



Tuesday, June 20, 2023

n. 14

# JOURNAL OF THE CHAPTER

The Kingdom of God is at hand.

Living and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

34TH GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE ASSUMPTIONISTS - JUNE 01-25, 2023 ENICA NIRIT, SE

«We'll be landing in a week,  
so let's fasten our seatbelts...»

At the start of the final week of the Chapter, we need to pick up the pace to give a good roadmap to the Superior General and his team... and to the whole Congregation.

Monday saw three highlights:

- A Rereading of the Acts of the 2017 General Chapter, by Fathers Michel Kubler and Wilfrid Kibanda, including the decisions taken and their implementation

- A rereading of the work of the capitulants by Frs. Richard Lamoureux and Chi Ai Nguyen, to draw out the main lines and priorities in view of the Chapter Acts

- Discussions on various documents from the Lay-Religious Alliance, Communication and Digital Continent and Abuse Prevention Commissions.

This Tuesday, the work of discernment continues. Please continue to pray for the Spirit to inspire us in what God expects of us.



## Alberto's listening points

«During this Chapter, the question of evaluation came up several times.

It's a question of accepting to be evaluated in the tasks entrusted to us. To do this, we need an external viewpoint. It's a task for religious and lay people alike. One of the most urgent calls in our churches is for structural reform, taking into account the systemic nature of the issues. It's a question of reform and conversion for the Kingdom.



## Rereading the work of the capitulants

At present, the following lines are emerging:

- Narrative, that is, recounting the experience we are having during this Chapter, a spiritual experience.
- The «steps to take» to express our charism and mission in specific areas such as formation (for all), fraternity, holiness...

Discussions lasted all morning, enriching these two re-readings. A few points of emphasis among many others:

- Be attentive to the world's calls: divisions, wars, the energy transition, climate, ecology, secularization and the quest for meaning, the challenge of religions: evangelical groups and other responses to today's spiritual quest...
- Talking about holiness in words that speak to our contemporaries
- Mention both our frailties and the signs of hope, signs of the Kingdom already here.
- Propose the «next step», the conversions to be undertaken.
- Return to our sources, notably Father Emmanuel d'Alzon and Saint Augustine.

# COMMITTEE WORK

## A few words

### ❖ Education

«One of the signs of the times: people are tearing each other apart without listening to each other. How can we provide a good education in the face of 'fake news' on the burning issues of today's society?» - Brother Didier Rémiot, Econome General.

«I'd like to add the notion of the layout of our schools, because the environment in which knowledge is disseminated plays a part in instruction. We welcome pupils in unhealthy classrooms...». - Father Faustin Kambale Watevirwe, Université de l'Assomption, Congo (UAC)

«How can we get the teaching brothers together to study the impact of charism in education?» - Father Joachim Mpozembizi, parish priest in Kyabakadde, Uganda.

### ❖ Charisma

«Emmanuel d'Alzon is not a museum piece but a reality, with an impact on our lives. We need to rediscover this existential link.» - Father Richard Lamoureux, Assumption University, Worcester (USA)

«In the debate on formation, we talk a lot about Father d'Alzon. In fact, there is a strong demand for a deeper understanding of Alzonian spirituality, as identified by the Chapter Preparatory Commission. At the same time, I'm struck by the fact that in our Chapter discernment we refer so little to the figure of our Founder and his writings (this also applies to Saint Augustine). Can you imagine a General Congregation of Jesuits where the figure of Ignatius and the Exercises are not mentioned? So there's an urgent need to reappropriate d'Alzon so that his spirit can truly irrigate our bodies. So there's an urgent need for formation, but this doesn't just concern young religious!» - Father Dominique Greiner, editor-in-chief of «La Croix», Paris.

### ❖ Mission d'Orient

«How can we redefine the raison d'être of our oldest mission, as intended by our Founder, when we are so fragile? How can we live out our charism and express our passion for unity in a world so divided?»

### ❖ Digital continent

«In our missions, there are many things to be done. This Commission awakens a hope, that of a presence in an unknown universe. Everyone learns about the news on Facebook, but we don't look at the Congregation's website!» - Father Juan Carlos Marzolla, Provincial of the Andean Province.

«The idea of a charter of good conduct should be encouraged at all levels.» - Father Michel Kubler, General Secretary

### Table talk

«We no longer speak of ongoing formation. It's logical: today, you enter the novitiate at 30, you're ordained a priest at 40, you're doing a thesis at 45 and, at 60, you're already old and tired.»

«What's a Vicar?

«He's like an auxiliary bishop: every morning, he asks the bishop how his health is...»

«He prays every day for the General to stay in good health...»



## Initiatives to know



### Mi Hogar Asuncionista Foundation, Bogota (Colombia)

The Mi Hogar Asuncionista Foundation is a social project created within the Lay-Religious Alliance to meet the needs of children, young people and the elderly in precarious situations.

