

During the quarter century (1978-2005) when Karol Wojtyla was Pope, the Assumption held four General Chapters (1981, 1987, 1993, 1999). The first of these was marked by an event that had repercussions all over the world: the attempted assassination of the Pope on 13 May 1981.

The audience, during which the capitulants were to be received by the Holy Father, was thus cancelled.·In a telegram sent on 16 May 1981, Fr. Hervé Stephan, Superior General at the time, wrote:· *"Dear Holy Father, the members of the Assumptionist General Chapter…were looking forward to the great moment when they would be received in audience.·We have been deeply disturbed by the attempt on your life.·We join everyone in the Church in praying for your intention.*

On the 6th of June, the Superior General received a letter from the Secretariat of State: *"The Holy Father has asked me to thank all of the communities in the Church who joined together in prayer. From this he hopes for a new grace of unity and of deepened faith, and asks for these gifts especially for your Institute at this time when the Chapter has re-elected you as Superior General."*




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