



Dear Friends:

In this summer issue, we've decided to give you a sneak peek into the inner-workings of the Augustinians of the Assumption.

Last January, the province, which includes Mexico, Canada, the United States, and the Philippines, met in what is called a Provincial Chapter to discuss major decisions facing this part of the congregation. These decisions will affect provincial structure, its spirit, and its day-to-day business.

We've included a letter from Fr. Miguel Diaz, the now-former provincial and incoming member of the General Council. It's an honest and challenging yet hopeful letter. We've emboldened the parts that capture the essence of his message.

In addition to the letter, we've selected photographs that correspond with the themes Fr. Miguel highlighted.

Please let us know what you think. After all, you are Assumptionists, too. You can respond at [info.assumption.us](mailto:info.assumption.us).

In Christ,

Jon Bishop, Editor



## A CONSIDERATION OF WHAT IS MOST FUNDAMENTAL



Provincial Chapter delegates and attendees pose for a picture.

Dear brother religious, dear lay brothers and sisters in the Assumption Alliance,

A small community of people redeemed through the mercy of God, we acknowledge our poverty and our fragility, but we trust in the action of the Spirit, who has called us to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our shared fragility and the hunger and thirst for truth and justice that humankind is experiencing were recurring themes in our discussions. But hope and faith in Jesus Christ were also with us at all times. **We are certain of the Lord's call.** He wants to follow and make the Gospel present through the Assumption in our Territories.

We began our Chapter with a consideration of what was most fundamental. We constituted a community of faith in that as brothers and sisters we reflected, prayed and shared our ideas and proposals. We recognized our shared vocation, the extension of the Kingdom of God in us and around us. We touched our limitations, and we committed ourselves to pursue a genuine spiritual and fraternal renewal. The path of conversion is the only one that will enable us to hold and to share the New Wine, the presence of the Lord.



Provincial Chapter delegates at work.

Our Chapter has not concluded; a second session, a Chapter of Application, will take place in Mexico from July 25 to August 1. This document is a "working document" that the communities, the Alliance lay groups, and those responsible for our major works should read, think about, and work on to continue the discernment begun at our Provincial Chapter



Sturbridge's Lay Assumptionist group with Fr. Benoit Griere, superior general of the Assumptionists.



Novices of the Province of North America and the Philippines pose for a picture.

The document that follows this introductory letter can be divided into parts. The first is an introduction that lays out our basic convictions, with a few fundamental proposals. The second part develops a few basic elements of our life: formation, vocation ministry, a reflection on our life in international communities, finances, the Assumptionist Lay-Religious Alliance, and our mobilizing works.



Members of the Education Congress, an event that brought the Assumption family to Assumption College to discuss the meaning and purpose of Assumption educational institutions, pose for a picture.



Assumptionists and Worcester Diocese Bishop Robert McManus stand with Fr. Vo Tran Dia Dinh at his ordination.

It is my hope that the preparatory commission will be able to provide us with some practical guidelines for doing that work. The decisions of the General Chapter, which concluded on May 17, will also be key ingredients that will enable us to advance.

**We have opened our hearts to the Holy Spirit. We've been able to recognize our fragility and the challenges of the suffering humanity around us.**

We are convinced that our mission requires of us an interior renewal, a conversion that needs to lead to concrete changes that will touch each one of our lives, our communities, and the organization of our Province and Territories.

**The challenge is considerable, but it is a real call of the Spirit, who through our action and the witness of our lives, wants to continue being Good News in the Church and in the world.**



Members of the American and Canadian Lay Assumptionist groups stand in front of Montmartre, a cultural center in Quebec and an important Assumptionist apostolate.

