

THY KINGDOM COME
Augustinians
of the Assumption

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2003

the assumptionist ...



Religious of the Assumption met with Frs.
John Franck and Bernard Holzer

FROM YOUR EDITOR'S DESK ...

Here in Worcester, Spring was late in arriving ... and Fall seems to have come on us already (and time for our second issue).

The summer has seen a good amount of Assumptionist traveling (work and study in Europe, preaching for our missions in parishes all over the country, and vacations).

This second issue of *the assumptionist ...* concerns some really exciting hopes and plans. We want to share with you the early stages of a new step in Assumptionist history: establishment of the community in Asia, and, in particular, in the Philippines.

We're also up-dating you on what's happening with a couple of Assumptionists whom many of you know very well. We plan to do more of this in future issues .

And we want to let you know about a few events taking place in our Assumptionist world: 100 years in Moscow and 100 years in

ASSUMPTIONIST PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Religious of the Assumption ("the Sisters") have been in the Philippines for over one hundred years. The Assumptionists (Fathers and Brothers) have been sensing a call to become present in Asia for many years now.

Over the years, a number of young Filipinos indicated their interest in knowing more about (and perhaps joining) the Assumptionists. Ricky Montanez became the first to actually "come and see" in 2001.

Since that time, a number of Assumptionists have visited the Philippines (Fr. Peter Precourt, who is our Vocation Director, Fr. Roger Corriveau, who is the Director of Formation, Fr. Dennis Gallagher, Regional Superior for the United States, Fr. John Franck, Provincial Superior for North America, and Fr. Bernard Holzer, Assistant to the Superior General in Rome) ... and everyone agrees that we should respond to the call to establish an Assumptionist presence in the Philippines.

The Cardinal and the Bishops have welcomed the Assumptionists to recruit and found in the Philippines. And they have especially encouraged us to commit ourselves to an educational mission in the Filipino Church.

We are very grateful to the Religious for their on-going collaboration. They continue to seek and support potential candidates and remain extremely important in introducing us to the Philippines and to the Filipino Church.

Currently, Brother Ricky is completing his novitiate year in Chile. After a brief visit home this summer, Brothers Alex, Carlos, and Clem began the novitiate in Sturbridge on the feast of St. Monica (see page 2). A new group of candidates has now "come to see" (see page 2). This means a group of 10 young men in formation now, with more waiting in the wings.

The next step in the Project is to establish a community in the Philippines as soon as possible. For that, we need personnel (a small community of Assumptionists living there); we need facilities (a residence, located near Theology schools, for some 20 religious); and we need money (for travel, education, housing, living expenses, etc.) And we need many other kinds of help (time, talents, encouragement, prayer, etc.)

What we really need is friends who are willing to work with us – in whatever way they can – to answer God's call to turn the dream of an Assumptionist presence in the Philippines into a reality. We thank you for your prayer and for your encouragement and your support.



Worcester (and at Assumption College ...) We're also very grateful for the "Glastonbury Group": a gathering of lay and religious friends to reflect and plan together for the promotion and development of the Assumptionists in this Region. **Glastonbury III** met in August (and formed task forces on the Filipino foundation, communications, special events and fund-raising). More about this later.

Fr. Donald Espinosa, A.A., editor



... and with former President Aquino

THE NOVITIATE—BEING DOCILE TO THE LORD

"You are a novice because you have decided that God has called you to pursue a vocation to our way of life." This implies a radical docility to the One who called us. The novitiate is a time to deepen our love for Christ and the Assumptionist way of life. It is a furthering of our two years' experience as candidates and then as postulants at Emmanuel House. Its main goal is for us to undergo the process of leaving all to follow Christ. Times of prayer, of study, of silence, of work, of recreation and even of visits outside the community are set, not to restrict our movement, but to help us focus on "leaving all" through the discipline of docility.

Fr. D'Alzon urged every novice to focus his attention on prayer, both personal and communal. During our novitiate we also give a lot of time to study, which is an important part of the life of every Assumptionist. The novitiate is also a time of silence to help us focus on our interior life and to give space to God within us. It is a time of work by which we practice frugality and live out religious poverty. Novitiate is also a time of recreation when, taking care of our body and its health, we show reverence for the life God gave us and express our desire to be physically fit for an effective and energetic ministry. We also give particular attention to the way we use common goods, money and food, reminding ourselves that these are for the use and benefit of the whole community. As a beginner in the common life, each of us comes to understand the importance of the "elders" in the community. We need the guided direction of our local superior, our novice master, our spiritual director and any older member of the community, in order to understand God's call and to learn how to respond more faithfully to it.



