



Wednesday June 7, 2023

n° 5

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

EDITORIAL

Recollection

BY FATHER IULIAN DANCA



«The reign of God is like a man who casts seed into the earth: night and day, whether he sleeps or rises, the seed sprouts and grows, he knows not how.» Mark 4, 26-34

It takes time for the seed to germinate and mature. It's not a question of conquering space, but of being patient, without getting restless. You simply have to wait for the seed to grow. So there are processes that take time, and, on the other hand, impatience can sabotage all efforts. [...]

Not just anyone can be God. He's the only one who really knows what to do. Who could imagine for a single second, looking at a field of grain that has just been sown, that in this field, bare and bare, will soon grow the large and beautiful ears of corn that we are seeing in the countryside at the moment? And that's just an image! Trust, patience, faithfulness... day and night.

Take Part!

Brothers, sisters and friends of the Assumption, Hello,

This is number 5 of the «Chapter Diary». It introduces you to two new realities of the Congregation: the Vicariates of West Africa and Asia-Oceania.

Tonight, the laypeople who took part in the Chapter will be leaving us. Tomorrow's «Chapter Diary» will be dedicated to them.

Then, in a forthcoming publication, we will present the Andean Province and the North American Province. This will give us an overview of the reality of the Congregation, with its strengths, weaknesses, challenges and dreams. The work of discernment continues. We need to be attentive to the «signs of the times» and the calls of the Spirit.

The purpose of this «Journal» is to provide echoes of the Chapter. Information is abundant, even overabundant... What are your interests? What would you like to know? What do you want to tell your Chapter delegates?

Fraternally yours ;
Father Bernard Holzer, Chapter
Communications Officer

PARTICIPATE IN THIS JOURNAL, IT'S YOURS!



First calls... First signs of the times

- **Fraternity: Fratelli Tutti!**
- **Interdependence, the need for one another**
- **The cry for justice and peace**
- **The lay-religious alliance**

By participating in the «Readers' Mail», by reacting to the work of the capitulants, by asking questions, by suggesting information (bernardholzeraa@gmail.com or on Facebook).

By sending your requests, motions, wishes and suggestions directly to the General Chapter before June 11. Please address them to the Chapter Promoter, Father Jean-Paul Sagadou: [<sagadoujeanpaul@gmail.com>](mailto:sagadoujeanpaul@gmail.com)

Presentation of the West African Vicariate



BY FATHER GEORGES HOUSSOU,
VICAR OF WEST AFRICA

Photo: Didier Remiot



The Vicariate of West Africa was established on January 1, 2020, in conjunction with the Provinces of Africa and Madagascar. It comprises 60 religious.

- 37 brothers live in 5 communities in the three countries of the Vicariate: 21 brothers in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), 5 in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), 2 in Lomé and 9 in Sokodé (Togo).
- 33 brothers outside the Vicariate: 12 in France, 5 in Congo, 4 in Italy and Kenya, 2 in the Philippines and Madagascar, 1 in Belgium, England, Belgium, Jerusalem and Turkey.

The Vicariate provides all stages of formation in the Vicariate, from pre-novitiate to philosophy and theology (the latter also in Kinshasa, Nairobi, Manila and Europe).

Apostolic commitments are numerous: parish and youth ministry, secondary and higher education in various disciplines and locations, media and communications (including Bayard Afrique), support for internally

displaced persons (due to terrorism), ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue...

Challenges and weaknesses common to all new foundations :

- Fragility: inconsistency, incoherence...
- Lack of self-sufficiency, with its corollary, economic dependence.
- Loss of a sense of authority
- A strong preoccupation with the question of works, «which sometimes coincides with pessimism».
- A certain insistence on specialized professional training.
- Cumulation of functions.
- Excessive attachment to the biological family

With a view to greater autonomy, the Vicariate will have to :

- Train religious in positions of responsibility, more stable, dedicated to a single mission.
- Work towards self-reliance
- Consider new foundations
- Listen to the various higher authorities of the Congregation.

Impressions

BY GEORGES SANEROT, MEMBER
OF BAYARD'S ASSUMPTION
COMMITTEE (FRANCE)



I was struck by the vitality of the young Vicariate, while recognizing some weaknesses that will dissipate as they come of age. Well-equipped in terms of formation, the Vicariate offers every stage from pre-novitiate to philosophical and theological studies. Religious are present in all the activities that make up the Congregation: parish ministry, youth ministry, media work, support for internally displaced persons and inter-religious dialogue.

