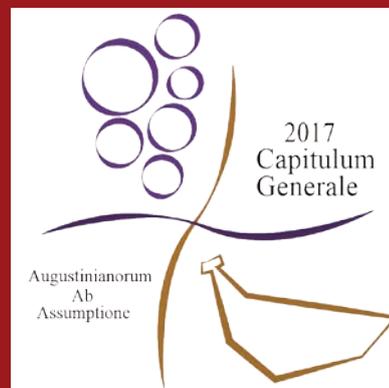


### THE NUMBER: 10

Messages for the General Chapter were presented on Tuesday by the Messages commission, as well as the commentaries added by the commission, which is presided by Father Benoit Gschwind.

### THE WORD: Education

The assembly started studying the text on the Assumptionists' involvement in education that was presented by Father Jean-Paul SAGADOU (Province of Europe). As a moment of re-foundation.



# Info

## 33rd General Chapter of the Assumptionists

### April 28 - May 17, 2017

Day 12. 9 May 2017

# THE ESSENTIAL

## Father Benoit Grière reelected as Superior General



A solemn moment this Tuesday morning with the election of the person who will guide the congregation during the next six years. Father Benoit Griere, superior General and, consequently, the president of the Chapter was in charge of the animation of this time of the election.

Before the election there was a prayer during which a hymn was sung calling on the Holy Spirit to come over the chapter members and over the person who will be elected to become the 10th successor to Father d'Alzon at the head of the congregation.



The passage of the Gospel of Saint Marc (10:32-45) that insists on service was proclaimed in the three official languages of the congregation. After that the chapter members cast their vote by writing the name of the person who they think is best suited for being the superior General.

Thus Father Benoit Griere was reelected as the superior General. Father Richard Lamoureux then asked Father Benoit if he accepted the call of the 33rd General Chapter of the congregation.

In response Father Benoit said that one should not seek the places of honor and has to learn to become a servant of all. He explained that it has been 18 years since he left Madagascar, his profession as a doctor nutritionist and his pastoral work to answer the Lord's calling. He is a religious devoted to the small family of the Assumption. He also knows the suffering that is caused by not being able to answer all of the God's callings.

In Ars, this past Monday, during a day of rest, he took the time during his meditation in front of the Holy Sacrament and asked what his answer would be if he was chosen again to be superior General. Is he a new wineskin? Christ is the new wine, and he remembered what the Lord once said to Saint Catherine of Siena: "Make yourself a 'capacity' and I will make myself a 'torrent'". A quote of a reformer of her time (Saint Catherine of Siena, 1347-1380).

Reelected superior General, Father Benoit Griere received a warm welcome and gratitude of all the brothers of the Chapter before celebrating his election, surrounded by his two predecessors, Fathers Richard Lamoureux and Claude Marechal.

The General Chapter goes on. Several commissions have presented their work. Awaiting the creation of the new government that will be elected for the next six years.

**Br. Robert Migliorini, aa**

**La Croix :** <http://www.la-croix.com/Urbi-et-Orbi/Actualite/Carnet/Le-Pere-Benoit-Griere-reelu-superieur-general-assomptionnistes-2017-05-09-1200845775>

## Brother Milad Yacoub (Province of Europe)



**“We have a General, let's give him a plan to enact.”**

“The predictions didn't leave any room for a surprise. I knew that Father Benoit was very likely to be reelected. But still, the election was a grand and solemn experience. The invocation of the Holy Spirit before casting the votes was an authentic prayer. The moment is touching. Each vote cast is both a democratic act and a spiritual gesture offering God the next six years. And after the results are read, it was another big brother who took the floor, Father Richard Lamoureux, asking the question: “Do you accept?”

After this question and the positive answer, it's a call of the assembly that echoes the freedom of the brother who accepted his election. General accepts the responsibility for the service of the whole body. The Assumption rejoices. We have a general, now let's give him a plan to enact and a team to work with him. So right away it's back to work!”

## Reactions from the Chapter members:



**Father Antigone BAHATI. (Province of Africa)**

“As for the election of the superior General, I love and appreciate the trust that Assumptionists have in him. We hold in high esteem the

work he has done and we want him to continue and bring new ideas on how we can live and expand our spiritual gifts. He is courageous. The election was fair and respected everyone’s freedom. The Spirit guided us and he will continue to guide us. May God grant our General the strength and the courage that he needs!”



**Father Benard ODHIAMBO. (Kenya.Province of Africa)**

“The election of Father Benoit as superior General was indeed a work of the Spirit. It is a sign that the Spirit was with us... It is interesting

to note the trust that brothers have in our General, and what expectations they have of him. I expressed everyone’s joy for the work that has been done and that needs to be continued.

During our discussions I discovered that before thinking about reforming the structures of the congregation, one has to start by reforming one-self and one’s mentality. It is only in this way that we will be able to become better missionaries and better prepared for the missions to which we have been called.”

## A letter received:

**Sister Marie Serge. Oblate of the Assumption. (Lille, France)**

Keep up the good work with the help of the Holy Spirit...

With my fraternal affection to you and your brothers.

**Father Boniface Mutahi Muhindo. (Madagascar).**

Thank you very much, Father, for the news that let us be in a real communion with all the members of the Chapter. We incessantly pray the Holy Spirit to pour down on you all a rain of God’s graces so that the fruit of your work would motivate and mobilise us all. So that our Lord’s Kingdom becomes a reality in our lives, our communities and for those to whom we are sent. We think that Father Benoit Griere can continue his work at the head of our family for another six years. That is at least my prayer! United in prayer.



### **Wednesday’s program :**

dialogue with the superior General concerning his assistants; the priority missions of the congregation; international and inter-cultural; continuation of the work in commissions.