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JOURNAL OF THE CHAPTER

The Kingdom of God is at hand.

Living and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

34TH GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE ASSUMPTIONISTS - JUNE 01-25, 2023

EDITORIAL



The Chapter at Cruising Speed

AN INTENSE WEEK OF WORK, SHARING AND DISCERNMENT

With the latest presentations from the Provinces (Andean Province and North American Province), the Reports from the Secretary General for Formation, the General Treasurer and the Postulator, the Chapter is hard at work continuing its work.

Yesterday, the Chapter began evaluating the «mobilizing works» and reflected on the «missionary fiber» at Assumption.

TOWARDS THE ELECTION OF CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Today, the Chapter members are taking stock of this first week of the Chapter.

They will decide on the Commissions to be set up. These will outline the apostolic and missionary priorities for the coming years, and decide on very concrete directions to take.

In this way, the capitulants have gathered the

information they need to prepare for one of the most important acts of any Chapter: the election of the Superior General and the members of the General Government.

Discernment, reflection, prayer and exchange will continue in several stages: a reflection on the mission of the Superior General and his Assistants with testimonies from Fathers Richard Lamoureux and Benoît Grière, and exchanges on the function and job profile of the Superior General. The assembly will then proceed to a «blank vote» to identify the names of religious suitable for government service.

Over the weekend, with an outing to Subiaco (*) on Sunday, there will be personal exchanges among capitulants enable them to prepare their vote early next week.

Please remember this time of discernment and decision in your prayers.

() Abbey founded in the 6th century by Saint Benedict near the Subiaco cave, where he made his first hermit's retreat.*

Presentation of the Andean Province



BY FATHER JUAN CARLOS MARZOLLA LAIUS, PROVINCIAL

The Province covers 4 countries: Chile, Ecuador, Argentina and Colombia.

It has 44 religious: 22 Chileans, 9 Colombians, 8 Congolese, 4 Ecuadorians, 3 Argentinians, 2 Spaniards, 1 Brazilian, 1 Kenyan, 1 Mexican and 1 Ugandan. 8 brothers are in training.

10 aged between 20 and 40
19 between 40 and 60
9 between 60 and 80
6 between 80 and 99

The Province is emerging from a crisis situation. It has experienced some painful departures. Today, it is seeking to renew its activities and its missionary drive.

ITS APOSTOLIC ACTIVITIES ARE SPREAD IN SIX AREAS

- Parish and shrine ministry (7 parishes, including 2 with Marian shrines)

- Education: 4 schools in Chile, Argentina and Colombia, with a total of 4,500 students (2022 figures).
- Youth and vocation ministry has become difficult, especially in Chile and Argentina, where young people tend to get involved in social-political commitments because of social injustices and abuses in the Church.
- Assumptionist formation: initial formation and CIFA in Argentina.
- The Lay-Religious Alliance.
- Social pastoral care, including homes to help the most vulnerable, especially children and the elderly.

«The continuity of our works requires us to assess our capacity to take them on over the next six years, given the advanced age and frail health of many of our brothers and the departure of several young priests.»

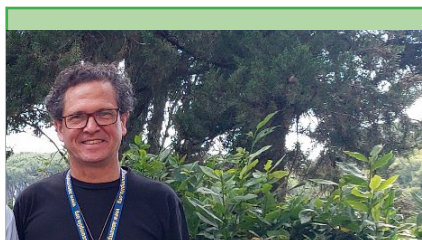
The Province is self-financing.

Among the priorities for the next few years: Christ-centered community life by returning to the Rule of Life and fighting against all kinds of abuse; vocational pastoral care.

Postulator's Report

Father Vincent Leclercq, Postulator, reports on the cause of Venerable Emmanuel d'Alzon, our Founder. He reminds us of the spiritual stakes of such a process and its importance for the deepening of the charism and the unity of the Congregation.

He points out the need for local collaborators to relay the Cause, insisting on the steps to be taken: to spread this Cause around us, to deepen the life and holiness of our founder, to ask for the grace to heal and to go through trials with Father Emmanuel d'Alzon.



*"The question is not to believe in Father d'Alzon's holiness, but to welcome him as a gift and a figure of holiness."
Father Alberto, Facilitator.*

Report From The General Secretary for Formation

BY FATHER VINCENT LECLERCQ,
GENERAL SECRETARY FOR
FORMATION



FORMATION: A TEAM EFFORT

Formation at the Assumption must continue to progress. It must be more mission-oriented, more inculturated, more diversified to meet the needs of our «missionary body», and more integral in its objectives. We need Assumptionist brothers with a good human formation (mature), academic (competent), apostolic (available) and spiritual (configured to Christ). Our priority is to pass on Father d'Alzon's charism by giving it life and love. How do we do this? That's the question the capitulants at this 34th General Chapter are asking themselves. In addition to the Holy Spirit, we already have 3 assets: the CIFA, Père d'Alzon and the Ratio. In the CIFA (Communauté Internationale de Formation Assomptionniste)*, the young people have learned to get to know each other and to work on projects together. They enrich each other. They want to make Father d'Alzon's legacy their own and follow in his footsteps as they make theological, pastoral and spiritual discoveries. And the Ratio has updated our objectives and training requirements. When something is still lacking, it's easy to blame the training or the trainers. Training must anticipate the mission by 10 years. The mission of the capitulants is to imagine the Assumption of tomorrow. Training is always a team effort.

