

AA

News

Informations - Noticias - Informatie

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Assumption



MOBILIZATION!

The 32nd General Chapter is over and the delegates have returned to their provinces. Soon each one will have at his disposal the Official Acts to study and put them into practice concretely. During this chapter we have lived a time of grace and joy. Very quickly, unanimity was achieved on a goodly number of subjects and the debates always took place in a fraternal and constructive atmosphere. Communion was expressed with a profound respect for one another. Reorganization was approached in a spirit of peace and all understood that it was time for our small religious family to give itself the means for a missionary renewal. Decisions were made that should allow us to better build the apostolic body that we dream of. 200 years after the birth of Emmanuel d'Alzon, the Assumption is called to a rebirth and continue to announce the Kingdom of God.

There was no revolution, but a clear evolution manifested itself. Without being exhaustive, I will cite the coming to an understanding that we are an international body, the will to be missionary, and the conviction that religious life has meaning.

The understanding that we belong to an international body was illustrated by the maturity of the debates. Each one was able to express himself and we are more and more conscious of being dependant on one another. There is not on one side those rich in human or economic resources and others needy. Everywhere there are brothers who await collaboration to proclaim the Gospel. Internationality has grown and we live more profoundly inter-provincial solidarity. Intercontinental reorganization, which remains a major objective for the next six years, is in its beginnings. Europe is ahead in this, but each continent is conscious of the fact ▶

that there are collaborations to establish among the provinces. A common animation in Africa, in Asia, in North and South America is in the program. The rhythms proper to each one need to be respected and should not be precipitated, yet must advance resolutely.

The will to be missionary was also at the heart of our debates. One conviction animates us: the Assumption has not said its last word. It is still useful to the Church and we must always work boldly to announce Jesus Christ. We have our apostolic priorities with the Mission in Eastern Europe, Asia, in the world of youth, communications and teaching. We must always commit ourselves more to them. We have spoken about the works that mobilize. These will be more precisely identified at the next Council of the Congregation in December. It is a question of sensitizing the entire body of the Assumption about some important accomplishments for the mission. They are accomplishments for which each one will be invited to collaborate in one way or another. Those are works that will stimulate our generosity and rediscover the flame of our elders in the Assumptionist religious life. These works will not be done to the detriment of other apostolic actions, but with their support. Why not think that an Assumptionist par-

ish could not mobilize to help the Institut Supérieur Emmanuel d'Alzon of Butembo? Why could not an Assumptionist support the Eastern Europe Mission by making it known to his parishioners? Why could not a religious commit himself with others in a renewed pastoral endeavor for youth and vocations?

We have also reaffirmed our conviction that religious life has meaning. I was quite struck by the recurrence in our important debates of the importance for each one of belonging to a religious apostolic life. We hammered the fact that we are religious living in apostolic communities. We reiterated our attachment to the vows and their witness before the world. We repeated that we were truly sons of Emmanuel d'Alzon and that if we believe in his holiness, it is because we think that, thanks to him, ours is also possible.

The 32nd Chapter invites us to a general mobilization. It wants to make of us energetic apostles, courageous and proud to belong to the Assumption. Let us mobilize!

Rome, June 22, 2011
Fr. Benoît Grière
Superior General

What are the decisions of the Chapter of 2011?

Formation is one of its major preoccupations:

The Superior General will establish an International Commission on Formation, and organize a session of the Masters of Novices.

It will be a question of establishing a permanent commission of formation in the provinces or the continents and organize an international session on permanent formation.

The animation of the young generations:

An international meeting of young religious will be set up (in the past CAFI) and a session to allow to take up again the fundamentals of religious life after a few years of apostolate.

Priorities have been established:

- favor a greater mobility of religious;

- see to the participation of the Congregation in the International Commission "Justice and Peace" of the Assumption family;
- strengthen the efficiency of the BIS (International Bureau of Solidarity and Development);
- study the provincial plans for the "ministry to the young and vocations".

The Lay-Religious Alliance must go through a new stage:

The International Commission "Lay-Religious" is to be strengthened and will be in charge of the way of life. Legal and canonical structures for the associations of the faithful are to be put in place.

The territorial reorganization of the provinces will be progressively put in place, and in that perspective, the creation of an ad hoc group among the three provinces of

the old continent for the launching of the province of Europe in 2014.

The economy concerns everyone.

For that:

- The General Treasurer will have a Council of Consultants.

A better communication among us will be favored by:

- a brochure presenting the mobilizing works.
- The mobilizing works will be placed in order of importance for the six next years and be followed.
- The nomination of the new postulator should be an encouragement and the manifestation of the desire to see the beatification of Fr. d'Alzon as quickly as possible.

Father Benoît Grière, Superior General with his Council has called

To ordination to the priesthood

1. June 13, 2011 KAHINDO WASUKUNDI Zacharie (Africa)
2. June 13, 2011 KAKULE NGULIRAH I Kizito (Africa)
3. June 13, 2011 KAKULE VYAKUNO Paulin (Africa)
4. June 14, 2011 KAMBALE MBAVUGHA Justin (Africa)
5. June 14, 2011 KASEREKA MUHINDO Antoine (Africa)
6. June 14, 2011 KASEREKA MUKOSA Eric (Africa)
7. June 15, 2011 KATSUVA KASINE Euloge (Africa)
8. June 15, 2011 KATUNGO LUKOMBOLA Arnold (Africa)
9. June 15, 2011 OMWOYO ONG'ERA Peter (Africa)
10. June 16, 2011 PALUKU KIKENYE Daniel (Africa)
11. June 16, 2011 PALUKU MULERE Aimé (Africa)
12. June 16, 2011 SOMO MBAYITERWA Vincent de Paul (Africa)
13. June 21, 2011 ANDREI Julian (France)
14. June 21, 2011 AQUIJE MATA William (France)



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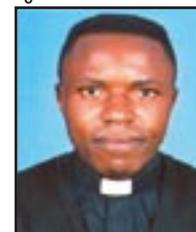
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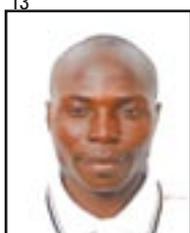
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To ordination to the diaconate

15. June 17, 2011 KASEREKA MAVUNGA Charles (Africa)
16. June 17, 2011 KALIPI BWAMBALE Dominique (Africa)
17. June 17, 2011 VELOSOA Georges (Madagascar)

To perpetual profession

18. June 18, 2011 KAKULE PAKA Moïse
19. June 18, 2011 KALIPI BWAMBALE Dominique (Africa)
20. June 18, 2011 KAMBALE KATSYOTO André (Africa)
21. June 20, 2011 MUKWALA MUNENE Augustin (Africa)
22. June 20, 2011 MUMBERE KANZIRA Jackson (Africa)

Nominations

The General Chapter gathered in Rome from the 2nd to the 23rd of May 2011

During its 23rd session on Wednesday May 11 2011

Elected Father Benoît GRIÈRE, Superior General

During its 27th session on Thursday May 12, 2011

Elected

- Brother Didier REMIOT, Treasurer and Assistant General
- Father Emmanuel KAHINDO KIHUDO, Assistant General and Vicar General
- Father John Franck, Assistant General

During its 30th session on Friday May 13

Elected Father Marcelo MARCIEL, Assistant General

During its 47th session on Wednesday May 18, 2011

Elected Father Bernard LE LEANNEC, Secretary General.

