

On the occasion of the centenary of Assumptionist presence in Chile (1990), there arose some thought about founding a community in a Latin American country where weren't yet located. The General Chapter of 1993 "gave its approval and encouraged the idea of an interprovincial Latin American foundation as a concrete expression of the missionary spirit of the Congregation." Three countries were considered and visited: Bolivia, Paraguay and Ecuador. In the end we chose Ecuador and the diocese of Riobamba since the bishop's proposal seemed most in line with our apostolic project.

On January 27, 1996 we signed a contract with the bishop of Riobamba and on July 26, 1996, the first three Assumptionist missionaries arrived in Riobamba, having been welcomed in Quito a few days earlier by the Religious of the Assumption. There were Fr. Jean-Pierre Bouteil and Br. Cristián Céspedes who came from Chile to begin to put into place the plans which had been elaborated. On the 23rd of the following month, Br. Marquinhos Bento da Souza, who would later become provincial of Brazil, joined the group. The three were to favor the missionary spirit and interprovincial collaboration among all Assumptionists living in Latin America, to be signs of hope in the future, to issue a call to young people to take new initiatives, to plant the spirit and the charism of the Assumption in another Latin American country, and to seek out vocations there.

















