



Friday, June 23, 2023

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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

Did You Know?

«The North borrows at rates of 1% to 4%; the South at around 14%.»

Follow the Summit «for a new global financial pact» (Paris, June 22-23, 2023) to find new resources so that «no country has to choose between reducing poverty and protecting the planet.»



Program

FRIDAY JUNE 23RD

Morning

- Accompanying the People of God
- Mission d'Orient
- Lay-Religious Alliance
- Formation
- Charisma
- Justice and Peace

Afternoon

- Orientation text :
- Votes on texts



Final days of the Chapter

After yesterday's highlight, the audience with Pope Francis, which impressed all participants with its simplicity and warmth (see a few echoes below), the Chapter enters its final days.



The days are tough... all the more so as it's very hot in Rome. It's time for the final amendments and vote on the texts that will guide us in the years to come. In the afternoon, the capitulants will begin work on the text that will open the Acts of the Chapter, whose provisional title is: «Living the fraternity of the Kingdom as a path to holiness». A kind of account of the Chapter, of the action of the Spirit, which aims to be «a word that awakens the heart and the mind».

Yesterday afternoon, the capitulants amended the texts on the orientations of the Mobilizing

Works, the Missionary Character of the Congregation and the Charism. The first definitive texts were voted on: Governance and Community Organization, Economic Affairs, Youth and Vocations and Prevention of Abuse (Making the Assumption a «safe home»).

Several others will be approved on today (see today's program). They point the way to our personal and collective holiness.

Thank you for your encouragement and prayers.

Echoes of the Audience with Pope Francois



«Meeting Pope Francis was an enjoyable experience. My last meeting with him took place on Wednesday April 28, 2012 in Buenos Aires Cathedral, before a mass for education, an event that brings together Catholic denominational schools including our San Roman Institute.

So I said to him: «I greet you again. Last time it was as Jorge before the education mass, and now as Francisco.» I told him my name and my nationality, to which I ask myself «how is the vocational question» and I expressed that the situation is not easy, and I share this word «young people need a proposal».

Every time the Assumptionists meet the Sovereign Pontiff, they have received a word of encouragement for the mission, in this case for vocations.» - **Father Juan Carlos Marzolla, Superior of the Andean Province**

«The Pope's audience was the event I'd been looking forward to since the start of the Chapter, with great emotion. I was a little saddened and disappointed to learn that this meeting might be cancelled due to the Pope's poor health, but I was happy when I was told that the audience was being held. This is the first time I've met the Pope, the successor of Saint Peter, face to face. I was impressed by his kindness, his closeness and his sunny smile. His words of encouragement motivate me to be faithful to my Assumptionist religious vocation, to

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In an age of fake news, this newspaper, in French, English and Spanish (the 3 official languages of the Assumption) is committed to bringing quality reporting and

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live and proclaim the hope of the Gospel» - **François Nguyen Dinh Hahn, Vinh (Vietnam)**

«Our meeting with Pope Francis was above all a good experience to feel his presence among us. For me, it was a moment of grace and blessing. I felt that God loves the Assumption and that God himself is opening the doors for us to live an experience of unity and fraternity. The Church we serve is a Church that invites us to feel like her children. I'm happy, because I've been chosen to take part in a special moment.» - **Father Louis Kivuya Muke, Mexico City (Mexico)**

«Proximity is the word that characterizes our meeting with the Pope.

It was my first time in the Vatican Consistory Hall. What a strange feeling! What struck me most was the closeness of the Pope, with his gentle, saintly smile, even though the audience was very formal. I sensed that, with him, closeness is not an empty word, but one embodied in a deep human relationship.» - **Father Pierre Tran Van Khue, Superior of the Vicariate of Asia-Oceania**

My first impression when I saw Pope Francis, was of being invaded

by a great energy, it was moving and invigorating. Being there, next to the shepherd of the universal Church, was like touching the hope he proclaims when he asks us to be a truly synodal Church, concerned with the existential and social peripheries, calling for the defense of an integral ecology and the awareness that we are all brothers and sisters.

Standing there, looking into his eyes, holding his hands, I had the impression of touching Christ. Francis transmits a strength that drives us to live and proclaim the hope of the Gospel. - **Father Luiz Gonzaga, Provincial of Brazil**
Father Luiz Gonzaga, Provincial of Brazil

«I was struck by the Pope's insistence on the Oriental Mission. Why should such a modest work deserve so much attention? Why turn once again to the East? And why Bulgaria again? When this Chapter seemed to have mapped out roads, what do these paths mean that we still have to tread?...I almost feel like saying: «Quo vadis Assumptione? «Are you where you need to be? Are the Pope's words a call to resume our walk by another path?» - **Father Iulian Danca, Bucharest (Romania)**



CHAPTER IN PHOTOS



First impressions

As the Chapter enters its final days, some capitulants share their first impressions with us



Father Parfait Elysé Andy Nirina, formator at the scholasticate in Fianarantsoa (Madagascar)

This is my first General Chapter. First of all, I'd like to thank God for giving me the health to be able to take part in this important time for the Congregation. It's a good time for meetings, exchanges and fraternal sharing between brothers from the different corners of the world. This General Chapter reflects the fraternity, internationality and interculturality that we experience together. It encourages me to deepen the charism and mission of the Assumption in the Church. It is also an invitation to all religious and lay members of the Alliance to live intensely as disciples of Jesus. Finally, this Chapter gives me a deeper understanding of the charism and mission of the Assumption. It encourages me to work harder and go a little further for the coming of the Kingdom and to progress along the path of holiness.

Father François Tshiamala Katalalyi, Kinshasa (DR Congo)

This is my second General Chapter. For me, it's above all a school of discovering for us young religious. I'm discovering the inner workings of the life of the Congregation. Compared to the 2017 Chapter, this one seems much more lively and fraternal. There's a real freedom of speech. What's more, we're discovering the new face of our religious family, with a growing number of young people from new entities. One thing I won't forget is the intensity of the work accomplished. We sometimes sleep very late because of committee work. But at the same time, that's the beauty of a capitulant's mission.



Father Vincent Cabanac, director of the Assumption National Pilgrimage to Lourdes and manager of the Adveniat hostel in Paris (France)



A haven of peace and communion

We landed from every continent. Lodged in the heart of the Eternal City, just across from the Colosseum, we're in tune with the times, with our brothers and their apostolates, but we're out of the way, chatting in the chapter house hearth.... The assembly works with tranquility. Listening is the first exercise. Respectful exchanges of views take place, as do a few more respectful conversations, fewer in number now that the elections are over. We form a body that is gradually discovering its unity, but also potential sources of misunderstanding. In its duration, the chapter helps us to feel this fraternal communion.

TO FOLLOW THE WORK OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

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

- Take part in the «Readers' Mail» in this «Chapter Diary» by asking questions, reacting to the work of the capitulants (bernardholzeraa@gmail.com) or on Facebook.



«Journal of the Chapter»

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