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On May 26, 2011, the Superior General in his Council named:

- Father Bernard LE LEANNEC, Procurator General
- Father Julio NAVARRO, Postulator and Archivist

Father Benoît GRIÈRE, Superior General in his Council has named

- On June 14, Father Benoît GSCHWIND, Superior of the Province of France as of July 1, 2011.
- On June 15, Father José Miguel DIAZ AYLLON (Mexico) Provincial of the Province of North America as of July 1, 2011.

Agenda of the General Council

Meetings of the General Council

- from the 6th to the 17th of September, 2011
- from the 21st to the 26th of November, 2011
- on the 12th and 13th of December
- from the 9th to the 21st of January, 2012
- from the 1st to the 10 of March, 2012
- from the 30th of April to the 12th of May 2012

Meetings of the Plenary General Council (CGP)

- from the 1st of December to Saturday the 10th of December 2011*
 - from the 30th of April to the 12th of May 2012.
- *This first meeting of the Plenary General Council will be preceded by a more directly preparatory ordinary General Council of one week from the 21st to the 26th November and followed by a two day evaluation and implementation of the decisions on the 12th and 13th of December.*

Postulator And Archivist



Father Julio, Postulator since 2008 becomes the new General Archivist after the interim assured by Fr. Jean-Daniel GULLUNG since the departure in the fall of 2010 of Fr. PÉRIER-MUZET who had held the post for 13 years. Everyone recognized in him a greatly competent historian as well as a greatly talented pedagogue for the formation of young Assumptionists. He made Emmanuel d'Alzon known as a master of spiritual life and accomplished a considerable work that has lasting effect on the biography of d'Alzon (some 20 volumes without counting the articles and collaboration in various collective works). A new era has opened in the AA archives. We know the dynamism of Fr. Julio and his love of Fr. d'Alzon. Fr. Julio has lived in Rome for twelve years that make for a "great spiritual and ecclesial treasure", but we also know that he suffered from living so far from his country and family. We can only praise his great spirit of sacrifice and abnegation that he places in the priority of the great cause of Fr. d'Alzon. We are sure of this: he will take to heart to fulfill his mission.

Portrait: Benoît Gschwing, Provincial of France

Benoît Gschwind was born on September 30, 1963 in Basle (Switzerland), son of Armand and Andrée Gschwind (née Binnert). He is a Franco-Swiss national and is the elder of three children. He was born in a family of the independent milieu, his father is a manager for the Chamber of Commerce.

After his primary and secondary studies in public schools in Huningue and Saint Louis (Haut-Rhin), he did a Bac D in natural and life sciences. He felt attracted to Franciscan life! His vocation grew and evolved in scouting since the age of 11. In Strasbourg he began to study medicine all the while knowing he would not be a doctor (1982-1983). He joined the community of l'Orangerie for the academic year (1983-1984) and began to devote himself to the study of theology all the while being formed as an animator (BAFA) in scouting. He discovers the Assumption through Fr. Bernard Holzer also a native of Huningue. He is handy with his hands and composes songs. He has not yet reached the age of 26 but he writes: "I have found my pearl. I am selling all my fields. Today I told You "yes". I want to walk with You." Prayer, fraternal life, and dialogue with his spiritual director will do the rest. He begins his route to the priesthood. He enters the novitiate of Lille in September 1984 and makes his first vows on September 7, 1985. He is then named to Bourret Street in Paris (18th). As a conscientious objector he is placed at the disposition of the chaplaincies of public education of Paris and finishes his licentiate in theology

by televised courses of the University of Strasbourg. He made his perpetual vows on September 24, 1988 in Paris. He has an apostolic streak and is attentive to the evangelization of youth. It is Bishop Albert ROUET, then auxiliary bishop of Paris who ordains him deacon in the church of Saint George on May 19, 1990. He also confers on him the ordination to the priesthood on Sunday February 9, 1991 in the Church of Notre Dame des Buttes and the provincial names him to Soisy-sur-Seine a few months later. He is sent to the diocesan chaplaincy for public education of the diocese of Evry. For six years, he also collaborates with the parochial sector of the new city of Evry.

In 1997, he becomes member of the commission on formation and joins the community of Cachan for which he becomes superior on October 9, 1997 and stays during three terms until 2006. The provincial then names him treasurer of the community. Having entered Bayard Presse in 1999 for Prions en Eglise, he became editorial director in 2005. In September 2007, he joined the François Ier community to be closer to his work. He will be named superior of the community of Paris-Morère in September 2008. Last June 14, the new Superior General, Fr. Benoît GRIÈRE named him to take his place as of July 1, 2011.

Very involved in scouting, Fr. Gschwind was national chaplain of the Girl Scout sector of the Scouts of France until 2004, and later chaplain of the 11-15



year-old sector of the Scouts and Guides of France. In 2008, he became adjunct chaplain general of the movement.

If the Province of France has today 252 religious in 41 communities in France and also in Eastern Europe, in Italy (Florence), in the Near-East, in Africa (Togo) and in Asia (Korea, Vietnam), today the Assumptionists are 834 religious and 45 novices, spread out in 130 communities in 30 countries on all continents, As Provincial of France Benoît will need to discover this French and international reality. One day, in the manner of Peter he expressed his "fear of being led where he did not want to go without a doubt." Has this moment not arrived? But is it not also an invitation that comes to us from a brother or sister to get us and go to Him? "The Master is there and is calling you" (John 11, 28). Undoubtedly Benoît has remembered the scout's motto "Be prepared!" to give his answer.

In the editorial of the Prions en Eglise of June 2011, the Editor in Chief ends with an exclamation and a question: "The Spirit blows where he wishes! And you, do you hear his voice?"

