly to the discourse on Church-Arts partnerships, positioning Co-Mission as a beacon of transformational leadership and a catalyst for church renewal.

This research represents a significant step towards integrating tradition with innovation, offering a new lens through which the church can engage with art to enrich and renew its practices in contemporary society.



## THE COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE



The Council of the Province held in Mexico City from January 9th to 11th. The purpose of the meeting was to examine the General and the Provincial Chapters documents and to identify the actions to take according to three categories: immediate actions, two-year plan and four-year plan. These action plans will be handed over to the Provincial Council for specific decisions and implementations. For instance, the Provincial Council will establish committees, find members and set deadlines.

**A notable discussion emerged about strengthening ourselves— both religious and lay —with ongoing formation, our Assumptionist heritage, and specializations to tackle the increasing secularization in various contexts of the Province.**

**The discussions also highlighted the growing need to build up community life at all levels. The pandemic has intensified the isolation between our communities and the people we serve. We hope that our action plans, combined with our apostolic fervor and creativity, will help to break down these barriers of isolation.**

**The last day of the Council was devoted to the examination of the budgets. All the budgets, except the one of Casa Dufault in Mexico, were unanimously approved. Due to its change of functioning, the Casa Dufault budget is to be revised by the Mexican Region Council and submitted to the Provincial Council for approval.**



## “ANGELS AT THE BORDER”

We got to a church where we were warmly welcomed.

That church is St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in El Paso, Texas. It is one of several Catholic churches and organizations serving migrants in this border city. Father Peter Precourt, an Assumptionist priest, is the pastor. Father Peter and a team of priests and volunteers have converted the parish hall into a shelter. They welcome Luis and other migrants with hot meals, showers, clean clothing, and a safe place to sleep. Most people stay at St. Francis for a few days before moving on to other cities where sponsors (friends or family members) wait for them. Many, like Luis, leave behind notes telling their stories. With their permission, Father Peter posts the notes in the parish hall. It is important to hear their stories, he says.



[To read the whole story, click here.](#)



### FR. CHI AI VISITS EL PASO - DEC. 19-23

During his visit, he participated in Posada with the parishioners of Guardian Angels and of Saint Francis Xavier (Posada is a traditional Mexican Christmas celebration where Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted. It involves a special song and a shared meal). The community also had a meeting with Bishop Mark Seitz, Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso. During the meeting, he expressed his appreciation for the Assumptionists' presence in El Paso.



## EVENTS



Fr. Richard's lecture on Michelangelo's Design for Rome's Capitol gathered an appreciative audience who enjoyed both the lecture, the gelato and tiramisu reception following.

After celebrating the Christmas Vigil Mass with our extended Chapel congregation, the Emmanuel House community celebrated its first Mass together in the oratory of the "West Wing" on Christmas morning, joined by our sisters from Old English Road. What followed is fast becoming a tradition: Christmas dinner prepared by Bro. Daniele's parents which was enjoyed by all. Overall, the Christmas Season has been enhanced by the fine decorative eyes of Frs. Donat and Roger. A word of appreciation, too, for Daniele who kept the community's body and soul together during these days.



On November 3rd, Fr. Roland Guilmain celebrated his 97 birthday! Yes, Roland is 97 (not 79!) years young and enjoyed the adulation of the community and friends with a gaily decorated dining room, a lobster dinner just for him, a birthday cake with music and laughter and the prayers and best wishes of everyone.

Fr. Aidan Furlong celebrated his 95th birthday on December 27th.



Fr. Roger Corriveau celebrated his 80th birthday on January 28th.

Fr. John Franck has been accompanying the parish's bereavement group, many months in the making. It is a 5-6 part program that has attracted about 10 participants. The program uses both professional video presentations and personal sharing. After 40 some years John was called to preside at the children's Christmas Eve Mass. He said that he felt more like a great-grandfather out of touch with today's youngsters. Part of his homily was based on the Charlie Brown Christmas Special...only to find out that practically none of them had ever heard of it, let alone seen it. Poor Charlie Brown!

Fr. Luc Martel attended the first community-wide gathering of the recently arrived Haitian immigrants. There are approximately folks with more than half being children. One of the major difficulties is the lack of communication since almost none of them speak anything but Creole (and a little Spanish). He also completed filling the last open position on the staff, a secretary. He is looking forward to calling together the Parish Council for the first time once the finance Committee is able to finalize a report of last year's budget results and a budget for 2024.



Notes from Fr. Barry Bercier: "It has been busy here in the North. Christmas Masses, travels to Igloolik and Hall Beach, a funeral, a first communion, plus the flu. It is cold and the darkest time of year with Igloolik having no sun at all. The poverty is especially hard to take right now. Kids went without any Christmas presents. For many families, there's not much to eat. But the church here in Igloolik, which is one of the biggest in the North, was packed for Christmas Mass. And everywhere you looked there were little kids smiling, poking their heads out from their mothers' parka hoods-the 'amoti.' Endurance, suffering, but still hope and life. On my mind a good part of the time, though, is the war in the Middle East. As we find in Psalm 122, 'Pray for peace in Jerusalem.'"



## FIRST ASSUMPTIONIST BISHOP IN FRANCE



Fr. Benoît Gschwind was ordained Bishop on November 26. He is not the first French Bishop (out of 15 assumptionist Bishops, there are 5 French [see AA-Info #3, 2024]). But he is the first to receive charge of a French diocese, that of Pamiers. He wrote to his diocesans the day after his nomination: “Responding presently to the call of Christ and the gospel has led me into diverse and varied missions. I have never been disappointed, and I have been given many times to measure to what extent the Spirit worked at the heart of this world.”

Likewise, his debt clearly claimed towards his congregation, whose motto he took for that of his episcopate, proudly fixed to the high altar of Mirepoix: “What I am, I owe to my family, to my parents, to my religious congregation (...). The Assumption taught me to love Christ and his Church. She made me love working with passion for the coming of the Kingdom of God.” And his determination, finally, not to carry out his duties alone: “Together, we will work to the coming of the Kingdom of God, the announcement of the Good News of the Gospel, in a dialogue permanent with all those who live in this department of Ariège.”