Brother Ricky Montanez, the first Filipino to have come to the Province for his formation and who has been a novice in Chile for eight months now, we three new novices, and the additional Filipino candidates, newly arrived at Emmanuel House, are going to be the foundation stones of the Congregation's promising future mission in the Philippines.

Brother Ricky

And as we start this journey through the desert experience of novitiate, we are reminded of Mary's words at the Wedding of Cana: "Do whatever he tells you!" (Jn 2:5) Our Mother encourages us to be docile to her son. Our response should be a reflection of our Filipino faith values of *paniniwala* (believing), *pagtitiwala* (trusting), and *pagpapaubaya* (entrusting) ourselves to Jesus Christ who continually calls us.



(l-r) RANDY Imperial, RAINIER Eubra, RYAN Luna, LOWE Dongor, ROCELO Villarosa, DINH Vo Tran Gia

to the Holy Land. More recently, it has begun to mean ASIA. Currently, there are over a dozen young Vietnamese in formation in France. And here, our attention has been focused most immediately on the Philippines.

This year, in addition to the five new Filipino candidates who have joined us ("to come and see"), we are also pleased to welcome our first Vietnamese candidate to our region.

Welcoming and forming religious and priestly vocations throughout the Church has always been important to the Assumptionists. We're happy to welcome these young men and ask for your continuing prayers and support for them.

OUR NEW ASIAN CANDIDATES

Since our earliest days, the Assumptionists have sensed a call "to the East." Originally this led to missions in Eastern Europe (where there is still an Assumptionist presence). Then it extended to the Byzantine world ... and



New novices (Brothers Alex, Carlos and Clemente) with Father Wilfrid Dufault on August 28 at St. Anne's in Sturbridge.

"The Assumptionist community exists for the coming of the Kingdom. The spirit of the founder impels us to embrace the great causes of God and of man, to go wherever God is threatened in man and man threatened as image of God. We must display daring, initiative and disinterestedness, in fidelity to the teaching and the orientations of the Church. That is our way of sharing in her life and mission."

Assumptionist Rule of Life

Please pass on your copy of

the assumptionist ... to a friend ...

Do you have someone to add to our mailing list?

Please tell us...

write or call or e-mail (newsletter@assumptio.org)

FATHER WILFRID DUFault is a remarkable man who has lived the 95 years of his life from Spencer to Rome ... and back again. He was a Philosophy Professor, a religious superior (local, Provincial and General), a consultant for the preparation of the Second Vatican Council, who was named a participating Father of the Council by Pope John XXIII on October 3, 1962.

In July of 1946, he became the first American Superior in Worcester; six months later he was named the first Superior of the newly-created North American Province of the Assumptionists. At the General Chapter of May 1952, Father Wilfrid was elected as the first non-French Superior General—a position to which

he would be re-elected and in which he would serve for 17 years. Father Wilfrid served as Superior General in some of the most challenging years in the history of the Assumptionists, during the years of "re-founding" which followed the Council.

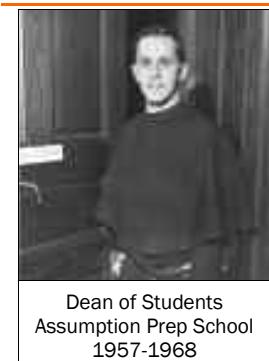


Outstanding Achievement

(l-r) with Prof. William Sullivan, Karen Kamataris Sutherland and President Tom Plough at Alumni Awards Ceremony

On returning to the States, Father Wilfrid continued to play a major role in the life and growth of the College (even to being named its Acting President). Throughout his years, he has maintained numerous close relationships with friends (both powerful and simple).

Currently at Saint Francis Home, Father Wilfrid continues to remain active, involved and interested. He welcomes correspondence, telephone calls and e-mail correspondence. We thank you, Fr. Wilfrid, and keep you in our grateful prayers for your health and peace.



FATHER PHILIP BONVOULOIR

Shortly after his ordination to the priesthood in March of 1957, Father Phil began his new assignment as teacher of Religion and Dean of Students at Assumption Preparatory School, where he became Headmaster during the last year of the school's history.