A Portrait

Miguel Diaz Ayllón, Provincial of North America



DIAZ AYLON, José Miguel was born on October 25, 1959 in Mexico City (Mexico), son of Noé Diaz Rivera and Maria Lilia Ayllon Luviano. He was baptized on October 30 in the parish of Santo Niño de la Paz. After his secondary education at the College of Mexico (1972-1974) and later at the college of Mixcoa Valle (1974-1977), he studied medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (1977-1980) and received a diploma in biochemistry. He began his studies of philosophy at the Intercontinental University (1982-1985) in preparation for the priesthood and did his theology with the Jesuits in Mexico City (1987-1991).

José Miguel has more than one string on his bow. In 1981 he worked in maintenance and in security services for America Banamex. From 1980 to 1984, he was a catechist at Saint Vincent de Paul and was engaged in youth ministry in the parish of Emperatriz de America and participated in missions in Oaxaca and Michoacan. He became an aspirant in the Assumption in August 1982 and a

postulant in March 1985. He was admitted to the novitiate on January 31, 1986 in Valparaiso in Chile where he made his first vows on February 1, 1987. José Miguel pronounced his final vows on December 12, 1990, conscious of his situation as first on the rope. It truly feels like his Mexican identity, his natural sensitivity for justice make him read the Gospel as a constant protest against the capitalist system. He is haunted by the great causes of humanity and it is undoubtedly this passion that makes him a true Assumptionist. He was ordained deacon on May 15, 1994 by Bishop José Pablo Rovalo and a priest on February 18, 1995 by Bishop Abelardo Alvarado Ancantara in the parish of Saint Thomas the Apostle of Mexico City.

In the Assumption, he was the treasurer of Casa Manuel in 1993-1994. He was superior and director of formation at the Casa Dufault from 1994 to 2005. Then he became Regional Superior.

In 2003, Father Richard Lamoureux chose him as superior of the community of the CAFI.

José Miguel is trilingual (Spanish, English and French).

It was Fr. Cassien DUBOST (1891-1954) a French religious of the North American Province who was the origin of the Assumptionist presence in Mexico. He was given the post of chaplain of San José Insurgentes in February 1947. In 1980, it was decided to open a formation community independent of the parish activities. That was the origin of the Casa Manuel in the periphery of Mexico City. Today Mexico is one of the three regions of the North American Province. The vocational ministry is very active with the help of a very dynamic group of lay people, friends of the Assumption.

Today the North American Province, besides the Mexican presence contains three other realities, the region of the United States with Assumption College in Worcester, the region of Quebec and the mission of the Philippines. At the moment this province has 70 religious in a dozen communities.

The Bishops of the Congo (RDC) at the Time of Media Culture

As Assumptionists we are mobilized to take an active role in a session organized on the new media.

Cardinal Laurent MONSENGWO PASINYA, presided on this Sunday June 19, 2011, the Mass celebrated in the Notre Dame Shrine of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa (Pastoral Center Lindonge) by some fifty bishops members of the National Conference of Bishops of the Congo (CENCO). The Mass marked the end of a three day session of formation for the bishops on media culture. Already in 2007, the Plenary Assembly of Bishops had decided to organize a formation session "on media culture". This session was to familiarize the pastors with the great stakes and challenges for an evangelization in depth. In a practical way, and faced with the challenges of the hour, the bishops were initiated in crisis initiation. Exercises were proposed to that end. An introduction was assured to confront the digital age with its declensions of blogs, social networks, etc.

Specifically, this session presented the important outlines of the church's thought on social communications, from the Second Vatican Council to the second special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for Africa. The bishops were led to elaborate a pastoral plan of communication on the diocesan, provincial and national levels.

In his homily, His Eminence Laurent Cardinal Monsengwo Pasinya touched on the principal aspects of the Holy Trinity: One God in Three Divine Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). This mystery is at the origin of the entire economy of salvation.

This solemnity in the Catholic Church coincided with the diocesan day of the CEVB (Communautés Ecclésiales Vivantes de Base – Basic Living Ecclesial Communities). A multitude of faithful come from the 2000 CEVB of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa participated in this Eucharistic celebration. Begun at 9:30 A.M. the celebration ended at 1:00 P.M.

Brother KASEREKA MAVUNDA, Charles, A.A.



Bishop Nicolas Djamo before the press



The Sanctuary of Notre-Dame de la Paix of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa (Lindonge Pastoral Center)



His Exc. Bishop Melchisédek PALUKU SIKULI (Bishop of Butembo-Béni)

Chile: The Ordination to the Diaconate of the Provincial Treasurer



On Saturday May 28 at 11:00 A.M. in the parish of Saint John the Evangelist of Lower Lota, Bishop Horacio Valenzuela, Bishop of Talca, conferred the diaconate to Assumptionist Brother Francisco Xavier Sepúlveda Contreras. Let us recall that Francisco was born on September 1, 1976 in Lota, the youngest of five children. His vocation grew while he participated in the activities of the parish during the years of 1999-2002.

After having obtained a diploma in industrial engineering at the University of Concepcion and worked in the Andes Division of "Codelco" at Los Andes, he entered the Congregation on February 28, 2003 in the "Robert Kennedy" community where he remained for two years. In 2005, he experienced an international mission in the Assumptionist community of Saint Paul the Apostle in Mendoza, in Argentina. He did his novitiate at Pomaire (in the province of Melipilla in Chile) and made his first vows on January 3, 2007. His perpetual vows were celebrated on March 13, 2010

at the Sanctuary of Lourdes in Santiago. Afterwards he lived in the Manuel d'Alzon community. Later he studied pedagogy in mathematics and theology at the Catholic University of Santiago, doing parish work, in particular youth ministry.

On the occasion of his ordination to the diaconate, he chose the following theme:

"For the love of Jesus Christ and to extend his Kingdom."

After having done his retreat at the Benedictine monastery of Las Condes (Santiago), he declared that his commitment in the Church and in the Assumption is the result of his response to the call received from God: to be the servant of all, preferably the poorest." He does not hesitate to underline that, despite the agitated moments that the

Church lives, he feels "full of hope and convinced that this time of purification will help us and help all Christians to be more faithful to the Gospel and to be true disciple-missionaries at this time and for the people who walk with us today." Concerning what he wants to live during his diaconal year preparing him to be a priest, he confides: "I am totally disposed to do what my religious family, the Assumption, asks of me and faithful to the bishop of the diocese in which I am asked to serve." Today, Brother Francisco Sepúlveda (more familiarly known as Franco) is the provincial treasurer of the Assumption (Argentina, Chile, Columbia and Ecuador). He accomplishes his task with seriousness and serenity. He gives to each person to be responsible for the administration of goods and takes care of the big and small details proper to his post. It is a moment of joy for the Chilean Assumptionists and for all the people of this mining area of the eighth region of Chile.

