



AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION
North American Province & Philippines
Provincial Chapter of Implementation
25 July – 1st August 2017

News Notes July 31, 2017



From left to right: Fr. Marcel, Ing, Edward and Sibugan

The Montmartre, Quebec, Canada, delegates organized the morning liturgy for July 31, 2017. The main celebrant, Father Edward Shtov, made his reflections from the reading from the Book of Exodus. He spoke of the technical aspect of our Chapter—when we work to create, review and adopt documents. Later, he made a connection to Jesus using parables from the Gospel of Matthew, about the faith growing from the mustard seed and becoming a large plant. This denotes an adaptive change during the work of the chapter—when we allow our internal conversion to implement changes in our lives.

The morning Session included many topics. We heard about the Apostolic Priorities from Mexico, which highlighted promotion of the faith in parishes, evangelizations, pastoral ministry and formation in collaboration with lay. The collaboration in the new project with Mexico and the United States was also mentioned as a priority.

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The Filipino representation shared a statement on the collaboration with the Province of North America. After an 11 year history together, there will remain a connection of collaboration between the two in areas of mobilizing works, mission coop and Lay Alliance.

There was a presentation by Fr. Alex Castro and an open forum discussion on the results of the Formation Working Group. A Provincial Director of Formation will be named and have a clear job description. Fr. Richard Lamoureux presented a first draft of the task of Director of Formation. A close collaboration with the vocational office and the lay alliance is foreseen. There will be a stronger effort to form leaders, formators and ongoing formation of religious utilizing other Provinces and on outside programs.

Father Ronald Sibugan presented a fresh look at the Vocations and Youth Ministry with some concrete ideas to be implemented this coming year. Some of the recommendations included: opening a new community; furthering a strong international volunteer program; and cooperation with the participants of Mission Coop from outside of the USA.

A further discussion on the proposal regarding the finances of the Province followed. Fr. Alex Castro shared his consolidation of the text to be included in the Acts of the Chapter. Aspects of importance were: formation of common goods, coordination of Mission Coop program to include participants of "daughter communities" (members from Philippines, Congo, Kenya, Mexico and maybe some others), regular review of accounts which includes budgeting and reporting, review and usage of the properties in the context of our mission.



Prayer time

During the productive morning, the group was also able to review the last version of the document on Living and Working in International Communities led by Patricia Haggerty. At the afternoon session, the group received the proposal from the Lay-Religious Alliance and discussed new initiatives and regulations to animate more actively the role of the Lay Assumptionists in the Province. Today's work moved along with great efficiency. We were presented with the final acts of the Chapter for votes.

Once again, because of the limited time left to complete the Chapter by tomorrow noon, everyone had to work hard and productively. We participated in an evening session, after supper, to finish the elections of all the members of the new Council of the Province. Those involved in the steering and statutes committees had to work during the break times and in the evenings. They should receive recognition for their extraordinary work and dedication to make this Chapter successful.

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Tomasz Jaster

The last day of the Provincial Chapter of Application (in August 1st, 2017)



The last day of our Chapter had a special schedule: morning prayer at 8:00 am followed by breakfast. At 9:30 am, we resumed work. The moderator for the morning, Father Peter Precourt, invited us to offer to the Lord all the works of this day. Following our prayer, Peter went over the plan for the day:

A) Vote of the pastoral plan and the priorities of the province, as well as Statutes of the Province. After review, debate and deliberation, both texts were unanimously voted.

B) Presentation of the revised document of The Lay-Religious Alliance ; the presentation of revisions on Vocation and Youth Ministry, as well as Collaboration with the Philippines. The document on the Special Powers of the Provincial Superior was read and discussed.

After a short break, votes were taken on Lay-Religious Alliance ; Vocation and Youth Ministry ; Collaboration with the Philippines; and Special Powers of the Provincial Superior. After some amendments were noted, all these texts were voted on and approved unanimously, to the great satisfaction of all.

Finally, Fr. Dennis Gallagher, our new Provincial Superior, concluded with a few remarks of thanks. He expressed special gratitude to the religious of Mexico City for their warm reception and organization of the chapter. He also thanked those who were involved in the various committees. A special thanks was given to father Bernard Holzer, promoter of the Provincial Chapter, for the vigor



he brought to the Chapter. Additionally, the translators, the secretaries, and the communication team, as well as all those who contributed to the success of the conference, were all thanked.

Some participants also expressed their gratitude for the success of the works of this Provincial Chapter of Application. Others, who were first-time visitors to Mexico, expressed their thanks for the wonderful time they experienced in this special environment.



Father Flavio Bustos gave some information about the journey of capitulants toward ORIZABA, where we will celebrate the new parish of Tlalapan on Wednesday.

Father Provincial, being inspired by Acts of the Apostles (Acts: 3, 6), concluded our works of the Provincial Chapter, with a reading of that passage. He encouraged us to be real apostles of God's Reign who make of Jesus Christ the source of our apostolic energy for the good of the world. In conclusion, the works of the Provincial Chapter of Application of the Province of North America ended on a note of great satisfaction!

During the Eucharist, which terminated the Chapter, a special intention was made for Silvia Cavadini, a Lay Assumptionist of the Andean Province who is seriously ill. We included in our petitions all those in the Assumption family. Praise be to God for such a rich experience for all. This ends the series of News Notes of this Chapter. We hope these notes have allowed you to be in communion with us.

Sébastien Bangandu, a.a.