Dean of Students
Assumption Prep School
1957-1968

Some of Fr. Phil's most unusual years came when he was assigned as Chaplain for the American Embassy in Moscow for four years.

Chaplain American Embassy
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

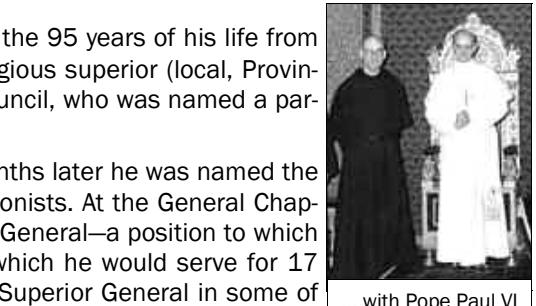
1976-1980



Over the years, he has served in parish ministry in Weirton, West Virginia for five years, and in Sturbridge, Massachusetts for eight years. He also served in Hispanic parish ministry (in New York City for six years, and currently in Pawtucket, Rhode Island).

In 1999, Father Phil began a new ministry to the 3500 inmates at the Adult Correctional Institutes (Rhode Island State Prison) in Cranston, Rhode Island. In addition to Masses and Bible Study, he "visits" from cell to cell to say hello. "In talking with inmates, I only ask their first name and never ask them why they are in prison. ... I view my role as one who listens and enables the inmate to come to see himself as having worth because he is loved and forgiven by God in spite of his past. That is the challenge—not always easy but I do welcome it!"

Fr. Phil & W.Va. VW



... with Pope Paul VI



... receiving medal of recently beatified Assumptionist Bulgarian Martyrs

ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 13, 2003



some 30 Assumptionists (and candidates) joined over 100 **Friends Of Father Oliver** at Rom's restaurant in Sturbridge for their annual fund-raising dinner. It was also a wonderful opportunity for everyone to "send into mission" Father Oliver Blanchette (again), Father Paul Vaudreuil, and Tim Hoppe, a young lay A.M.A. (Associate Missionaries of the Assumption) volunteer ... and to say thanks to FoFO, and to Jane Gardner, their coordinator, for all their generous support of the Assumptionist Mission in East Africa.



Fr Paul Vaudreuil

Tim Hoppe
with Fr Oliver Blanchette

Augustinians of the Assumption

the assumptionist ...

512 Salisbury Street

Worcester, MA 01609

Phone: 508-761-7518

Fax: 508-793-9701

newsletter@assumptio.org



www.assumptionists.org

100 YEARS IN RUSSIA

On September 14, 1903, Fr. Baurain arrived in St. Petersburg where he established the first Assumptionist residence in Russia. This was the fulfillment of one of Fr. d'Alzon's most ambitious dreams. Two years later, Fr. Maniglier founded St. Peter's Church in Odessa and the dream became a reality. After the Bolshevik Revolution, most foreigners were expelled and very little remained of the Assumptionist presence except for the Church of St. Louis in Moscow. It is to this Church that Fr. Leopold Braun was attached as the first American Assumptionist to serve the diplomatic corps under the Roosevelt-Litvinov agreement. American Assumptionists served in Moscow for the next 75 years.

An international symposium will be held in Rome on November 20-22 to mark this anniversary. In this country, events are being planned for the Spring of 2004. Stay tuned for further information (www.assumptionists.org).



100 YEARS IN WORCESTER

27 Fales Street - November 12, 1903

On October 8, 1903, Fr Thomas Darbois, A.A. received the following from Bishop Beaven of Springfield: "... you are free to make arrangements for settlement in Greendale." On November 5, the small Assumptionist community became owners of a ten-room house (for \$ 6,500) and 3 priests and 2 brothers moved in on November 12, to establish the first missionary residence of Assumptionists in Worcester. In October of 1904, four students began classes (with room, board and tuition set at \$ 10 per month).

On Wednesday, November 12, 2003, we invite you to come celebrate with us at a Liturgy of Thanksgiving at 5:00 PM in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Assumption College, followed by a light reception for all our guests.

100 YEARS OF ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

Since the Preparatory School and College began together in the fall of 1904, Assumption College has begun its Centennial Celebrations which will continue throughout the year on the Salisbury Street campus. See the College website (www.assumption.edu) for more information about events !

