Word: VICARIATE
Proposal of the Constitution Committee: a vicariate consists of a minimum of three communities. The decision to open a vicariate rests with the Superior General with the advice of the General plenary Council.

THE QUOTE:
Fr. d'Alzon: "Blessed are the communities where the inferiors help the superiors to bring life, by a certain enthusiasm which brings the joy of the fathers to the sons, so that obedience is joyful and sweet, because the commandment is joyful and benevolent "(28th meditation, ES 550).

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

Day 19 | 16 May 2017

THE ESSENTIAL: «Say 33!»



© Didier Remiot

The group photo (unfortunately incomplete !) allowed the chapter members to retire to the countryside to recuperate. This Tuesday the chapter was held in the Valpré meadow.

When we go to the doctor, he can ask us to say the number 33. It is for a medical reason that he makes this request to us. When it is said 33, it is a question of evaluating the transmission of the vibrations in the lungs and thus detects any zones where they are not transmitted. In their turn, at the end of their three weeks of work for the 33rd General Chapter of the Assumptionists, capitulates were able to ensure that the entire body breathes well with both lungs and irrigates the brain. For this purpose, the diagnoses shared by the Assembly and the common prescriptions developed, walked step by step, gave a state of the good health of the Congregation.

Tuesday was devoted to the adoption - often unanimously - of all the eleven capitulate texts with official status prepared by the Commissions, then reviewed and amended, and the six animated texts. It was done in regular rhyme of coming and going between small groups and Assemblies. The votes were accompanied by plaudits. With the lead, the vote on the Charism, considered the keystone of the talk, fruit of this New Wine at the source of the theme of the 33rd Chapter. It was said that "the religious life shared in the

The last day of the 33rd General Chapter - PDF file

Assumption is called to be like the burning bush that prompted Moses "to see this strange spectacle"(Ex 3:3). Fire is the fire of God, which the Assumptionist community and the laity who share in its commitment maintain with the wood of their faith, their joy, their virtues; we like the risk that this fire spreads in our societies.

The list of texts subsequently adopted, based on this foundation, has been clarified. First of all, with the apostolic axes (new ones): formation-internationality-inter-culturality, youth and vocations, education, Lay-religious alliance, our property, resources, management, community organization, statutes. And then in documents presented as animated texts mainly from the sequences of world coffee: mobilizing works, Justice and peace, new foundations, Eastern Mission, postulation and parishes.

Finally, the Chapter learned of three messages sent for the end of the work: to lay brothers and friends, to the sisters of the Assumption family and to our elder brothers. Good bread for the next six years. In addition, the Antoni-Greiner motion encouraging the Superior General to study the possibility of other forms of community organization than that of the provinces was adopted.

Capitulates prepared themselves for dispersal. They gradually left Valpré, with briefcases full of documents.

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Fr. Edouard Shatov. He is 44 years old. Quebec, Canada

Every day I try to follow the General Chapter because I could not physically go. Beyond this disappointment, I have to say that the communication group is doing an excellent job of making me aware of what is happening even though there is always room for improvement. For my part, I am very happy with the election of Father Benoît Grière as the Superior General and the team of assistants. It is a work of the Spirit: always surprising and happy! Now when the chapter approaches its end, I look forward to the documents reflecting its reflection (Even if I miss the face-to-face discussions on the spot that nothing replaces); In particular on the subjects of our identity in the world today, the place of education, internationality, formation, vocation and the Lay-Religious Alliance. Let us taste the new wine of the Good News of the Lord, of his Love for the world today!



© Benoît Gschwind

Portrait of Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, cathedral of Nîmes, Venelin, 2005



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Excerpts from the final intervention of Superior General Benoît Grière.

"Three words caught my attention at the very beginning of our work: conversion, reform and reorganization.

Conversion is the personal and communal ambition that we can change and place ourselves under the breath of the Spirit. The ambition is strong, but it is necessary. I would even say that it is urgent to live it if we do not want to sink into insignificance. Our world needs witnesses, men and women completely given to the cause of the gospel. Fragile beings, but who advance in the hope that God will never abandon them. Our world is divided, but it awaits us because we are - despite doubts, unbelief and indifference - proof that God continues to act in our history. Conversion is the ability to make new ones by drawing on the riches of the ancient treasure.