Fr. Ramón GUTIERREZ, A.A.

An Assumptionist, Vicar General Of the Diocese of Riobamba (Ecuador)

Since May 2011, Father Miguel FUENTEALBA of the community of "Nuestra Señora del; Chiborazo" has been named Vicar General of the diocese of Riobamba (Ecuador). This diocese is well known in the Assumption for having been that of Bishop Proano. We also know the good-will of his successor towards our Congregation, Bishop Victor Corral Mantilla. The Assumption has been implanted in this country since 1996 thanks to the common effort of all the Latin-American Assumptionists. As to the Religious of the Assumption, they have been there since 1957. Our present ministry there is in two parishes: San Pedro de Lican and San Miguel de Tapi, especially in youth ministry and the formation of pastoral ministers.



The General Chapter in electing the tenth Superior General in the person of Fr. Benoît Grière, has given him an international team of animation; as first assistant and Vicar General, a Congolese already a member of the precious curia, Fr. Emmanuel Kahindo Kihugho; an American, Fr. John Lee Franck ; a Chilean, Fr. Marcelo Marciel; and two Frenchmen, Brother Didier Remiot in charge of the General Treasury and Fr. Bernard Le Léannec as Secretary and Procurator General.

Benoît Grière Superior General

Born on May 22, 1958 in Chauny (Aisne), he did his secondary studies at Épernay (Marne) at the Brothers of Christian Schools (Saint John Baptist de la Salle) when his parents settled in Champagne. He then continued his studies in Medicine at Rheims in 1976 specializing in nutrition. After his doctorate in medicine in 1985, he did his “cooperation” in Dakar (Senegal) as student-researcher at Orstom in the nutrition sector (1985-1986).

He had thought of the priesthood for a long time, and began preparing for it by studying philosophy in the GFU (Groupe de Formation Universitaire – University Formation Group). (1981-1987) and entered the Rheims major seminary (1987-1989) and entered the Assumption in 1989 as a postulant in the community of rue François Ier. In September 1990 he entered the novitiate at Sceaux (Hauts-de-Seine and pronounced his first vows on September 21 the following year at Bonnelles. In 1993 he finished his license in theology at the Institut Catholique of Paris. He made his final vows on September 10 1994 at Saint Pierre de Chaillot in Paris. Ordained deacon on De-

cember 13 1994, Benoît was ordained a priest on June 4, 1995 by the Bishop of his diocese, Bishop Bardonne. After a brief stay in the community of Lille, he was sent to Madagascar (1995-1999) he worked at organizing doctors for the bush country all the while being responsible for a center for child nutrition. Health coordinator for the diocese of Tulear, he became, in 1999, professor of theology at the Seminary of Fianarantsoa, while being at the same time pastor of a parish, prison doctor and responsible for a Center of Nutritional Rehabilitation. In 1998 he becomes a member of the Ethics Committee of the Catholic Church of Madagascar. First Assistant Provincial in 1999, in charge especially of Bayard Presse (2002-2005), he became Provincial Superior in 2005. Since 2005 he was Superior of the Province of France of the Augustinians of the Assumption that has today 252 religious in 41 communities in France but also in Eastern Europe, in Italy (Florence), in the Near East, in Africa (Togo) and in Asia (Korea, Vietnam) Fr. Benoît Grière is a Knight of the National Order of Merit (France).



His favorite hobby: reading murder mysteries. Will he have time for that in his new post? In an interview for the journal “Brèves” of Bayard in November 2009, when he was asked to define the Assumptionists, he answered: “We are men of communion: we live in a society to promote all that brings people together; we are men who propose faith in Jesus Christ; men who try to witness to their faith, men of dialogue; we are in solidarity with human frailty and weakness. We support the littlest of our human brothers.”

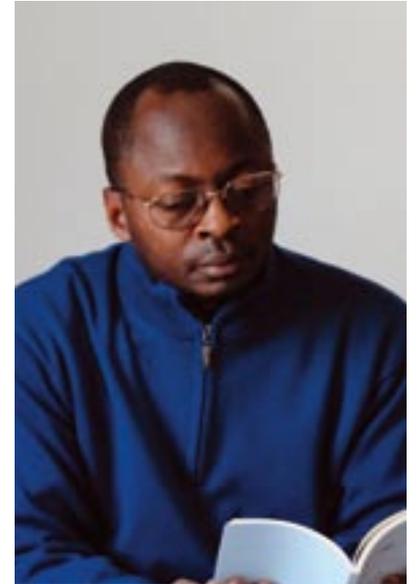
In order to give a strong sign, the Superior General takes personal charge of the African continent, since this continent today carries the human hopes and vitality of the Congregation.

Emmanuel KAHINDO KIHUGHO

He was born on December 21, 1965 at Kitahombo in the diocese of Butembo (RDC).

He went to school in Beni-Paida from 1978 to 1984. He entered novitiate on August 22, 1985 and made his first religious profession on September 16, 1986 and his final vows on October 31, 1992 in Kinshasa after having had his first missionary experience in 1989-1990 in the Ivory Coast in the community of Grand-Bassam. Returning to the Congo for his theological studies, he was ordained deacon at Kinshasa on April 17, 1994. From 1994 to 1998, he was in Rome to prepare his diploma in Exegesis at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and in Jerusalem. After a period in the parish of Kasando he was ordained on February 11, 1999 at Beni Paida.

In 2000 he was named director of formation in the Province of Africa and taught exegesis and Biblical languages in Kinshasa and then in Nairobi until July 2004. Since 2005 he is Assistant General. He was the only former council member to be reelected, and was elected Vicar General. As Vicar General Father Emmanuel becomes a Major Superior in our Congregation. He has been put more particularly in charge of the European zone and the Oriental Mission. This responsibility aims to put in place the new Province of Europe for 2014.



Didier REMIOT

Born on June 30, 1958 in Kolwezi (RDC), he is the eldest of five children and lived the greater part of his youth in Belgium. In 1981 he became an engineer in aeronautical construction; in 1982 he received a Master of Science in air transportation from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Boston, United States. He entered the novitiate in Boston and pronounced his first vows on September 28, 1987 and his perpetual vows on September 22, 1990. From 1987 to 1995 he worked as an aeronautical engineer and obtained his canonical baccalaureate in theology from the Institut Catholique of Paris.

