



## A Word from the Postulator

Devotion to Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, our Venerable Founder, is quite significant. The number of people who pray to him requesting that he intercede before the Lord to obtain graces and favors for them, healing from illness, help with financial problems, or simply his presence and comfort in tough times is impressive. As Fr. Marie Bernard Kientz wrote to Cardinal Angelo Amato, «Very often in letters from our benefactors, we become aware of the confidence they place in Fr. d'Alzon in their prayers of request and of thanksgiving». It would be impossible to print all of these testimonies of trust and gratitude here.

What is especially striking to us are phrases such as: «I pray to Fr. d'Alzon every night»; «We address our prayers to him every day asking for his protection»; «I have received many graces through his intercession»; «I talk to him every day...»; «We love our Fr. d'Alzon very much ».

Let us continue to ask the Lord that he soon grant to us, to the entire Assumption Family, the joy of seeing the Church's official recognition of Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon's holiness.

*Fr. Julio Navarro Román, A.A.*

## The Holiness of Fr. d'Alzon

On his return from the funeral ceremonies of Fr. d'Alzon, Fr. Etienne Pernet gave this witness to the Little Sisters of the Assumption, who would always welcome the founder of the Assumption with great admiration and joy:

*Our late and revered Fr. d'Alzon, this man so great and yet so humble and simple at the same time, came to full light at the time of his death. From every corner, his sons have received messages of sorrow and testimonies of admiration for his noble character. The number of the works this athlete of the faith began is incalculable. He was a priest, a soldier, an apostle. Con-*

*stantly on the go, he defended the pure doctrine of the Church and Christian teaching. Love for Our Lord, for the Blessed Virgin, for the Church and for souls filled his life. Victim of this last battle, he fell asleep in the Lord, and now from on high watches over all the works to which he dedicated himself on earth. People frequent his tomb; there they come on pilgrimage. He is revered by all.*

*(Notes taken as he spoke, December 5, 1880, from: Pierre Touveneraud, L'humble grandeur de la mort du P. d'Alzon, Centennial Series, #2, General House, Rome, p. 82).*

### Fr. d'Alzon speaks to us

*My heart is a shrine where God has placed his love, which is none other than God Himself.*

*Through charity, I can enlarge the limits of my heart and become like Solomon of whom it is said that God gave him a heart as large as the sand on the shore of the sea.*

*The love of God is a flame that dies when it is no longer exercised.*

# The Intercession of the Saints



The efficacy of intercession is based on the intensity of the friendship that exists between God and the intercessor. The more one loves God, the more one's acts have value in God's eyes and the more one's merits take on importance. Christians understand this concept instinctively. Thus it is that Christians address themselves to one who is considered holiest in the eyes of God, closest to Him, pleading that he intercede for them before God. The saints in heaven are well placed to intercede for us with God. They are no longer in a position to earn merit but on the basis of the merits they already earned during their life on earth and based on the degree of charity they attained, they can

move divine goodwill in favor of the one who asks.

It must be noted here that what moves God is not the merit of the person receiving the favor but rather the merit of the one who intercedes. Because the saint is God's friend, I ask him to intercede with God in my favor. This is a concrete example of how the "Communion of Saints" works, which is at once the Communion of Saints and the communion of holy things: thanks to the relationship I have with a saint, I can share in the benefits obtained through his merits. That is why Vatican II (*Lumen Gentium* #50), in speaking of the intercession of the saints, wanted to place it in the dynamic union of charity we must have with them.

## What does the 'univocal'(unique) character of intercession mean?

In order to determine with moral certitude that the extraordinary event is due to the intercession of the person we desire to be beatified or canonized, it is very important that the sick person as well as the family, friends and members of some religious Institute, the faithful of a parish, etc, request the healing of only one Servant of God or Blessed.

In the light of this principle of the univocity/uniqueness of intercession, petitions that may be attributed to one of the Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity or to the Virgin Mary are always excluded. For example, it is not unusual that one requests the healing before a particular crucifix or appealing to the Child Jesus or to the Blessed Virgin while praying also to the particular Servant of God.

A doubt frequently arises when we ask the healing of several Servants of God or Blesseds. Here are the criteria to be applied in the two most frequent cases:

a) Requesting healing from several Servants of God or Blesseds. In this case, it would be necessary to determine if there was a certain priority or focus in the request favoring one of them in particular and, in that case, the miracle will be attributed to the one so identified.

b) When a novena has been made to a Servant of God and then another novena is made to a different Servant of God, the miracle will be attributed to the one to whom prayers were being offered at the moment of the healing.

*"Nor is it by the title of example only that we cherish the memory of those in heaven, but still more in order that the union of the whole Church may be strengthened in the Spirit by the practice of fraternal charity (Eph 4:1-6). For just as Christian communion among wayfarers brings us closer to Christ, so our companionship with the saints joins us to Christ, from Whom as from its Fountain and Head issues every grace and the very life of the people of God. It is supremely fitting, therefore, that we love those friends and coheirs of Jesus Christ, who are also our brothers and extraordinary benefactors, that we render due thanks to God for them and "suppliantly invoke them and have recourse to their prayers, their power and help in obtaining benefits from God through His Son, Jesus Christ, who is our Redeemer and Saviour."*



It is in this perspective that the Church in general, and each one of the faithful in particular, has recourse to the intercession of the saints. It is not a question of establishing intermediary degrees through which one would necessarily be obliged to pass in order to reach Christ and God. It is rather a matter of drinking from the fullness of the grace of Christ. What Vatican II teaches us about the Virgin Mary should be applied to all the saints as well.