Reform is the business of the whole Church. The Assumption wants to participate in this mobilization demanded by Pope Francis so that our community is always more welcoming, more fraternal, more generous and solidary, especially of the poor and the little ones. Reform means accepting to go into the existential peripheries to carry the "Good News" to all those whom God loves. So it starts with community reform. We cannot be apostles without being already a fully incarnated actor in the Assumptionist community. Reform means living the Rule of life sine glosa, without attenuating or weakening its original force. Let us return to our Rule to live it in fullness. Beyond national or cultural differences, the Rule is the heart of our commitment; it is our way of living the Gospel. To dispense with it is to be unfaithful.

Reform is also the reflection on **community reorganization**. We need new wineskins for ourselves but to be able to quench the thirst of our contemporaries. We struggle; we suffer because our structural models are necessarily imperfect and transient. The "dynamic of the temporary" dear to Brother Roger de Taizé, will be for many years our reality of congregation. Even, as I understand it, we have to make sure we have a real dynamic so that we do not just live from day to day. Let us not forget that in Greek "dunamis", it is also an attribution of the Holy Spirit. The Church knows that it is in a phase of rapid upheaval and that adaptation is necessary. Our work on reorganization is flawed, but it has highlighted the principle at the heart of our thinking. We want an Assumption where everyone can feel that they belong to an international and missionary body. A multicultural assumption that recognizes in each cultures its own richness and fertility, but does not favour one at the expense of another. It is a prophetic Assumption because it surpasses the divisions of Babel to regain the strength of the breath of Pentecost. Have we been prophets? I cannot answer this question because it is the time, the duration that will allow us to check if we have taken the right road. But prophecy is already fidelity to our vocation, our response to the call of God in our lives. For this reason; it is neither mediocrity nor compromise, but a life conforming to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The prophecy of the Assumption is also the audacity with which we respond to the needs of our world. It is not necessary to have everything to advance towards the poorest, to those who hunger and thirst for justice and peace. It takes faith. Too often we are timid, lukewarm because we feel that we are not ready to act; now, charity does not wait. It is urgent to engage ourselves body and soul.

The Assumption is an apostolic body which as Christ asks us has been sent to the ends of the earth to carry the Good News to the poor. We are resolutely "envoys", missionaries, men invested by God to fulfil a task in the world. We are called upon to break down boundaries, whether linguistic, cultural, social or ideological. We are not adherents of a political party or followers of a philosophy; we are the disciples of Jesus Christ. We are called to follow him every day of our lives.

Basically, we are religious, consecrated, men of God. The heart of our Charism is expressed by the free choice of "sequella Christi". It is true that we are not a "society of priests" or a "missionary institute". We are a congregation called the Augustinians of the Assumption. We are structured by the religious vows ... /...

"We have revisited the apostolic axes of the congregation. We have probably better perceived the importance of our role as ***educator*** and the need to be present in academic and academic institutions. We are going to freshly invest this apostolic field to contribute to the formation of men and women, citizens of the world, responsible and solidarity with humanity and the weakest in particular. But education takes place in many places: our parishes, our media, the families we accompany, the movements we frame, and so on.

We also said that the ***world of youth*** was a call for us. The Assumptionist must give priority to youth in order to live with her a strong experience of the transmission of hope. Faced with the disillusioned of all kinds, the Assumptionist rich in his faith wants to live the proximity with all searchers of meaning. For us ***vocations*** are a great cause. Not out of egoism, but out of conviction that the Assumptionist religious life makes sense and makes man happy. We are happy because we contribute in the religious life to reconcile man with himself, with his brothers, with creation and with God.

The ***Lay-Religious Alliance*** is a strong focus of our commitment to the Kingdom. We are not defenders of the clerical institution, we are promoters of brotherhood. The Church is the community of brothers and sisters, equal in dignity, but diverse in function, who are all called to holiness. Companionship with the laity is necessary for us to be truly Catholic. The laity is our partners for the mission and they are also a reminder of the complementarity of vocations in the Church. I wish that each of us be with the laity that we frequent the ambassador of this chapter where we have clearly affirmed our alliance. We must move on to higher gear and encourage the development of the Assumptionist laity around the world.