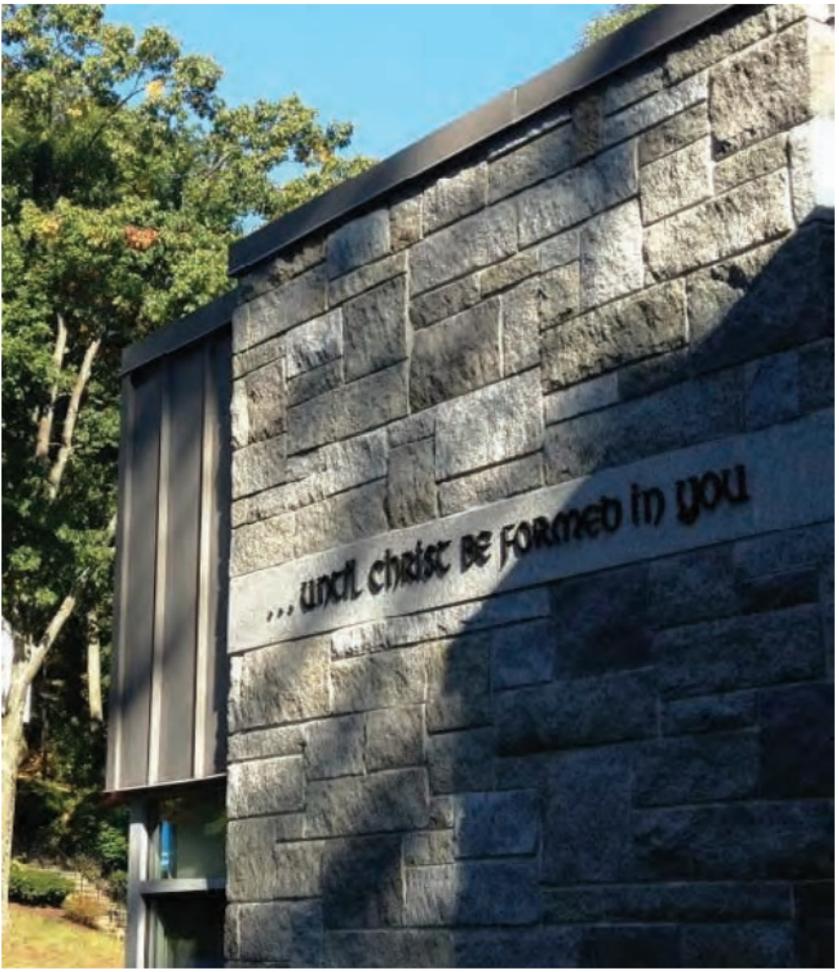
**"On a regular basis, we will evaluate the quality of our apostolic service, and we will review the choices and adaptations that we might have to make."  
(Rule #21)**



Fr. Ron Sibugan, third from right, stands with student members of Agape Latte, an on-campus program that invites guest speakers to share their individual faith journeys.



**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Fr. Claude Grenache, A.A.**  
SUPERIOR OF THE ASSUMPTIONIST CENTER  
ANIMATOR OF THE LAY/RELIGIOUS ALLIANCE  
1937 -2017  
**May he rest in peace.**



"...Until Christ be formed in you," Assumption College's motto, is featured prominently on the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

We cannot allow ourselves to be consumed with either fear or sadness. On the contrary, our life and our mission are a "Gift from God"; all our confidence is in Him. We have all tasted the new wine, the experience of the Lord in our lives.

May we be filled with the joy of our fraternal communion, lived in Jesus Christ. As we face the challenges of our poverty and the suffering of humanity, let's be missionaries of the joy and the hope of the Kingdom.

Lord, give us the courage and the freedom we need to follow you, to break the chains of all that is contrary to your Love and your Peace.

Each day, may we allow your Spirit of Love to change our life in new wineskins, so that we may receive you fully.

Fr. José Miguel Díaz, a.a.





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Origen, an Alexandrian theologian of the third century, used the image of wine and wineskins to explain the action of the Holy Spirit in the Church. The love of God, His Spirit, is the new wine that transforms humanity, but it needs the community of those redeemed by Jesus crucified, those saved by sheer grace through the Paschal sacrifice, to pour itself out and to serve men and women in need.

The community  
of the redeemed is the new wineskin that  
the new wine needs.