From 2005 to 2008 he worked at Bayard in the financial sector (control of the administration of the international subsidiaries, acquisition of companies, and international development). Then as assistant provincial and treasurer, he supervised the project of the Vietnamese foundation whose language he speaks and in Paris he leads the foundation of the Youth Hostel Adveniat installed in rue François *er*.

As Assistant General, Brother Didier, because of his vast international experience, will oversee the whole of the present North American Province.





Marcelo MARCIEL

The Smile of Youth

Among the youngest to become a member of the General Council in many years, Marcelo was born in Santiago (Chile) on December 28, 1973. He discovered the Assumption through the Sanctuary of Lourdes of the Chilean capital. After his studies at the lycée of Santiago and his postulancy in the “Robert Kennedy” community, he continued his philosophy training at the CONFERRE and entered the novitiate of Pomairé where the Father Master was at that time Fr. Julio Navarro. He made his first religious profession on January 18, 1997 and pronounced his perpetual vows on the feast of the Annunciation in 2000. On November 25 of the same year, he was ordained deacon by Bishop Pablo Lizama, Vicar of the Armies, and ordained priest on October 20 2001 by Bishop Tomislav Koljatic, then auxiliary bishop of Concepcion. He then did youth ministry in Lota and in 2003 he was at the parish of “El Golf” of which he soon became pastor. Since 2009, he was at the parish of “San Ana” of Rengo of which he was already pastor for two months. He was the first assistant of the Provincial of Chile-Argentina since last October. In the Council, Fr. Marcelo is responsible to oversee the Oriental Mission and the Vice Province of Madagascar.

*The General Curias since 1952
And the age of their members at the
beginning of their mandate*

1952 Wilfrid Dufault (45), Colette (63), Kerno (54), Saint Martin (55), Meuwissen (52)
Average age 53.8

1964 Wilfrid Dufault (57), P. Charpentier (50), L. De Leeuw (41), R. Munsch (49), F. Vargas (42)
Average age 47.8

1969 Paul Charpentier (55), Solano (52), L. De Leeuw (46), N. Bugnard (50), Danby (51) Bombieri(47), Sleutjes (43)
Average age 49.1

1975 Hervé Stephan (50), Solano (58), Péjac (45), N. Bugnard (56), Th. De Leeuw (56), Loisselle (46)
Average age 51.8

1981 Hervé Stephan (56), Péjac (51), Th. De Leeuw (61), Iriarte (43), L. Martel (37), Brajon (57)
Average age 50.8

1987 Claude Maréchal (52), Bouverot (58), Da Cruz (46), Augustijns (58)) Martel (43), Charon (52)
Average age 51.5

1993 Claude Maréchal (58), Bouverot (64), Da Cruz (52), Augustijns (64), Holzer (45), Poirier (52)
Average age 55.8

1999 Richard Lamoureux (57), Holzer (51), Poirier (58) Navarro (57) Mhigo (40)
Average age 52.6

2005 Richard Lamoureux (63), Brombart (63), Kahindo (40), Navarro (63), Chuffart(57), Gullung (62)
Average age 58

2011 Benoît Grière (53), Kahindo (46), John Franck (64), Marcelo Marciel (37), Didier Remiot (53), Bernard Le Léannec (60)
Average age 52.2

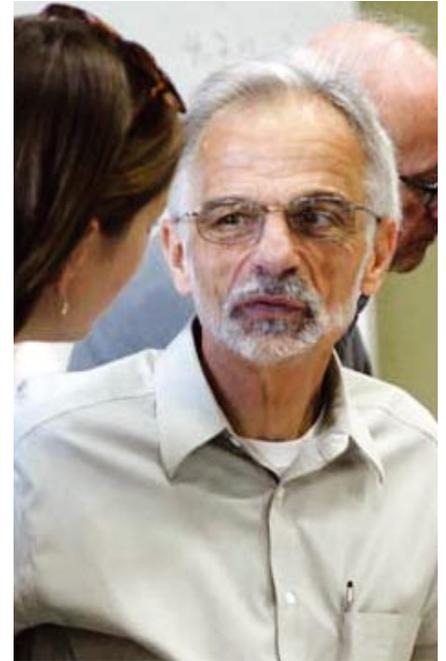
John Lee FRANCK

Father Franck was born on April 24, 1947 in Wilksburg in the diocese of Pittsburg in Pennsylvania.

From 1961 till 1965, he studied at the Assumptionist Cassadaga Minor Seminary and from 1965 to 1967 he was at Assumption College in Worcester. He began his novitiate on August 27, 1967 and made his first vows on August 28, 1968 in Worcester and his final vows exactly six years later at the same place. On August 29, 1974, that is the next day he was ordained deacon and was ordained a priest in Fiskdale on May 14, 1977. He became Provincial of North America on June 1, 1996. Fr. John Franck possesses a rich experience in

education. For many years he worked at the Worcester College as Director of Student Life. For some years he was Master of Novices and responsible for formation. He also did parish work. He also has a great knowledge of the various parts of the North American Province (USA, Canada, Mexico and the Philippines). At the moment of his election, he was superior of Emmanuel House in Worcester.

A perfect polyglot and great connoisseur of the Hispanic world, Fr. John Franck is more particularly charged with supervising the Latin-American Provinces (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Columbia, and Ecuador).



Bernard LE LÉANNEC

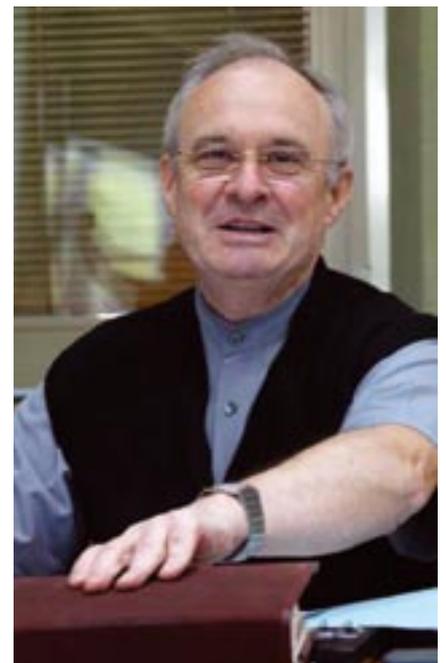
Elected Secretary General and renamed Procurator General.

He assumed the post of Procurator General in the community of Rome since the Council of the Congregation of June 2009. This Breton of sixty years of age was called by the General Chapter to succeed Fr. Lucas Chuffart. Bernard Le Léanec, former alumnist of Saint Maur, after having worked in a factory in Germany for a year, did his novitiate and his studies in Strasbourg (Master of Theology ad Doctorate in Canon Law). After his ordination in 1978, he as an assistant at the parish of Bordeaux and

then became a journalist at “La Croix”. In 1989 before the fall of communism, he left for Russia. After having spent a year at the Monastery of the Trinity near Moscow, he went to the Russian capital where he would be pastor of Saint Louis des Français until January 1, 2009.

