

MADRID, 23-27 SEPTEMBER 2013

PRESENT: Marcelo Marcial, Jimena Garcia, Francisco (Paco) Rentero, Claude Grenache
Not able to attend: Marie-Claire Rouquet, Silvan

OVERVIEW OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE CONGREGATION

Clearly the Province of Africa outnumbers all the others with over 300 Lay Assumptionists. All the groups are accompanied by a Religious. There is a great deal of diversity in these groups. In accordance with the General Chapter #72, they have petitioned to be recognized officially as a Society of lay people and presented us with a seven page document containing a proposal for the Statutes of the Association. Unfortunately, Silvan received his Visa too late and was unable to attend the meeting.

The Province of France continues to be very successful with a few added recently to the number of “professed” members. Here again, the absence of Marie-Claire who could not leave her ailing mother, did not allow us to receive more information.

Jimena assured us that the Alliance in the Province of Chile-Argentina is flourishing with several groups most of them attached either to our Parishes or Schools. There are groups in Columbia and Ecuador as well. The Religious are very much involved in these groups and serve as spiritual guides especially for formation.



I gave a detailed description of the Alliance in our Province starting with Quebec and moving south.

I've left Spain for last because I want to give a more detailed description of what I saw and heard. The Assumpotionists staff three parishes in Madrid. The Alliance is active in all three as well as in one other that is staffed by diocesan priests. On Wednesday we were invited to dinner in the home of one of the families and on Friday evening about 30 came to the Assumptionist house in Leganes where we were staying, for their regular monthly meeting. This was clearly a very lively, joyful and committed group. Fr. Marcelo used this occasion to make a passionate appeal for a solid formation program rooted in the Assumptionist charism and spirituality. He invited the lay Assumptionists to pursue their present goals and always remain aware of the needs of justice and peace. It was a real pleasure to witness the

commitment of these Lay Assumptionists.

I must mot neglect to mention the group in Almeria, the southernmost part of the Iberian Peninsula, where the Assumptionists worked for several years and established a well prepared Alliance before they needed to leave. The group continues to flourish and has a ministry to prisoners and the "Ladies of the Night". Paco and his wife, Maria-Luisa, have done a marvelous job keeping this group together.

FORMATION

There are a number of documents available for the formation of the Lay Assumptionists. However, we do not yet have a formal formation program for the members of the Alliance. Such a program would need to respect the great diversity of the Alliance groups in the Congregation and be available in the various languages.