*“The Blessed Virgin is invoked by the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix, and Mediatrix. This, however, is to be so understood that it neither takes away from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficaciousness of Christ the one Mediator. For no creature could ever be counted as equal with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer. Just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by the ministers and by the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is really communicated in different ways to His creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source.” (Lumen Gentium, #62).*

(Congregation for the Causes of Saints, *Le Cause dei Santi*, ed. Vaticana, 2011, pp. 85-87)

## Favors and graces received

### Thanks for Samuel’s birth

The pregnancies for Gatien and Clemence (2003 and 2005), our two eldest, went normally. As for third child, Louise, Claire, my wife, was bed-ridden as of the third month. Louise was born four months prematurely, weighing 880 grams. She only lived 17 days. A prayer chain was organized as soon as the situation became critical and many friends supported us spiritually as well as materially (...) For Samuel, the same scenario. This time, Claire was bed-ridden as of the first month. Again a prayer chain was organized and Sister Gianinna (Oblate of the Assumption) asked for the intercession of Fr. d’Alzon. We joined in these prayers ourselves. Once again, many friends came to our aid. Some even brought meals to the house. Samuel was born four months prematurely, like his sister, Louise, who certainly

intervened for her little brother, who weighed 810 grams.

Samuel is now two years old and is doing well. He is very active. He had some respiratory problems the first year but there are no traces of his premature birth any longer. We are certain that the prayers of our friends, relatives and communities are responsible for this. (Claire and Remi, Mouvaux, France, 14 March, 2012).

*“I don’t know if Samuel’s life can help the cause of Fr. Emmanuel d’Alzon but the community at Lille and those in Belgium made the novena with the prayer to Fr. d’Alzon, along with the young parents and their friends in Lille...with several rosaries. I continue to place Samuel’s future in the hands of Fr. d’Alzon for the glory of God and the ART.” (Sister Gianinna, O.A.)*



# Favors received

## We bother Fr. d'Alzon quite a bit

*Fr. Julio: we are working very well and enthusiastically for the beatification of Fr. d'Alzon. At Colegio San Román there is a group that gets together every Wednesday to pray. At the shrine of Lourdes we are organizing a prayer group called "Community of Prayer: The Three Loves". We meet every Saturday from 6-7:30 P.M. and we pray for all the sick and for the beatification of our dear Fr. d'Alzon... We have two cell phones where people can leave us messages with the name of the one who is ill as well how we can be in touch with them; we pass these names along to the groups and every day we pray for them...So, as you can see, we bother Fr. d'Alzon quite a bit and pretty soon he'll have no choice but to obtain a miracle for us...(Cristina Berardi, Buenos Aires).*

*I entrust this year to Fr. d'Alzon who had to face many problems with courage himself. May he provide us with comfort and help in these trying times. (Viviane Fougere, France)*



1853 - Fr. d'Alzon with Paulin Garnier.

*In thanksgiving to Fr. d'Alzon who has followed me and helped me since 1953. I know that he performs miracles and I hope that, one day, he will be recognized for the saint that he is. As for me, I can say that he helped me in times of great suffering. (Mrs. Paulette Bordeaux, France).*

*Dear Father, we have wanted to let you know of our attachement to the Assumption and our devotion to Fr. d'Alzon. We pray to him daily asking for his protection. (Yves, Chateau Thierry, France).*

## Greetings from the Provincial of France

*Emmanuel d'Alzon let himself be seduced each day by Jesus Christ. Giving himself to Christ provided him with the joy of giving Christ to others. Allowing others to know Jesus Christ was his passion and gave meaning to his life. As we recall his "Dies Natalis", may each member of our Province and the entire Assumption family find new apostolic energy and spiritual food in order to help the young and not so young to meet Christ and grow*

*in his friendship. (Benoit Gschwind, Provincial of France, 21 November, 2011).*

## Testimony on the occasion of my father-in-law's operation.

*On February 8, 2012 they had to remove a carcinoma from his vocal cords; the operation was a success, but when he was regaining consciousness, his lungs failed, so that they had to give him artificial*

*respiration (...). Given the situation I got in touch with my brothers at the shrine of Lourdes to inform them of what had happened. Patricia suggested that I place a photo of Fr. d'Alzon nearby, light a candle, and pray together, she and I, each of us at home ... I did so and about twenty minutes later my husband told me that that they had removed the machine from my father-in-law and that he was breathing normally again. We consider this a blessing from Fr. d'Alzon and we are filled with gratitude. (Sandra, lay Assumptionist, Buenos Aires).*

## To Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes Of Saints.

*Your Eminence,  
We were touched by the greetings you sent....Very often in letters from our benefactors, we become aware of the confidence they place in Fr. d'Alzon. It would be a great joy for the Assumption family if the Church would recognise the holiness of Fr. d'Alzon. Respectfully yours, Fr. M. Bernard Kientz, A.A. (Assumptionist director of development, Paris).*

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