

Hiking in the foothills of the Alps near the Center

Recently the Assumptionists assumed responsibility for the "Chalet des forêts" ("Cottage in the Woods") near Lake Léman, nestled in the mountains not far from Lyon, in Haute Savoie (France). Young Assumptionists act as chaplains there organizing activities for young people from throughout the country and the world.

The Chalet des Forêts is a recreation/vacation center for children and young adults founded in 1921 by Fr. Raphanel, pastor of St. Bonaventure's in Lyon. At that time he acquired an old hotel located in Haute-Savoie where he could bring young people from his parish.

After his death, priests from Lyon took up the baton until 1962 when the Chalet was furthered developed under the renowned Fr. Babolat of Chartreux who placed the activities under the permanent leadership of a lay director.

Two additional buildings were put up in the 70s to allow for larger groups to come and participate in the center's activities which aim at providing young people a healthy mix of outdoor fun and inner Christian formation. Not far from Lake Léman, located at nearly 3,000 feet

in the foothills of the Alps, the center offers activities including hiking, swimming, white-water rafting, rock climbing, nature walks, plenty of fun and games, not to mention opportunities to sleep under the stars.

A video presenting the Center and its activities

The family spirit that marks the life of the Chalet, an enduring characteristic of the Assumptionists, encourages the young people who come to learn a sense of responsibility and independence within the context of a clear educational vision.

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he Christian foundation that envelops the entire enterprise is visibly reflected in the presence of a chapel, but also by the presence of young Assumptionists who act as chaplains during the time young people are around. Not only do they provide evening prayer services every day, but also join in many of the regular activities of the Center. Sunday Mass is celebrated either at the Chalet or at the local parish church of Boëge.

At the current time, the Chalet is under the pastoral direction of Fr. Arnaud Alibert, A.A., recently appointed by his provincial, Fr. Benoît Gschwind, A.A..

In addition to vacation stays that the Center organizes both in summer and winter, the

Chalet des Forêts is open for use by schools or youth groups who are interested in participating in the programs of the Center or in using the Center within the context of its mission.

Contact info:

Chalet des Forêts
Valpré 1 chemin de Chalin
69130 Ecully
FRANCE

Tel 06 88 49 83 06 or 04 78 39 98 97