After the chapter of 2005, the Provincial of France named him provincial delegate for the Mission of the Orient.

In 2007 the French authorities honored the Assumption by conferring the distinction of Knight of the Legion of Honor on Fr. Bernard.



John Paul II and the Assumption

During the quarter century (1978-2005) of the pontificate of Karol Wojtyła, the Assumption celebrated four General Chapters (1981, 1987, 1993, 1999). The first of these Chapters was marked by a world shaking event: the assassination attempt on the Pope on May 13, 1981.

The audience during which the members of the chapter were to be received by the Holy Father was therefore annulled. In a telegram sent on May 16, Fr. Hervé Stéphan, Superior General wrote: *«Most Holy Father, The General Chapter of the Religious of the Assumption (...) was celebrating the fact of soon being received in audience. The attempt on the life of Your Holiness has distressed us. We share with fervor the prayer of the whole Church for your intention.»*

On June 6 the Secretariat of State wrote to the Superior General: *“...the Holy Father has charged me to thank all the communities who have wholeheartedly associated themselves thus to the unanimous prayer of the Church, From them he hopes for new graces of unity and a deepening of the faith and he implores these graces for your Institute at the time that the Chapter has just reelected you Superior General.”*

On the occasion of the General Chapter of 1999, Pope John Paul II sent a message to Fr. Richard Lamoureux, the new Superior General. He wrote in particular: *“I encourage you then in your common reflection on the orientations that you intend to promote (...) by insisting notably on the deepening and transmission of the faith as well as the commitment to the poor and the excluded. I hope that your activity in the area of ecumenism, particularly turned towards the Christian East and towards Central and Eastern Europe, give to your aposto-*



late a perspective founded on charity and fraternal dialogue as I exposed in the encyclical ‘Ut Unum Sint’. I cordially invite the Congregation to pursue the promotion of the evangelical meaning of its apostolic life, from its spiritual heritage that comes from the great tradition left by Saint Augustine. It will be able to lean on its pastoral experience of the hundred and fifty years of its existence (...). The return to your origins will give you the audacity to live the harmony that must exist between the proclamation of the Gospel and a fraternal life animated by a spiritual and apostolic dynamism always more ardent.”

But it is in 2002, on the occasion of the beatification of the three Assumptionist Bulgarian martyrs that the Pope was closest to our Congregation. On May 26 of that year, in the central square of Plovdiv, John Paul II, already weakened by illness, presided the Eucharist during which our three Bulgarian brothers were proclaimed Blessed. In his homily, he declared: *“The three Assumptionist priests that I had the joy of inscribing today among the Blessed were imbued with this truth; The cause for which Fathers*

Kamel Vitchev, Pavel Djidjov and Josaphat Chichkov did not hesitate to give their lives, is the faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; it is the love for Christ, Son of God made man, to whom they gave themselves without reservation in the service of his Church.”

After the Angelus the Pope once again addressed the Assumptionist Family in the following terms: *“I salute affectionately the religious Augustinians of the Assumption who have assembled here from various countries to celebrate the marvels accomplished in the life of their martyr brothers, Kamel, Pavel, and Josaphat proclaimed Blessed today. In fidelity to your Founder Emmanuel d’Alzon’s motto, “Thy Kingdom Come!” be intrepid and generous in the mission of announcing the Good News of salvation! I cordially bless you, without forgetting the religious of the Congregations of the Family of the Assumption and all those who are accompanying you.”*

It is with joy and gratitude that the Assumption today salutes the new **Blessed John Paul II** and places its trust in his intercession.

André Brombart, A.A.

I am a profoundly happy religious!

Marc Leroy has just given a passionate witness on his religious vocation in the Belgian magazine "Veux-tu?" of the national vocation service. We publish here large extracts.

Marc Leroy is an Assumptionist and lives in a community at Koekelberg with six other brothers. He is also a priest and responsible of the Father Damian pastoral sector (Brussels West).



- Can you speak to us about what led you to say "yes" to God?

My vocation was born very early. Already at the age of 6, I felt called. I already had in myself an inner certainty that God was proposing to me to live celibacy, religious life and the priesthood. But, for a long time I practically did not speak about this conviction, neither at school, nor at home. I did not discuss it except with my aunt who was a nun. In the course of the years, various signs confirmed me in my feeling. A simple example: when I was in boarding school, at Saint Henri College at Comines, I was asked to be the sacristan, without having asked anything.

That allowed me to go very regularly to the church and nourish a life of prayer. Later, my meeting with two Assumptionist brothers was a turning point: it is they who made me discover fraternal life. Though I was a rather solitary person, I learned to open myself to others. More and more, I became accustomed to service and reciprocity. And then I especially discovered the importance of loving and allowing myself to be loved. Progressively my vocation blossomed. The brothers understood it and helped me to mellow my heart. I believe that God wanted me to meet them...

- You chose to commit

yourself to the Assumptionists. Why that Order?

It is not I who chose it; it is life that gave it to me! In hindsight, I understood why. The Assumptionists are disciples of Saint Augustine, for whom fraternal life is of prime importance. I also aspired to have that fraternity. It is not through chance therefore that I became an Assumptionist. I rather believe that God was behind all that...

- Choosing God, that is also forgoing various things, notably marriage. Not too difficult?

For me, consecrated life and celibacy are intimately linked. Without a wife and children, I can

have a heart completely available to all. I do not privilege anyone. But that remains difficult: I know that I renounce something magnificent. Each time I celebrate a wedding or that I see my nephews, I become conscious of the grandeur of what I said no to...

- Besides Celibacy and chastity, you made other vows...

I made the vow of obedience. It is the discovery of a form of deprivation, to learn to accept to abandon things. And especially to discover that through my superior, it is the will of God that is expressed. It is a beautiful exercise in trust! And that is not always easy. In the beginning I was

asked to discover the life of a brother before committing myself to the priesthood. It took me a little while to accept that but I realized eventually that it was for my good. Sometimes we see less well in ones own garden than in the others. God often knows better than we what is good for us...
- And then there is poverty...

Christ was a poor man who lived in great simplicity. I am invited to follow that path. By a simple way of life, I can witness: I do not need to wear fancy outfits to affirm myself. I have distanced myself from material things. I believe that that is somewhat prophetic and helps me to give the essentials their true value...

