



Bulletin # 5
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2019

Continuing on the Way...

Dear brothers and sisters:

Lent is a sacramental sign of conversion; it is a call to live out more intensely and concretely the paschal mystery in our personal, family and social life.

In his letter to consecrated men and women of February 2, 2019, Pope Francis invites us to "the interior pilgrimage that begins in contemplation, the fruitful spring of the Christian mission ... For a disciple, the most important thing is to be with the Master, listen to him, learn from him. And this is always true, for our entire lives. If the burning and tender love of God does not light a fire in our hearts, how can we, poor sinners, inflame the hearts of others?" (From the Letter of the Pope to Consecrated Men and Women)

The Pope invites us, then, to renew our vocations with joy and passion because the all-encompassing act of love is a long journey, much like the Lenten season. The road makes sense when you know where it leads: it is the end of the road that gives relief to the pilgrim. But when we walk this path we must be discerning, overcome obstacles, detach ourselves from things that hinder us, and avoid unnecessary detours that could jeopardize us on our way.

The Christian life requires a renewed commitment every single day. It requires that we keep putting forth effort to overcome obstacles and commit ourselves to continual conversion. These efforts help counteract the ideologies that distract us from the real goal of Easter.

Without the hope of Easter, Lent would lose its meaning; Without Lent, Easter cannot be reached. To walk along the way forgetting what awaits us at the end is to walk blind; to want the end without putting in the effort is childish illusion.

Let's continue on. Let us live, from the heart, the experience of the risen Christ, because He is the source of our hope.

Happy Easter to you all and may the Light of the Resurrected Christ illuminate the paths of your life!

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The Assumptionists working with Indigenous Communities



Ministering to indigenous communities is an effort of the church to respond to the needs of the indigenous peoples from their traditions and customs. The closeness that we have with the indigenous communities allows us to know their customs and



appreciate them, as well as to learn about the difficult realities that exist in some communities, including poverty and lack of opportunities for young people.

It is amazing to see how they live their faith in the customs that still persist, such as the Faena, the Asamblea, the Fiesta, the Mayordomía, the organization of the community with its different positions, the language and the dress, which are the foundations on which the community was built.

They face great challenges, such as the defense of their territory, organization, rights, culture, etc. Therefore, as Assumptionists located in Tlilapan, which is the gateway to the indigenous communities, we have become involved in indigenous ministry, accompanying and learning from them.

In this journey that we have decided to take, accompanying the efforts of the native peoples to keep alive their culture, their territory, their language and their customs and traditions, we recently met with more than 450 pastoral agents from

many indigenous communities in the city of Papantla, Veracruz. This meeting is called EAPI (meeting of indigenous pastoral agents; in Spanish: encuentro de agentes de pastoral indígena). This meeting has existed for 29 years; the first national meeting took place in these same lands of Orizaba in Zongolica, Vera-



cruz. The themes of these meetings have varied according to the needs and circumstances of the communities. They've discussed the earth, corn, language, faith, Indian theology, etc.

On this occasion, the topic that brings us together is "Weaving the Fabric for the Life of our People", and our motto is: "In sharing who we are, we are strengthened".

An analysis of their reality was made, taking into account the most frequent threats to the indigenous peoples: Mining, Hydroelectric and water privatization, violence and human trafficking, Hydrocarbons, health, corn, language and loss of identity, infrastructure, government programs, young people and education.

They shared experiences of struggle that have given strength to the people, as well as the discovery of their weaknesses.

Deacon Marciano Lopez Solis, a.a.

Letter to young Assumptionist missionaries

Dear young Assumptionist missionaries:



I am writing to thank you for being a missionary for the Kingdom of God. When the heart of a young person is touched by the love of God, it's the beginning of the extraordinary adventure of following Jesus as a true disciple who feeds on his Word and proclaims with his life that it is worthwhile to be an Assumptionist missionary.

Christ.

The young Assumptionist missionaries are God's time travelers. They learn from ordinary people, share their experiences with joy, give love to those who need it, inspire souls to find true freedom, become friends of all, and above all leave, without attachments, to a new Assumptionist mission or adventure.

The young Assumptionist missionaries sow the seeds of the Kingdom because with their testimony of life they



To announce the Kingdom of God is not simply to give a talk, visit houses, meet with children, youth, and adults, and fulfill the assigned tasks; but rather to do all of these things with love, to know how to listen to the sufferings of others, to value simple things, to learn from mistakes with humility and above all to have boundless passion for Jesus



sow seeds of love, faith and hope to inspire conversions, which will reach their fullness in God's time.

As I say goodbye, I congratulate you for accepting such a noble mission. Be assured that there is no greater achievement in this world than to be written in the book of life of the Lamb who died on the cross to fulfill, with love, the mission of the Father. Blessed are those who work for the extension of the Kingdom of the Heaven because they will contemplate the greatness of the Lamb in their lives.



