

THE NUMBER: 10
Messages for the General Chapter were presented on Tuesday by the Messages commission, as well as the commentaries added by the commission, which is presided by Father Benoit Gschwind.

THE WORD: Education
The assembly started studying the text on the Assumptionnists' involvement in education that was presented by Father Jean-Paul SAGADOU (Province of Europe). As a moment of re-foundation.

Info
33rd General Chapter of the Assumptionists
April 28 - May 17, 2017

Day 12. 9 May 2017

THE ESSENTIAL
Father Benoït Grière reelected as Superior General



A solemn moment this Tuesday morning with the election of the person who will guide the congregation during the next six years. Father Benoit Griere, superior General and, consequently, the president of the Chapter was in charge of the animation of this time of the election.

Before the election there was a prayer during which a hymn was sung calling on the Holy Spirit to come over the chapter members and over the person who will be elected to become the 10th successor to Father d'Alzon at the head of the congregation.



The passage of the Gospel of Saint Marc (10:32-45) that insists on service was proclaimed in the three official languages of the congregation. After that the chapter members cast their vote by writing the name of the person who they think is best suited for being the superior General.

Thus Father Benoit Griere was reelected as the superior General. Father Richard Lamoureux then asked Father Benoit if he accepted the call of the 33rd General Chapter of the congregation.

Reactions from the Chapter members:

Brother Milad Yacoub (Province of Europe)



"We have a General, let's give him a plan to enact."

"The predictions didn't leave any room for a surprise. I knew that Father Benoit was very likely to be reelected. But still, the election was a grand and solemn experience. The invocation of the Holy Spirit before casting the votes was an authentic prayer. The moment is touching. Each vote cast is both a democratic act and a spiritual gesture offering God the next six years. And after the results are read, it was another big brother who took the floor, Father Richard Lamoureux, asking the question: "Do you accept?" After this question and the positive answer, it's a call of the assembly that echoes the freedom of the brother who accepted his election. General accepts the responsibility for the service of the whole body. The Assumption rejoices. We have a general, now let's give him a plan to enact and a team to work with him. So right away it's back to work!"



Father Antigon BAHATI. (Province of Africa)

"As for the election of the superior General, I love and appreciate the trust that Assumptionists have in him. We hold in high esteem the work he has done and we want him to continue and bring new ideas on how we can live and expand our spiritual gifts. He is courageous. The election was fair and respected everyone's freedom. The Spirit guided us and he will continue to guide us. May God grant our General the strength and the courage that he needs!"



Father Benard ODHIAMBO. (Kenya.Province of Africa)

"The election of Father Benoit as superior General was indeed a work of the Spirit. It is a sign that the Spirit was with us… It is interesting to note the trust that brothers have in our General, and what expectations they have of him. I expressed everyone's joy for the work that has been done and that needs to be continued.

During our discussions I discovered that before thinking about reforming the structures of the congregation, one has to start by reforming one-self and one's mentality. It is only in this way that we will be able to become better missionaries and better prepared for the missions to which we have been called."

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WORDS

Mission: These are the places where, as a matter of priority we invest our human and financial resources. We will not create many new ones in the next six years, said the concerned committee on Wednesday.

OGS-CGP: 2 appellations that structure the organization and animation of the congregation: the CGO, ordinary general council and the CGP, general plenary council, set up during the previous chapter. The CGP has become a governing body based on co-responsibility and interdependence. It meets twice a year.



Info
33rd General Chapter of the Assumptionists
April 28 - May 17, 2017

Day 13 | Wednesday, May 10, 2017

THE ESSENTIAL: On the way to the future, with audacity



A theme around the Charism emerges, that of unity. A horizon mobilizes: reform and build an Assumptionist future, under the sign of the new wine.

The exercise is not obvious: that of projecting itself for the years to come. It has to take into account the common good; beyond known circles, and avoiding resorting to the recipes of yesteryear. The Chapter leans to exercise in all fields. It swings from the government of the Congregation to its financial and economic life.

First, on Wednesday, the Assembly took the time to mark the event of the previous day: the re-election of the superior general, Fr. Benoit Grière.

Here is the statement he made at the beginning of the work: "I would like to express my appreciation for the renewed confidence you have shown in entrusting me with a new mandate of 6 years. I am well aware that I am not a brother without shortcomings or defects. I give myself up to the grace of God so that He may make me a good instrument of his will in the service of the congregation and of the Church. But once the choice has been made, we must move forward together to meet the major challenges ahead. You know that I like St. Augustine's reflection: "It is better for a lame man on the road than a runner out of the way." The lame, it is I, it is we, it is the man who recognizes himself sinner and limited. He advances cahin-caha, but he's on the way. And we know, the way, the truth, the life, it is Jesus Christ. The road we have to take together is the Gospel, good news for today. We have no other way to look for than this one. The path, like that of Emmaus, is an itinerary that one frequents with several. I know that it is with brothers, religious and lay people that I will continue to advance

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