- Concretely, how is that poverty lived?

In community, we put everything in common. I do not have a bank account; my salary is placed in the community account. We live in transparency; I must account for each of my expenses. We do not have television; I never go to the movies... And then, poverty is also doing each day's

work: cleaning, preparing meals, and do the washing... Poverty is an obligation but no material thing could equal the joy of my choice of life. I am a happy religious, very happy...

- What seduces you in God?

Two things: his goodness and his mercy. I have always been struck by the person of Jesus: he does not judge but unceasingly lifts up man. He has only words of mercy. Saint Augustine speaks of the "love of sinners". I find that very beautiful. Hate the sin but love the sinner.

- Today fewer and fewer young people commit themselves to consecrated life. Can we speak of a crisis in vocations?

One thing is certain: God is not in crisis, it is man that is in crisis! God does not call less than before. But how can youth still believe that it is worth it to commit themselves if the human communities, and firstly our churches, our parishes, do not live brotherly love? Why commit oneself in places that are not carriers of hope?

- Is that a challenge that

you are placing before the Church?

Yes! Jean Vanier said that a community begins where we decide to unpack one's bags and stay. Attention: there is nothing more exacting than fraternal life! But fraternity is a gift of God and the Church must take up the challenge. That is an enormous job: it must offer places of life, hope and love. Places where God is desired, prayed and his Holy Spirit is welcomed. Today we still too often trip each other up, and do not hang together when faced with adversity, and suffer together; we prefer to criticize. And yet it is brotherly life that will save the Church, nothing else. And it is especially not moralism that contributes especially to foster guilt. One must first of all live love before expressing its requirements. "It is in the love that you have for one another that others will recognize that you are my disciples" Jesus says...

- Independently of the question of vocations, the Church of Belgium is going through difficult times...

The pedophilia scandals

in the Church are very painful for me. It is undoubtedly the most hurtful thing I have had to live through since my commitment. It is incredible that priests were able to take advantage of the tenderness, the trust, the innocence of children. What is most difficult for me to bear is to find that some people no longer trust in the grace of the priesthood. And I understand them...!

- Have you yourself had periods of doubt or moments of questioning your commitment?

No. I have never wanted to reverse direction. Last November, I celebrated my 25 years in the priesthood. A thousand people were in the basilica of Koekelberg! What a joy to see that goodness, that generosity that revealed itself. In my life, there have been so many gestures of friendship, small signs, celebrations, and thanks that are so encouraging. I think again of this person who decided to return to Mass after having attended the burial of her mother...

*Statements gathered by
 Vincent Delcorps*

Letters to Benedict XVI

April 1, 2011

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI
Vatican City

Holy Father,

On 2 May 2011, close to fifty Assumptionists (Augustinians of the Assumption) will gather here in Rome from around the world for the 32nd General Chapter in our history. They will be accompanied in the first week of the Chapter by twelve lay people close to our communities. I write to ask for your blessing on the occasion of this important event in the life of our religious family.

We are celebrating this Chapter in the light of the 200th anniversary of the birth of our founder, the Venerable Emmanuel d'Alzon (1810-1880). We want to be inspired and enlightened by his example of holiness as we address the challenges, which you know so well, that confront men and women religious in their life and in their mission in our day. Fr. d'Alzon's words in 1835 remain so challenging for us today:

"As I study religion, I discover in the depths of Catholic dogma so many riches, such a strong sap, such a potent life that, on one hand, I cannot conceive how the priest who wants to renew society can seek other aids than those that he finds in truth itself, and, on the other hand, it seems to me that the best, the only means to give to intelligences the strengths that they have lost, to repair this moral exhaustion that all sides complain about, is to make this light shine which enlightens every man who comes into the world, and warm them in the rays of the Eternal Word." (Letter to Alphonse de Vigniamont, March 18, 1835).

Through our work and prayer together during the Chapter, we want to address this "épuisement mor-

al" of which Fr. d'Alzon writes, particularly its impact on our life as religious and as brothers in community. We will seek to identify and strengthen those apostolic works that are particularly important in today's world: ecumenism (especially our longstanding commitment to working among the Orthodox), media and journalism, education and research, service to the poor, the accompaniment of youth... With our lay friends, we will reflect on the best ways to form and accompany those lay people who draw life from the Assumption charism and want to share in the community's mission. Finally but no less important will be a discernment in view of electing a new General government and a reflection on the changes needed in government and community organization in view of fostering a greater sense of unity and collaboration in the Congregation world-wide.

The challenges are many. For this reason, we ask that you accompany us in your prayer. We know it will be a powerful source of strength and enlightenment for us during the weeks we spend together in Chapter.

Please be assured of our prayers for you and your ministry to the Church. You can count on our filial support and obedience.

In the Lord Jesus,

Rev. Richard E. Lamoureux, a.a.
Superior General

Archbishop Filoni's Reply

Secretariat of State
First Section – General Affairs
No. 194.305

From the Vatican, 2 May 2011

Dear Father Lamoureux,

The Holy Father was pleased to be informed of the 32nd General Chapter of the Augustinians of the Assumption and he sends cordial greetings to all those taking part.

As you recall the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Venerable Emmanuel d'Alzon, His Holiness encourages you to draw fresh inspiration from your founder's vision, so timely in our day, of the great importance for evangelization of social communications, education and ecumenism. In a world hungry for the word of life, the work of your Congregation in spreading that word and helping people to explore its depths makes a vital contribution to the growth of God's Kingdom. So too, your founder's perception of the moral exhaustion characteristic of nineteenth century Europe has striking parallels in the modern world. The Holy Father invites you to proclaim afresh, by word and example, this wise teaching of Blessed John Paul II: 'Christian morality consists, in the simplicity of the Gospel, in following Jesus Christ, in abandoning oneself to him, in letting oneself be transformed by his grace and renewed by his mercy, gifts which come tous in the living communion of his Church' (*Veritatis Splendor*, 119).

Commending all of you to the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, gloriously assumed into heaven, and to the intercession of your patron Saint Augustine, His Holiness gladly imparts his Apostolic Blessing to you and all the members of the Assumptionist family.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Signed
Archbishop Fernando Filoni
Substitute

Death of Fr. Folliet

We have learned of the death of Fr. Georges at the moment of the preparation of the Colloque of the Institut des Etudes Augustiniennes for next September in Paris. The Assumption will have an active participation with the presence of the Superior General.