Sincerely,

Brother Hugo Fernando Morales Ballesteros, a.a.

News from Assumptionist vocation ministry



Fr. Jesús

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

The Assumption in Mexico continues its work in vocation ministry, directed by Father Jesus Tlecuile Mixteco.

During these last months several young people with vocational inquiries have been contacted; Father Jesus has accompanied them through different forms of media and in person, visiting them in their homes, generally getting to know them and help them to respond to God's call to religious and priestly life.



Fermín

We are grateful to God! On February 17, 2019 two young men started their experience in the Assumptionist formation community in Tlilapan, Orizaba - Veracruz. They are:

Fermín Sosa Murillo, 19 years old, originally from Mata Tenatito, San Isidro Labrador parish, neighboring diocese of Córdoba - Veracruz.



Fernando

Fernando De Jesus Flores, 19 years old, from Soledad Atzompa, San Francisco de Asís parish - Necoxtla, diocese of Orizaba - Veracruz.

We continue trusting in the providence of God who is the one who calls and invites us to be participants in the coming of the Kingdom, trusting in Mary our intercessor and in the Church where the future disciplines of the Lord are found.



Brother Dagoberto Rodriguez , a.a. and Sister Denisse Ramirez Ramirez, Clarist Sister



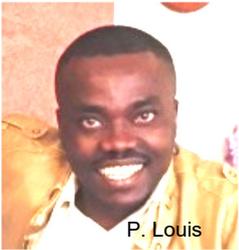
Postulante José Alberto Mejía Peña

Our vocational promotion efforts include vocation days, which take place both in Mexico City and in Orizaba, Veracruz, in order to help young men discern their vocation within the Assumption.

We do this promotional work with joy and enthusiasm, because we have the assurance that it is God who calls and the young person who answers.

Fr. Jesús Tlecuile Mixteco, a.a.

Unity in Diversity in the Chapel of St. Augustine



P. Louis

It is an immense joy for us as Assumptionists to have so much cultural diversity in the parish of San Andres. This parish has four sectors of evangelization. The first corresponds to the parish itself. The second is the Palma sector with two other chapels:

Vistas del Valle and Divisaderos. The third is called Plan de Ayala with Tepetlica, Lomas and Viveros. The last and focus of this bulletin entry is that of Saint Augustine.



I would like to share with you the experiences I've had recently in the fourth sector of our parish, which has as its head the chapel of St. Augustine. In each one of these chapels, I have found unity in diversity as an Assumptionist.

On Sundays in the first chapel, Tlalatlaco, mass is celebrated at 8:30 in the morning. There is a very welcoming atmosphere in this community, thanks to the person in charge of the chapel and those who come to participate in the mass. All sing during the Mass in a participatory manner.

Day after day you can see that many people receive communion at mass. Although the people of this sector have what it takes to make a living, they are fighting for the construction of a better chapel for the Lord Jesus. In general, those who come to the mass are complete families. There is always a fundraiser and conviviality between them after the Mass. And the money from the fundraisers goes toward the construction of the new chapel.

The second celebration is at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel of Valle Verde. I want to especially thank the MC there and his team. Despite the fact that there are only a few people there, they are still working on constructing a new chapel. Because of this witness I can confirm the proverb that says: "Unity is Strength". The atmosphere is very welcoming in all the chapels.

All parishioners, in general, are very punctual in their attendance and participation of the Holy Eucharist, and everyone knows each other. When the Mass is finished in a chapel I immediately travel to another to bring them the good news of Jesus, to bring the Eucharist into their lives, they who are so eager for the love of God.

The last celebration is at 12pm in the chapel of St. Augustine. It is the most populated chapel in the area, where more than 100 people gather together. It is a favorable environment for the presence of God. They are prepared for the liturgy and liturgical celebrations. The atmosphere of this chapel is cheerful and the people arrive early. Sundays are also the day for ca-



techesis for the first communion and confirmation students.

Although the chapel remains the same in its structure, the building up of the Kingdom of God is seen in the lives of all its parishioners. Praise God for the presence of the Assumptionists who with their testimonies of life extend the grace of God in the different sectors of our parish at San Andrés Totoltepec.

Fr. Louis Kivuya Muke, a.a.

Oblate Sisters of the Assumption and Diocesan Vocation Ministry



Sr. Maria de los Angeles

The vocation ministry team of our Diocese of Orizaba Veracruz at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year was blessed with a new diocesan coordinator, Fr. Javier Martínez Rivera, who invited the consecrated women of this diocese to work on behalf of young women and the pre-consecrated life team was formed



From left to right top Victoria, Juana, Esther, Erika, Veronica, Eva, Elizabeth Bottom María de los Angeles, Ruth, Monserrat and Karla

again. In September, an invitation was made to all vocation leaders from different congregations to work together with our diocesan team, which is made up of 12 women religious from different congregations.

