



Eleven juniors from St. John's Prep in Danvers, a Xaverian High School, visited the Assumptionist Center recently as part of a three-day immersion program of serving at several social service sites and visiting spiritual life centers.

The boys, accompanied by two teachers, arrived in time for evening prayer and shared in the community dinner which was followed by a discussion with the religious, residents and a few staff members. They heard about the congregation's history and way of life as religious brothers and priests.

After a brief introduction by Andrew Mercado, our Coordinator of Vocations, a few Assumptionists mentioned what it was about the congregation that brought them the most joy in their lives. One highlighted his gratitude that the congregation allowed its members to develop their gifts for the Kingdom. Another found his primary joy by living in community with his brothers in light of the gospel and the spirit of St. Augustine. Several residents and staff

members shared their experiences of warmth acceptance and hospitality as members of the Assumption family.



The students' questions focused on the clarification of Assumption's mission, the charism of Fr. d'Alzon, the congregation's early history and growth, the daily life of its members, the steps involved in the process of becoming an Assumptionist and the vows. The evening ended with a brief prayer for continued blessings as they continue discerning their future.