

# PROVINCIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Last Updated Wednesday, 23 December 2020 15:02

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# *A Christmas Message*

FR. DENNIS GALLAGHER, PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR OF THE NORTH AMERICAN  
AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION

As we move toward the end of our Jubilee year, celebrating 175 years of history, God's mysterious designs impress themselves upon us. So many planned events had to be cancelled, or postponed, or transferred to a virtual platform. It may sound hyperbolic to say that our Jubilee was run over by a train, but it's not far from the truth, even if we tried to make the best of it. Still, we are not without its graces.

Chief among them is to have pitched our tent in a new foundation, in unpropitious of circumstances, at the border of the United States and Mexico. The Church entrusted to us by Bishop Seitz in the diocese of El Paso stands adjacent to the bridge connecting El Paso with its sister city of Juarez, and it's hard to imagine a better location for the mission of our new religious community, which is to offer a pastoral response to the human and spiritual needs of migrants at the border. Southwest Texas has been one of the places hardest hit by Covid-19, so Fr. Peter and Fr. Ron have been forced to proceed slowly to "set up shop" in our new place. As they await the delayed arrival of Fr. Ron from Mexico, they look forward to the re-opening of the Church and to this service to the poor. Please keep them in your prayers, and stay tuned for more help.

Assumption College became Assumption University during this Jubilee year, a sign of hope at this difficult time. We look forward to establishing fruitful relationships between El Paso and Worcester in the form of educational and missionary exchanges for students and faculty and other future exchanges.

As we bring the Jubilee to a close on Christmas, 2020 – the actual 175th anniversary of the first profession of vows of the founding Assumptionist community – the health crisis belongs to the list of challenges faced along the way in the building of God's kingdom. We give thanks for the charism of Fr. d'Alzon lived out with his disinterestedness, by religious and lay alike, in the times that are given to us.

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# Christmas

WITH THE ASSUMPTION

## LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

7:00 P.M. - ST. ANNE ST. PATRICK PARISH

7:00 P.M. - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH  
BILINGUAL MASS- ENGLISH & ESPAÑOL

Our new Assumptionist foundation in El Paso, Texas

8:00 P.M. - CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY

### CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 A.M. - ST. ANNE ST. PATRICK PARISH

10:00 A.M. - CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY

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