We began this journey of vocation ministry with a desire to re-implement vocation outreach to lay women. We decided to change the word PRE-CONSECRATED LIFE to ENCOUNTER, because although there is a need for vocations in our Church and in our communities, the first thing that we want to promote is an ENCOUNTER with Jesus, a personal encounter. Then, through accompaniment, it's our hope that these young women will find their vocation and "move from fishing to sowing."

The first "Vocational Encounter" took place December 20-23, 2018, and was held at the San Luis de Gonzaga School, which belongs to the Servent Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Poor. 51 girls participated in the Encounter. The response was very good. After almost 4 years where participation was minimal, this time there was a great number and the girls participated and showed dynamism and joy for discovering God's plan for their lives. From March 15-17 the 2nd Vocation Meeting took place, and 31 girls participated. In this meeting we got to know some young women who are very committed to the vocation process, and some at the end of the Encounter shared that they are already discovering where the Lord is calling them. That is something that motivates us to continue working with enthusiasm for vocations and in a particular way for the young women who have entrusted us with their time.

I would like to conclude by saying that this is a new experience on a personal and congregational level. One of the objectives of our presence in Mexico is to work in vocation ministry, which has given me the opportunity to learn about this diocese's methods and how to make a team with various participating congregations. It has been a good experience filled with challenges and changes in mentality. I've insert myself with joy and dedication in this pastoral role that has been entrusted to me



and that I love very much.

Sister Maria de los Angeles SAASITA, o.a.

Assumptionist Mission: a pilgrimage of brothers and sisters toward the Kingdom



In the year of 1996, the Assumptionists began their first mission in Mexico. Religious, aspirants and laity began to build community and didn't imagine that one day this mission would continue to thrive and be carried out by new generations of young missionaries, who were themselves the target of our missionary efforts not so long

The richest work of those first years of mission focused on preparing our catechesis according to the needs of the parish, knowing that it was an opportune time to attract vocations to religious life, be evangelized while evangelizing, and build a community among us laity, and religious, and aspirants (at Casa Manuel).

In short, we are building the KINGDOM in us and around us. Passionate for the Kingdom we find laity leading the



ago.

The first mission that we carried out had a very large group of Assumptionists and what I would call lay friends of the Assumption; over time we embraced the charism and committed ourselves as Lay Assumptionists.

These "Friends of the Assumption," along with other friends who worked with young people at Casa Manuel, plus some young people and children from the Orient Sector of Mexico, formed the first missionary group, thus paving the way to Veracruz, a beautiful state where the Assumption has worked in several parishes and communities. There, they work in missions, give workshops and retreats, and organize the always-fruitful D'Alzonian Encounter.

missions, coordinating the teams and, above all, together with Father Teo and Father Oswaldo, accompanying the aspirants on their journey toward religious life.

There is still much to be said about the missions, but it is worth mentioning that this work that we started so many years ago has yielded and continues to bear fruit for the Assumption in our beloved land of Veracruz, where the Assumptionists currently are established in the Parish of Santiago Apóstol, in Tlilapan. There the laity together with our religious brothers continue to BUILD THE KINGDOM. *Adveniat Regnum Tuum.*

Bollo, Lay Assumptionist.



Formation meeting for Holy Week mission instructors, 13-21 of April 2019 in Paraje Nuevo and Amatlán - Veracruz.



An AA on the diocesan soccer team 'Kerigma' in Orizaba



First of all we take advantage of sending this fifth issue of our regional bulletin to send you all a fraternal greeting and wish you a beautiful journey towards the great Easter celebration.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your interest in our regional newsletter. A special thanks to all the collaborators, religious and lay people who have participated in the writing of this fifth edition of our bulletin *Thy Kingdom Come*. Until the next edition of June 2019, Happy Easter 2019!

Fr. Sébastien Bangandu Mwanza, a.a.
Bulletin Editor

Goodbye Nohemí



Maricarmen

Nohemí met the Assumptionists in 2013 and was invited by Father Joseph Mahamba to join the group of lay people who were meeting in San Andrés with Father Fataki.

As is customary on the part of the lay assumptionists, we received Nohemí with joy, cordiality, and fraternity. Nohemí participated in several activities with the lay group and with the Assumptionists: missions, retreats, d'Alzon meetings, and most of the events that we celebrate as Lay Assumptionists.



Nohemí

On April 2, 2016 during the feast of the priestly ordination of Father Jesús Tlecuile Mixteco, Nohemí felt very strange and weak and was in pain throughout the week. So she went to the doctor and after performing a biopsy, she tested positive for cancer.

On May 5, 2018 Nohemí had a surgical operation. She passed away on March 7, 2019, leaving us with the memory of a woman of faith and a very committed lay Assumptionist.

At all times Nohemí wanted to live, and always told me "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." I thank God for allowing me to live so close to Nohemí throughout her struggle. And I keep asking for your prayers so that God receives her into His Kingdom.

Mariadelcarmen Martinez Alvarez
Lay Assumptionist