The Assumption of the Little Sisters, the Orantes, and the Oblates In Chapter

• From the 1st to the 25th of June, 2011, the Congregation of the **Little Sisters of the Assumption** held its 18th General Chapter in Paris at their Mother House. The 45 Capitulants elected as the new Superior General Sister Marie Françoise Phelippeau on June 19 and decided the major orientations for the next six years. For the first time 9 committed lay people were invited. The Chapter deepened the theme inspired by the Book of Judges “Go with the strength that animates you; is it not I who sends you?” (Judges 6, 14) to renew the missionary ardor of the whole Congregation and the sense of apostolic mission. Born in France in 1865 thanks to Father Étienne Pernet (Augustinian of the Assumption) and Antoinette Fage the Congregation now has 803 missionary Little Sisters spread out in 22 countries on the 5 continents. Our brothers of Paris were not absent since Fr. Marie Bernard Kientz was the homilist on June 18th. “My sisters, your immense treasure is first of all the sisters that form this great family of the Little Sisters of the Assumption. These women of all ages who have given their lives to the Lord and to poorest of their brothers. These women who live in apostolic communities to help one another on the path of the Gospel following Christ, to live and interpret together the Word of God. To support one another in trials. To place themselves at the service of the poorest, the favorites of the Lord. These women who discover more and more the riches and the difficulties of internationality.”



• From July 4 to July 27 2011, the **Congregation of the Orantes of the Assumption** will live its 14th General Chapter. Founded at the Oblates of the Assumption in Paris on December 8 1896 by Father François Picard, Assumptionist (1831-1903) and Isabelle de Clermont-Tonnerre (1849-1921), the Congregation is present in 14 countries in Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Father Emmanuel Rospide will be present at their Chapter. We will give news in our next newsletters.

• From June 27 to July 21, 2011, the **Oblate Sisters of the Assumption** are meeting at Froyennes (Belgium) for their 15th General Chapter. Today the Oblates are present in 22 countries, have 471 religious in 75 communities and have 44 novices and 20 postulants. Fr. Alain Marchadour will be present at their Chapter. We will give more information in later newsletters.

The half-yearly *Revue of Theology and of Religious Sciences* of the Theology Faculty of Central Italy and the Superior Institute of Religious Sciences of Florence, *Vivens Homo*, in its July-December 2010 (pages 545-569) issue published an article entitled **"Leonardo's Novus ordo saeculorum. A revealing detail in his Adoration of the Magi"** by **Fr. Richard E. Lamoureux**. The author studies the profound intent of the artist which is to reveal the key and the historical basis of this work whose aim is to reveal the coming of a new post-Christian order. relamour@yahoo.com



ger to be found "because this story can be of great interest to our young religious who do not know French or who have never heard of this heroic Assumptionist."

*Note of the translator: Fr. Richard Richards died in October 2004.

Jean-Paul SAGADOU, **Saint Augustin et les jeunes Africains** (Saint Augustine and Young Africans), Éditions Saint Augustin Afrique, 72 pages. To walk with the great saint of the Church in Africa, what can be more natural! This short pamphlet presents Saint Augustine in a dialogue between a young reader and the author. His aim is to give to the reader some elements of his thought and his life that can help us to better understand our life on the human, spiritual, and intellectual levels and turn to God in the manner of Saint Augustine.

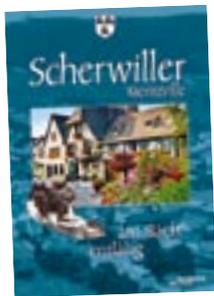


Jean-François PETIT, **Comment croire en la politique ? Petite défense de l'engagement**, Bayard, Collection « Christus », 124 pages.

What is the state of commitment today? According to Jean-François PETIT, Editor in chief of la Documentation catholique, professor of Philosophy, but also secretary of our recent Chapter: the worst enemy of commitment is the individualist mentality in a society where one looks for the advantages and rejects all the inconveniences. Does fraternity have a place in that? The acceptance of small responsibilities in the course of life prepares one to take on bigger ones.



The recent demonstrations of the "indignant" are revealing of this will to meet man in the middle of his preoccupations and social relations. This small book is a stimulant to become and actor on all the cultural, social, political and religious levels. Let us recall that the author has just published at the beginning of this year in collaboration with Paulette Guinchard a work with the title of "Une société de soins: santé, travail, philosophie, politique", 144 pages at the Atelier Editions.

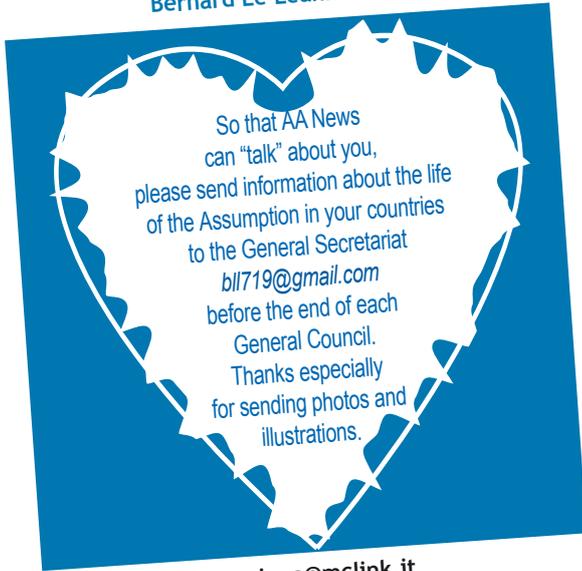


Under the direction of Albert Marcot, **Scherviller Kientzville**, Collection *Mémoires de vies*, 2010, 232 pages. This volume presents us in all its dimensions, in 12 chapters from the its history to the various activities of a rural village, the small commune of Scherviller (67750, Bas-Rhin), canton of Sélestat with very many illustrations, according to a formula

favoured by communal administrations in order to enhance the public image of these little rural cities that form the most common tissue of our departments. A few quick pages (107-201) are consecrated to the Aluminate of Saint-Odile which saw pass since the end of the World War I so many Assumptionist generations: with the evolution of time, there as in other places, the building and land were bought by the municipality in 1998. Today the building from the years 1950-1951, constructed thanks to war reparations, contains the town kindergarten since 2000, while on the playground a completely new EHPAD was inaugurated in 2011. The curious reader will discover even an ancient photo of the first Mass of Fr. Albert Roesch, celebrated there on June 29, 1963. J.P. P.-M.

Onze ans au Paradis (Eleven Years in Paradise) in English on the internet. The site of the American Province publishes the witness book of Fr. Jean Nicolas. In his introduction, Fr. Richard Richards*, archivist of the Province, notes that twice in the past a publisher had been sought in vain. He regrets it and today he diffuses the publication the translation long exhausted and practically no lon-

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Our Deceased Brothers



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