

2015, the Year of Consecrated Life for the Global Church

Pope Francis has invited men and women religious to "wake up the world" with their joy: "Show everyone that to follow Christ and to put his Gospel into practice fills your hearts with happiness!"



The purpose of this Year is to promote an array of initiatives to renew consecrated life, give thanks for consecrated life, and invite vocations to consecrated life. But what is consecrated life? Consecrated, or "religious," men and women are those who have taken vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in order to make themselves as free as possible for the service of their neighbors and the proclamation of the Gospel. They include not only priests, but also nuns and religious brothers and sisters.

Many people are familiar with the Jesuits, Dominicans, Franciscans, Benedictines... but what is distinctive about the Assumptionists? Why might a young man who is discerning a religious vocation feel that the Assumptionists are the best fit?

"The Assumption is traditional in insisting on the essentials: love of Jesus Christ before any other devotion and love of his Body the Church and his Vicar on earth. It is traditional too in its embrace of Augustine and monastic values like study, contemplation, silence, fraternal life and common prayer. But it is modern in its desire to renew society through the truth and the brilliant light of the eternal Word, using a language and means that will reach the people of our day."

Father Richard Lamoureux, A.A., Director of Formation

Please tell others about our community,
so that our spirituality may spread!

By being faithful to the Gospel in the choices we make, in our daily work, in our openness to others, and in our availability in times of need, our whole life, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, becomes an encounter with God.





Brother Jonathan Adams, AA

Jonathan comes from a non-practicing Alevi-Turkish family in Istanbul. His faith journey began at fifteen, when a short wave radio put him in touch with a Christian radio station in Monte Carlo. He was soon received into a Baptist community in Istanbul that used the Assumptionist church in Kadikoy, Istanbul, for worship. Over the years, Jonathan was attracted to the Catholic liturgy, to Hindu spirituality, and to the Quakers' involvement in social action. Living with a Benedictine community in Devon, England, moved him definitively toward Catholicism. He entered the Church in 2008 and is now an Assumptionist studying theology at Boston College.



Brother Ryan Carlsen, AA

Ryan grew up in Colorado and attended a Lutheran seminary after college. Wrestling with unanswered questions, he began attending Orthodox liturgies and moved to the Ukraine as an English teacher. A chance meeting with a Catholic teacher prompted him to attend Mass and begin praying the Rosary, and he entered the Catholic Church in 2009. Desiring to volunteer after returning to the States, he worked with the Assumptionists in Worcester and entered the congregation soon thereafter. He spent last summer at a center for Catholic-Orthodox dialogue in Bucharest, Romania, and at the Assumptionists' parish in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.



Brother Sagar Gundiga, AA

Sagar is the youngest child born to his devoutly Roman Catholic parents in a small farming village in Andhra Pradesh, India. He studied economics, political science, and business at Vidyaniketan Junior College in Warangal, and pursued graduate work in psychology, journalism, and literature at the University of Bangalore. There he first contacted the Assumptionists by mail. Sagar postulated in the Philippines, where he volunteered in the Marytown slums in Manila and went on mission to the northern municipality of Piat. He did his novitiate in Worcester and is now beginning his theology studies at St. John's Seminary in Boston.



Brother Blair Nuyda, AA

Blair holds degrees in Philosophy and Mass Communication from St. Paul Seminary in Silang, Philippines, and has completed further studies in education, journalism, Biblical theology, and creative writing. He worked as a café manager in the Philippines before the Religious of the Assumption employed him as a literature professor in Assumption College San Lorenzo. The Sisters introduced him to the congregation. He later served as one of the founding personnel of the Assumption Language Center in Manila. As an Assumptionist brother, Blair works as an educator, writer, and visual artist, and is involved in publishing at Bayard Press.



Father Joseph Zhang, AA

Before joining the Assumptionists, Joseph was ordained a diocesan priest and served as superior of a minor seminary and pastor of three parishes in southern China. He was also responsible for catechetical instruction in his diocese, founded a youth group, and served as chaplain for a convent of Sisters. He met the Assumptionists while studying English in Manila, and later read the biography of our founder, Father d'Alzon, during a long illness. He requested authorization from his diocese to join the congregation, made his first profession in 2012, and is presently the assistant pastor at St. Anne's and St. Patrick's Parish in Sturbridge, MA.