Here we present two projects with children and teenagers.

#### 1. The «Educate with Love» program - Children

This project aims to teach the primary emotions (anger, joy, surprise, fear, sadness) and the importance of mastering them in different contexts (school, social, family). Once this was done, in the final phase of the project, the teaching of socio-emotional skills began. These skills are needed in the different scenarios in which they find themselves, in order to improve their quality of life.

#### 2. The «Educating with Love» program - Pre-teens

This program aims to strengthen social skills and self-esteem for the realization of their life project, and to provide tools that act as protective factors in favor of adolescents' mental health and guidance, thus ensuring their well-being and development in the different areas of their lives.

## Program

TUESDAY JUNE 20TH



### Morning

- Governance and community organization
- Accompanying God's people
- Young people and vocation

### Afternoon

- Education
- Missionary character of the Congregation

### Evening

- Commission work

THURSDAY  
JUNE 22ND



### Morning

Private audience with Pope Francis confirmed

## Among the many messages received by our Superior General

Message from Cardinal Orani Joao Tempesta, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) to Father Ngoa Ya Tshihemba, Superior General of the Augustinians of the Assumption

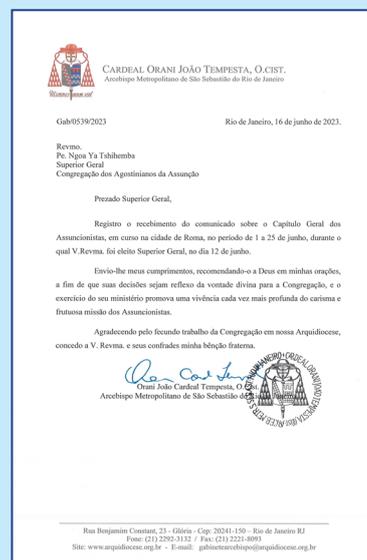
"Dear Superior General,

I acknowledge receipt of your communiqué concerning the Assumptionist General Chapter being held in Rome from June 1 to 25, during which you were elected Superior General on June 12.

I send you my greetings, commending you to God in my prayers, that your decisions may reflect the divine will for the Congregation, and that the exercise of your ministry may foster an ever deeper living out of the charism and fruitful mission of the Assumptionists.

In gratitude for the fruitful work of the Congregation in our Archdiocese, I impart to you and your confreres my fraternal blessing.

Orani João Tempesta, O.Cist, Metropolitan Archbishop of São Sebastião do Rio de Janeiro.



## Initiatives to know

### Two studies on internally displaced persons (IDPs) from war at the Université de l'Assomption au Congo (UAC), Butembo



UAC is concerned about the situation of the local population.

It has carried out two studies, one in 2020, evaluating the work of the

High Commission for Refugees (HCR) and other humanitarian organizations in the Beni and Lubero territories, to enable them to adjust their interventions.

The other, in 2022, to measure the vulnerability of displaced people in the Beni area and propose primary health actions to be implemented.

In addition to proposing effective actions, these studies provide invaluable information on the situation of the population and identify the causes of insecurity.

Father Wilfrid Kibanda, Rector of the UAC, notes that «due to the activism of armed groups scouring the Kivu region, in particular local militias (Mai-Mai) and foreign armed groups (the ADF\* in Beni territory and the FDLR\*\* in the southern part of Lubero territory), many villages and towns are being emptied of their inhabitants. They prefer to settle in supposedly safer urban areas. Various atrocities committed against civilians, including mass killings and hostage-taking, are forcing people to move to the

nearest towns (Beni, Oicha...), leaving behind their means of subsistence. This phenomenon creates displaced IDPs». In May 2020, according to figures released by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), there were 39,207 IDPs. Most of them live and depend essentially on host families, whose incomes are significantly reduced by insecurity and economic recession due to protection measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.

\* ADF : Allied Democratic Forces (a terrorist movement of Ugandan origin)

\*\* FDLR: Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda)



**This morning, the capitulants gave thanks to God along with the Vice Province of East Africa, which today receives ten new ministers into the Lord's field. Let us pray that they remain visible signs of God's love and presence in today's society.**

***are ordained deacons:***

KOUEPOU KOUEPOU Jovie (Cameroon), RAVELONIRINA Claude Orlando (Madagascar), ANDABWA MAKOMBE Boniface (Kenya), KIMANI KURIA Gregory (Kenya), MBAEZE Dominic (Nigeria)

***are ordained priests:***

SSEMBAJJWE Kizito (Uganda), BYAMUKAMA Augustine (Uganda), MUENDO MUTINDA Dominic (Kenya), MUHINDO SAASITA Faustin (DR Congo), NSENGE MPIA Stanislas Heritier (DR Congo)



«Journal of the Chapter»

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