The Assumption is an international body. We have encouraged "border crossings" by making an act of lucidity. If we want to continue our missions, consolidate the weakest and create new realities, it is necessary to be available to be sent away from his homeland. Very quickly, none of the great works of the congregation, except those located in Africa and Asia, can continue their activity without the contribution of the brothers of the young provinces. We will no longer have educators in Worcester, journalists at Bayard, ecumenists on an Eastern mission, if brothers are not trained and sent for this mission.

Perhaps we are frustrated at not having given a hierarchy, a priority for our great apostolic orientations? In fact, we must forcefully affirm that we have confirmed our traditional commitments by being careful to locate them in response to the world's calls. The issue of migrants, the question of new poverty, and the defence of creation, were raised and included in the various texts. We have the mobilizing works that have been confirmed. We remain firmly committed to this by preparing young religious and naming them in these fields of activity. Yes, there is no hierarchy because the Assumption has always been versatile in these apostolic choices. Very early on, we accompanied the sisters of the family, we invested specialized studies, we were sent around the world, we were teachers, parish priests, journalists and writers, sailors or chaplain, etc.

So what is my ambition for the next six years? Above all, it is a question of implementing the decisions of the chapter.

We will have to work hard on the ***new organization.*** The C.G.P. will be the preferred forum for co-responsibility and mutualisation. We will also have the concern to promote the ***integral formation*** of the new Assumptionists. It will be a formation that will give zeal, daring and courage to fight for the Kingdom. We do not want warm, sleepy men.

I will endeavour to encourage ***specialized studies*** to give back to our religious family. The Assumption has an intellectual potential that it must develop, especially in the ecclesiastical disciplines. Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue will have a special place. This is because the work for the unit is an emergency. We will work on Emmanuel d'Alzon's passion for training young people. ***Education*** will be a strong focus. We will deploy it in our schools and in all our apostolates and works. The Assumption will continue to found, especially in the regions where we will be called, including in the first evangelistic positions.

I will be careful to allow the ***development of Africa and Asia*** at the Assumption. Continents immense and contrasted, we have a card to play to make live the religious life.

I will not forget the ancient provinces of Europe, North and South America and the Eastern Mission. We will take the time to establish a missionary plan for these old countries where faith has been vigorous and demands that the embers be revived somewhat stifled.

Dear Brothers, we are called to be "new skins". This requires a considerable amount of work on oneself because we have to make room for God in our lives. We are adventurers of the Kingdom. Emmanuel d'Alzon is our inspiration. We are his sons and we will continue his work with the same zeal as he. "

On the agenda of Wednesday:

votes of the last texts to adopt (community organization, statutes), messages of the Chapter, evaluation of our work and closing ceremony. The final Eucharist will be celebrated at 11.30 am, followed by an aperitif and a meal that the general treasurer announces "improved"!

END. Rendez-vous for the 34th Chapter in 2023.

On good voices
Echoes of capitulates


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P.Emmanuel Kahindo Kihugho. 52 years.
12 years in Rome! Back on years of thanksgiving!

Many brothers ask me what marked me during these 12 years in the eternal city, Rome. A time of thanksgiving! Thanksgiving for my brothers whom I learned to discover as a gift from God to our Congregation and the Church to witness the longing of the latter to see brothers live together as in a family. Wherever I have been, it is rare that I have felt strange. I wept with joy; I was moved every time brothers, including elders, welcomed me and confided in me, an African, to share with me what they were living...

Thanksgiving to the Lord for the vocations that God continues to give to our Congregation. They are certainly a challenge in that they reach 90% of the southern hemisphere. They are at the same time a sign that the Spirit blows when, as, where it wants (Jn. 3: 8). Yes, there is a call for a change of mentality, a realization that the centre of gravity is changing and that henceforth no decision can be taken without taking into account this new face of the Congregation. Thanksgiving, for many events took place at the heart of the Church during these 12 years. I am thinking in particular of the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. The world was shaken by the news that sounded like an earthquake. I read an appeal to humility, to letting go, when God calls us. There was also the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life and the Jubilee Year of Mercy. I heard in these events a voice that tells us our main mission in this 21st century! Consecrated, aside, our communities are called to be an oasis of Mercy, God's Compassion in the wilderness of our brothers and sisters' lives! Yes thanksgiving because during my visits I saw communities-oases in our Congregation.

