

In 1900, when the Assumptionists were expelled from France by an anticlerical French regime, together with most other religious orders, almost half of the congregation moved to Turkey. At that time there were 200 Assumptionists in Turkey (including students) and 150 Oblate Sisters of the Assumption. The Assumptionists were responsible for 17 places of worship (both Latin and Eastern rite, and mixed parishes).They oversaw 14 elementary schools and high schools (1200 students) and were in charge of two seminaries. In almost all of these places there were Oblates as well who themselves ran 12 elementary schools and high schools (1350 students), 10 dispensaries and 2 hospitals.

The first community was founded in 1868 in Andrinopolis/Edirne. Materially speaking life in Turkey was difficult and inter-faith relations were rarely peaceful. The Assumptionists, considered to be spirited and independent, were not always well received everywhere and at times met with severe opposition: houses and churches burned, a community blockaded, and one religious imprisoned and later liberated by the French army. Reports sent to Rome by apostolic delegates and bishops were not always favorable to them. On the other hand, there seems to always have been good relations among the students of our schools from diverse faith backgrounds. Religious engaged in much appreciated scholarly work on the Eastern Churches and collaborated actively with other Catholics of the Eastern rites (Armenians, Melkites, Greeks,, etc.). Not to be overlooked was the outstanding social work provided by the Oblate Sisters, who were always close to the poor. Many of these religious, men and women, were adventurous and full of initiative...



Zonguldak



Konya



Doctors and Oblate Sister nurses during the War of the Balkans 1912-1913



St. Louis Hospital in Andrinopolis, run by the Oblates



Catholic Soldiers of thee Turkish army celebrating Easter in the St.Helena boarding school of the Oblates in Andrinopolis



Phanaraki



Assumptionist Bishop of Istanbul, Most Rev. Louis Antoine Delâtre, is currently an [liturgical prayer. The original can be found at http://www.assomption-orie](http://www.assomption-orie)