Mr. Daniele Caglioni, postulant

Daniele is originally from Bergamo, Italy, but grew up in Redding, Connecticut. As an undergrad at Assumption College, he obtained degrees in Italian Studies and Classics, with a concentration in Latin. He was heavily involved in campus ministry at the College, which introduced him to the family of the Assumption. After college, he embarked on a year-long journey of discernment and service in an Assumptionist community in Florence, Italy. It is because of this life-changing experience, and the faith that was nurtured at the College, that he has returned as an Assumptionist postulant.



Brother Eddy Gonzalez, AA

Originally from Guatemala, Eddy was studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Providence when he met Father Philip Bonvouloir, AA, who introduced him to the Assumption. Eddy was attracted to the prayer and community life of the congregation and joined the community in 2010. As a religious, he does apostolic work in a hospital in Boston and is completing a post-Master's certificate in spiritual direction at Boston College. As he continues his journey in religious life, he asks every person who reads these lines to pray for him and for all his brothers in formation.



Brother Hoang Nguyen, AA

Hoang was born and raised in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam, and studied English at the University of Foreign Languages and Information Technology. He became a candidate for Saint Joseph's Seminary in Saigon, but left the seminary and worked as a translator for several years before arriving in the United States in 2008 to further his studies. There he met the Assumptionists. During his candidacy with the congregation he studied philosophy at Assumption College, and entered the novitiate in 2013. He now studies theology at Boston College. Hoang returned to Vietnam to do pastoral work last summer.



Mr. Brian Verzella, postulant

Brian grew up in Guilford, Connecticut, the youngest of three brothers, and attended college at Northeastern University, where he studied Music Industry. For many years, Brian has worked in various capacities among individuals with special needs. In his spare time he enjoys hiking, playing soccer, reading, and composing Christian music (www.soundcloud.com/gowithgod). He was attracted to the Assumptionists' vibrant and close-knit community, their balance between active and contemplative life, and the way they communicate Christ to others in a manner and language relevant to their lives.



Brother Ronald Sibugan, AA, Vocation Director

Ronald was born in the Philippines. He always felt drawn to the priesthood but, as the oldest of six children, was obligated to provide for his family. He earned a degree in computer engineering from the University of the Philippines and worked for a year in Taiwan, where he became heavily involved with his local parish and felt the call to religious life returning. He began to work with indigent people, teaching them catechism and math. Ron joined the Assumptionists after attending a discernment retreat in Manila. He has ministered to the elderly in Somerville, MA, and at a summer camp for boys in Gilmanton, NH, and is currently a campus minister at Assumption College and vocation director for the congregation. He will be ordained to the priesthood this year.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT CONSECRATED LIFE IN THE CHURCH?



THE ASSUMPTIONISTS
AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION
330 Market Street
Brighton, MA 02135

· · Consecrated men and women are in need of **prayer**. Their way of poverty, chastity, and obedience is not always understood by a world that is increasingly materialistic and individualistic. We invite you to pray for all of our Assumptionist brothers and, in a special way, for our young brothers in formation and discernment.

· · Get to know religious men and women and offer them **thanks and encouragement**. If you would like to write to one of the brothers in this booklet, please contact us at assumption.vocmin@gmail.com.



· · Religious men and women are deeply grateful for their generous **financial benefactors**, who support their apostolic mission and who ensure, among other things, that their young members can be educated and their elderly members can be given proper care. If you would like to make a donation, please visit us at <http://assumption.us>.

· · Young people are often told that religious life is a waste of time or a relic of the past. Their genuine curiosity and vocational stirrings can be suffocated by lack of support. Please do not be afraid to **ask** young people in your family and community whether they have ever considered religious life.

When someone **affirms** a young person's suitability for ministry, **validates** the meaningfulness of religious life, and **offers a listening ear**, it can make all the difference.



LET'S GO AND WAKE UP THE WORLD!



~ 2015 Year of Consecrated Life ~

WAKE UP THE WORLD!



Logo created by NSVC & the VISION Vocation Network

“**T**he Church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of acting, of living! It is possible to live differently in this world.... It is this witness I expect from you!” ~Pope Francis