



This past September 29, on the feast of the archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, the Province of Madagascar welcomed nine new members who made their first vows, Armain RAKOTONOMENJANAHARY, Rantovolanandriana RAKOTOMALALA, Sambevoatse Jean Félix TONGASOA, Justin RAKOTONIAINA, Falimanana Elisé RAZAFIARISOA, Jean Patrick RANDRIANARIMALALA, Simon Jean Richard RAFANOMEZANTSOA, Julien RAZANAJATOVO and Mahonjo Laurent SOANANAMBINA (not pictured below, because he professed his vows later for health reasons). At the same time four others began their novitiate: Jean Pierrot, Nathanaël, Orlando and Denis, under the able guidance of a new novice-master, Fr. Lucien Telolahy.

In recent years the Assumptionists in Madagascar have seen the results of a reinvigorated vocation outreach program. Twenty young men are currently in the pre-novitiate program.

The Assumptionists in Madagascar are heavily present in the Diocese of Tulear (Toliara) in the southwestern corner of the country, where they were given primary responsibility when it was created as a diocese in the early 1950's. The southern part of this island nation is only 10% Christian, while 90% still practice native religions. The Assumptionists run numerous parishes and are involved in prison, hospital, and university chaplaincies. They run a catechetical formation center in Tulear and most impressively oversee a vast network of outstation schools that includes a high school and 40 grammar schools in the bush country. The Province also maintains formation communities in the capital, Antananarivo, and in the city of Fianarantsoa.