Thanksgiving for the solidarity I witnessed in my Congregation. This is solidarity in financial resources for the formation of our brothers and some social works. It is also solidarity especially in human resources for our missions in some "more fragile" provinces.
Let me end with a confession of faith. I also experienced moments of spiritual desert, especially in certain desperate situations. I think of the lack of vocations in certain parts of the Congregation, the abduction of our brothers and the assassination of our Father Vincent Machozi in DR Congo. How many times have I not prayed but with the impression that God had not listened to me...

But make sure I leave happy! Brothers ask me what I want to become the next few days. The answer is simple. What I have been trying to be these 12 years: being a brother with my brothers where the Spirit will send me.


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Joseph De Lombaerde Lay person who participated in the first week of the Chapter's work.

"What struck me most of all was that the openness towards the laity increased a lot, it was a great pleasure. A second thing is the great number of challenges for the congregation, but also the importance of the reform, faithful to the ideas of Father d'Alzon. The desire to join the origins: the importance of life in community, the fundamental place of education in the congregation.

LANDMARKS

The challenges of a trainer in Africa



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Fr. Yves NZUVA KAGHOMA, 45, is responsible for training in the Province of Africa.

The training of young religious and their accompaniment are among the priority orientations of the Assumption mission on the African continent. Those of us who are committed to this responsibility know from experience that training is a demanding task.

My journey begins in 2008. I was first at the novitiate Kizito House in Arusha as a novice master and then as the responsible of formation for the whole province of Africa since September 2014. This experience enabled me to understand that the ground we work, and shape, is sacred. "Forming Jesus in the soul of the young" is not a human undertaking. It is Jesus Himself who is the Trainer par excellence. We are simple instruments in the hands of God, in charge of each one to see his love and his imprint.

The reality of formation in the province of Africa is complex: from the postulate to the first five years of priestly ordination 238 young people are concerned, among whom are 34 postulants; 31 novices, 120 professed, 14 deacons and 39 priests ordained less than 5 years. These young people are divided into three regions: East Africa, East DR Congo and Kinshasa. We have two international communities of formation in theology: Emmanuel House in Nairobi and Emmanuel d'Alzon in Kinshasa. This reality presents a number of challenges: the large number of young people in training, the limited number of trainers (30 formatters living in 9 formation communities), cultural diversity, the socio-political context especially in eastern DR Congo Where insecurity and concern for economic resources prevail.

To illustrate the current cultural diversity, here is the distribution of young people in formation according to their provinces or regions of origin: Kinshasa region (western DR Congo and Congo Brazza): 7 postulants, 4 novices, 18 professed, 3 deacons and 5 Priests ordained for less than 5 years. East Africa Region (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda): 5 postulants, 9 novices, 18 professed, 1 diacre, 3 priests. Eastern Region of the DR Congo (Bukavu, Butembo-Beni, Bunia, Wamba, Isiro, Kisangani): 22 postulants, 18 novices, 68 professed, 10 deacons, 31 priests. Province of Europe (Benin, Togo, and Ouagadougou): 12 professed. Province of Madagascar: 4 professed.

Without solidarity the province of Africa would be unable to ensure good living conditions for our communities of formation. During his last visit to the Province of Africa; Br. Didier, general treasurer, estimated the cost of training a religious in Africa (from the postulate to ordination) to $ 50,000. This brief description reveals that vocations are developing in Africa. Our primary mission as a trainer is to prepare for the Assumption and for the world, religious devoted to Christ and to Humanity.

I sincerely thank our formatters on your behalf. I also welcome the presence of Fr. Michel Jary, Vincent Leclecq and Gilles Blouin who have come to reinforce our training teams. We cannot forget the immense work of the CGO, the CGP, the CIF and the Provincial for the animation and accompaniment of this sector of the Assumption mission. I cannot pass over in silence the financial participation of the lay of the Alliance and of our apostolic works (ISEAB, the Mahamba Institute and certain parishes). This is another step in the direction of co-responsibility within the province.