The youthfulness of the Vicariate means that energy needs to be better channeled (inconsistency, multiple activities, relationship with authority, skills to be supplemented, etc.), but it also brings an openness to working with others. Some brothers are involved in Bayard Africa, others have a «hummingbird «* presence in secondary and higher education establishments, or work in various institutes (philosophy, business, Islamic center or Protestant faculty...). Mobility within the Provinces and the hosting of religious facilitate the sharing of the charism.

If the Vicariate of West Africa aspires to growth, it wishes to rely on resources for each mission and to continue, inventing a relationship with the laity, in line with its needs.

* The hummingbird does not act for its own sake, but takes risks for others, thus becoming a powerful symbol of generosity.



Photo: Didier Remiot

Presentation of the Vicariate of Asia - Oceania

BY FATHER PIERRE KHUË, VICAR OF ASIA-OCEANIA

The Vicariate covers 4 countries:
South Korea, Vietnam, the
Philippines and New Zealand.

Number of religious: 84
Vietnam 55, Philippines 22, South
Korea 5, New Zealand 2
Brothers in formation 62

Number of communities: 11
Vietnam 6, Philippines 3, South
Korea 1, New Zealand 1

In the Vicariate, the religious are
young. They attract other young
people.

One of the challenges is to transmit
the charisma and spirit of the
Assumption.

There are big differences between
the four countries: number of
religious, apostolates, internationality
with eight nationalities.

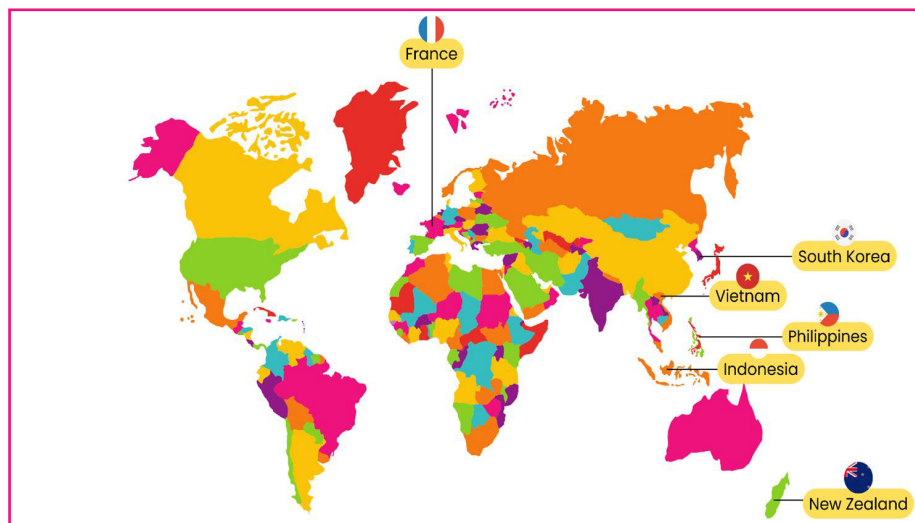
While, because of language,
internationality has been a problem
in Vietnam since its foundation,
Korea has Korean and Vietnamese
brothers, and the Philippines is
fortunate to have a greater diversity
of origins: French, Filipino,
Congolese, Burkinabe, Vietnamese
and Indonesian.

APOSTOLATES

Rooted in the three lines of our
charism: man of communion,
proposing the faith and solidarity
with the poor.

A man of communion in parishes
(Vihn, Digos), through pilgrimages,
migrant ministry (Gwangju),
language school (Assumption
Language College)...

Promoting the faith through
teaching in various institutes,
catechesis, Bayard (Vietnam and the
Philippines), youth and vocation



ministry, which is very dynamic in
Vietnam, with the experience of
student hostels.

In solidarity with the poor in
orphanages in Saigon and Gwangju,
the workers' home in Long An,
the Restaurant du Coeur in Ba Ria,
pastoral health care in Vinh, the
actions of the NGO Kaloob in the
Philippines...