(*) There are 4 CIFAs: Kinshasa, Nairobi, Ouagadougou and Buenos Aires



Presentation of the North American Province

BY FATHER DENNIS GALLAGHER, PROVINCIAL

The Province is present in 3 countries, each with its own culture and language: Canada, USA and Mexico, with two mobilizing works: Assumption University and Bayard (Canada and USA).

It has 49 religious: 16 Americans, 10 Mexicans, 8 Congolese, 5 Filipinos, 3 Canadians, 2 Kenyans, 2 Vietnamese... 6 brothers are in formation.

24 religious are between 24 and 50 years old

16 religious between 51 and 80

9 are over 80

Religious live in 5 communities in the USA (including the new El Paso community), 4 communities in Mexico and 1 in Canada.

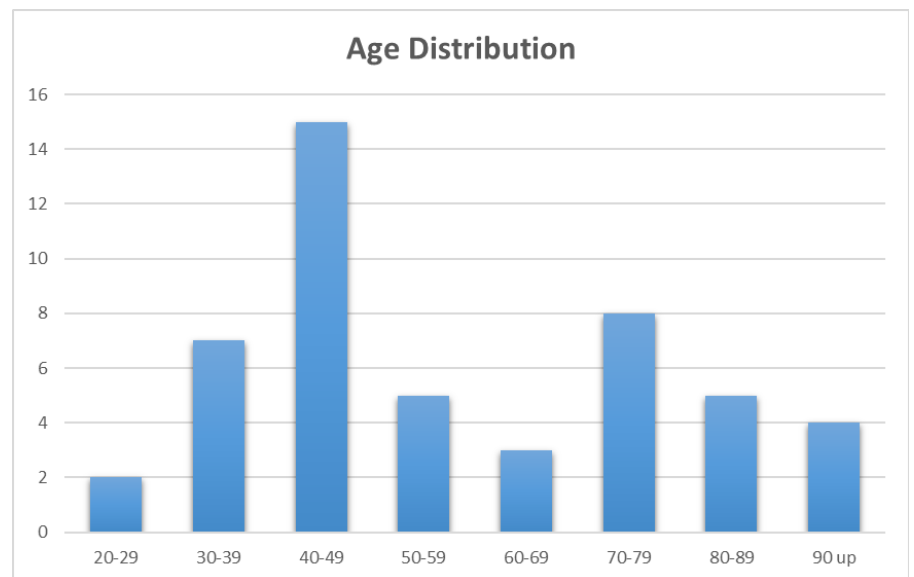
MAIN APOSTOLIC ORIENTATIONS

- Faith formation, education, ministry to the marginalized and accompaniment of young people: Centre de Foi et de Culture de Montmartre in Quebec, parish and sanctuary of Sainte-Anne in Fiskdale, three parishes in Mexico, two of which - San Andres in Mexico City and Tlilpan in the diocese of Veracruz
- minister to disadvantaged and/or indigenous populations.
- Education: Assumption University and a new partnership with an Augustinian high school (Austin Preparatory school).
- Resident program in Brighton
- Foundation in El Paso

In 2020, a small parish dedicated to Francis Xavier, located on the border between the United States and Mexico, was entrusted to us. With the help of volunteers, it has welcomed up to 40 migrants a day in the accommodation center set up for this purpose.

CONCERNS

- Clarify the status of our presence in Quebec, which the Congregation is committed to maintaining.



- Clarify the mission in El Paso to express the different aspects of our charism.
- Train leaders capable of taking over from us.
- Giving priority to formation
- Refound vocations ministry
- Reflect on the «culture shocks» and divisions within local churches.
- Strengthen links with other English-speaking parts of the Congregation in East Africa and the Philippines, and more actively explore links with Vietnam.
- Determine the structures within the Province that best respond to its mission.
- Winning the battle against individualism and gentrification by reanimating our communities in the service of mission.

Patricia Haggerty, a member of the North American tandem, gave a succinct overview of the Lay-Religious Alliance in the Province: its structures, apostolates, challenges and goals for lay Assumptionists in Canada, the United States and Mexico, emphasizing the importance of being «missionary disciples». In her conclusion, Patricia quoted Letter No. 9 of the Superior General (to religious and lay Assumptionists concerning the Alliance): «The Alliance is a love story...».

Impressions

FROM FATHER NICOLAS POTTEAU



«Almost half of the brothers in the North American Province come from other places in the Congregation, and probably more if we consider the active religious. The Province could not survive without them. This example shows us that interdependence between the Provinces is necessary for the life of the Congregation.»