Lay people, particularly in Korea
and Vietnam, greatly support these
commitments.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

- Work towards greater autonomy for
the Vicariate
- Strengthen apostolic commitments
common to the Vicariate
- Promote better mutual
understanding between brothers
through meetings, sessions and
collaboration.
- Improve the work of the
Commissions, especially Formation,
Assumptionist Apostolates and
Communications
- Strengthen the Secretariat and the
Economic Council of the Vicariate

Implement the orientations of
the Federation of Asian Bishops'
Conferences (FABC) - which has just
celebrated its 50th anniversary - by
being attentive to new realities and
the urgent need for the Church in
Asia to evangelize the continent
through dialogue with cultures,
religions, the poor and ecology.

Impressions

FROM FATHER LUCIEN TELOLAHY,
PROVINCIAL OF MADAGASCAR

In the report by the
Father Vicar of Asia-
Oceania, I was struck
by three things.

First, the Vicariate of
Asia-Oceania is very
large and deserves
to be considered,
before long, as a Vice-Province or
even a Province. It is made up of
several countries. Internationality
and interculturality are very much in
evidence: «We want to bear witness
to the Kingdom by sharing common
life despite our differences of language
and culture» (Report of the Superior
General, p. 21).

Secondly, the Vicariate is very young,
and most of the people in charge of vital
matters are young. For me, the Vicariate
of Asia is the future of the Assumption,
taking into account the demographic
growth of religious vocations.

Finally, Father Vicar's report, by
evoking the trilogy (men of communion,
proposing the faith, and in solidarity
with the poor) invites each of us to
progress as a disciple of Christ, as a
brother living in community and as an
apostle in the service of the Kingdom.
This report is a call to each member of
the body we form, to live and proclaim
hope in times of crisis.»



Impressions

BY FATHER BOLIVAR LUKENZANO, PARISH PRIEST IN RIOBAMBA (ECUADOR)

I'd like to emphasize two things: the significant Assumptionist presence in this part of the world. In 17 years, the Assumption has gradually taken root in the reality of the People of God facing jihadism and armed conflict, a reality in which the young Assumptionists of West Africa are living! I admire the initiatives in parish and youth ministry, the media, inter-religious dialogue, ecumenism and education! Secondly, I particularly appreciate the appropriation of the Assumptionist charism by young religious and lay people, whose missionary dynamism is promising for the future of the Congregation in West Africa!



Impressions

BY FATHER JOÃO GOMES, NOVICE MASTER AT PINHAL (BRAZIL)



The Vicariate of Asia-Oceania is an attractive mosaic within the great Province of Europe, because of the different origins that have forged it and the nationalities that give

it its current physiognomy. It's an ambitious project that emerged from the previous General Chapter (2017), and for the time being it's focusing on appropriating the Assumptionist charism to help communities mature their identity and deepen their sense of belonging to a Body. Today's internationality and interculturality are prophecies of a promising future. The Vicariate's apostolic fields of activity are thus multiplying in parish activities, pilgrimages, accompanying

immigrants, and caring for the sick and orphans. This 34th Chapter will be an opportunity to broaden the imagination to conjure the road it must travel in the years to come, taking into account the calls of the local Church and the universal magisterium of Pope Francis, to consolidate its works and apostolic axes. The luminous horizon that inspires every religious is always the Kingdom of God: Adveniat Regnum Tuum!

Wednesday June 7

PROGRAM

Morning

- Report from the General Treasurer
- «Further and deeper with the Lay-Religious Alliance».



Afternoon

- Evaluation of Mobilizing Works (1): Université de l'Assomption au Congo (UAC - Butembo), Assumption University (Worcester), Ecoles de Brousse (Madagascar), Centre Saint Pierre et Saint André (Bucharest)

Evening

- Farewell to lay General Chapter participants

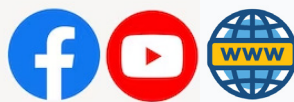
READERS' LETTERS

"We're waiting for news. Good feedback from the newspaper. Sometimes a card would be useful, but we do what we can. Don't forget communities that are a little far away, such as retirement homes, or those that are less well known. Fraternally". - Brother Robert Migliorini, Paris.



TO FOLLOW THE WORK OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

- Congregation website www.assumptio.org updated by Father Marcelo Marciel: <marcelomarcie1@gmail.com>
- Facebook pages: General Chapter of the Assumption
- Youtube : Augustiniani ab Assumptione



«Journal of the Chapter»
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