



Dear Friends,

We've all been transformed by the Assumptionist charism-which is why we've decided to dedicate this issue to the upcoming education congress. Inside, you'll find several ways an Assumptionist education has changed and shaped lives.

Including mine. I came to Assumption College in 2007 barely attached to my Catholic faith. I had a vague conception of God, and I didn't think He cared about me. But that changed when I started taking courses and when I got to know the Assumptionist family.

They pushed me over the edge, sending me spiraling into the depths of the Catholic intellectual tradition - a fall from which I have never recovered.

After all, this is a congregation uniquely qualified for awakening souls. Its founder, Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, wanted nothing less than to pour water over a spiritually dry culture. Thy Kingdom Come indeed! We hope this issue inspires you.

Jon Bishop, AC '11, Editor



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONGRESS, 17-27 July 2016, Assumption College

Father Emmanuel d'Alzon, founder of the Assumptionists and the Oblate Sisters of the Assumption, was convinced the best way "to strengthen... flagging spirits and heal...moral fatigue" was a solid education enlivened by a genuine love of truth and inspired by the light of the Gospel.

This summer, Assumption educators from all over the world will gather at Assumption College to reflect on Father d'Alzon's educational insights and implement them in their own institutions and countries.

The Congress will convene July 17th on the campus of Assumption in Worcester. Some seventy participants, men and women, lay people and religious, from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America will come to share their experiences as educators and to explore ways to be more faithful to d'Alzon's vision.

It will provide participants with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the different kinds of Assumptionist educational institutions in the world. The list is long. These institutions seek to educate students with an approach inspired by Father d'Alzon's own principles and practice.



The program will feature readings and discussions of some of Fr. d'Alzon's most important writings on education, in addition to presentations on their historical context. Inarguably the most important part of the program, participants will draw concrete conclusions about how they might make their own institutions even more faithful to the Assumption spirit in education.

As the Congress concludes and participants look toward the future, they will hear an address by Dr. Mary Ann Glendon, professor of Law at Harvard University and former US Ambassador to the Holy See. A friend of the Assumption family, Glendon will offer her own insights on the challenges facing Catholic education in the 21st century.

This Congress has been in the planning stages for a number of years and has garnered the support of national and international foundations. Among others, Porticus, the international philanthropic foundation, is providing substantial assistance, as are Dr. and Mrs. Donald D'Amour, close friends of the Assumptionists, and Assumption College. Our hope is that this Congress will enable participants to strengthen the educational mission at the heart of their founder's vision and better serve the Church and the world, which is so much in need of sound teaching and truly humanizing education.

FR. RICHARD E. LAMOUREUX, A.A., DIRECTOR OF FORMATION
AC '64



How has the uniqueness of an Assumptionist education changed your life?

Spring 2016

It was 1934, and I was a high-school graduate in Springfield with no special goal in mind. A relative, close to the Assumptionists, visited us. He convinced me to go to Assumption College. I accepted on condition that no one pressure me to become a priest. I was assured that would not happen. I said this for I harbored a desire for the priesthood but was now, unfortunately, trying to stifle it. Yet, in my sophomore year I freely chose to become an Assumptionist priest. There had been no pressure. But the freedom granted me was the needed catalyst to help overcome my resistance to God's call.

FR. OLIVER BLANCHETTE, A.A.PREP'35, AC '39



My Assumptionist education really did change my life, as it was truly character forming. It was never just about gathering data, studying new things or specialized training. The atmosphere was especially supportive, and the friendships nurtured were long lasting. Several of my teachers cared for me and my personal development. They encouraged me to build relationships, to passionately seek the truth, as well as the good and the beautiful, in all things. They challenged me to recognize my own ignorance and address my other weaknesses, and set me on a path of lifelong learning. They steered me in directions I would never have found on my own, and encouraged me to always be willing to seek help and to share with others. For all of these blessings and more I will be eternally grateful.

DON D'AMOUR, AC '64



Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, the congregation's founder, thought of teaching in the "most absolute sense of the word." While I never received a formal Assumptionist education, I experienced this when I first came to the USA and the Brighton community received me with an openness that is typical of the congregation's transformative charisma. Education itself is a "work of charity...through which we shall seek to extend the reign of Christ" and in which "love proves itself by deeds." Thus living-and-learning-communities are typical of an Assumptionist education. As an Assumption College philosophy professor, I am fascinated by the 'philosophical nature' of Fr. d'Alzon's vision of education. It is not only skill acquisition but "transformation of the entire person". The idea is as old as Socrates' "guidance of the soul," but d'Alzon adds a biblical dimension to it: education is "cooperation in the salvation of mankind" and helps us appreciate our God-given "spiritual resources." Similarly, d'Alzon envisioned an education through which we become "vessels of truth" and live accordingly.

CHRISTIAN GOBEL, DIRECTOR OF ROME PROGRAM



The education I received through the guidance and support of the Assumptionists laid the foundation for a life in service to others while guiding me through my faith journey. As a student I was challenged to follow Fr. D'Alzon's dictum to be "the person who God wants you to be." Through my coursework, leadership opportunities and personal challenges, I always carried with me the Assumption College motto "Until Christ be formed in you." This motto has continued to guide me, helping me keep Christ centered in my life while sharing my gifts with others. The Assumptionist presence on campus embodies a sense of spiritual renewal and enhances the mission of the college.

AMY LOGUE, AC '01



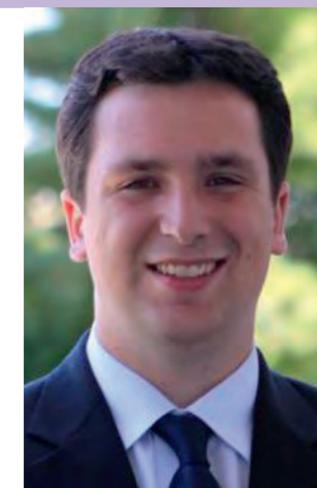
Without the Assumptionists, I wouldn't be a practicing Catholic who truly wants to foster the New Evangelization in my personal and professional life. My Assumptionist education trained my will and mind to focus on the important questions we must all face in life. Therefore, I can be a good citizen and neighbor in my community. I have the skills to think through complex issues and arrive at answers. Without an Assumptionist education, I believe I would lack these critical skills, and without my great professors, I wouldn't have read the Great Books or learned about the importance of truth. My Assumptionist education gave me purpose and knowledge to face the challenges of the day and persevere through them. The Assumption College motto is "Until Christ Be Formed in You," which I take to heart and use to live every day for Christ and His people. I'm truly indebted to the Assumptionists for providing me a world-class education.

JOE TURCOTTE, AC '12



I truly cannot imagine where I would be today without my Assumptionist education. Assumption's liberal arts curriculum exposed me to some of the very best elements of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. I learned to ask difficult questions, discern between competing claims, and most importantly seek fundamental truths. None of this would have been possible without the guidance of my professors, true masters in their fields who always challenged me to outperform my self-expectations. I benefited from their mentorship and the inspiration they provided. Currently, I myself am an educator, and I constantly draw upon my Assumptionist formation to provide the best educational experience for my students.

BRIANNA MURPHY, AC '12



IN MEMORIAM



Father Vincent (Machози) Karunzu, A.A.

Born - April 4, 1965
Professed - September 16, 1986
Ordained - June 26, 1994
Reborn - March 21, 2016



"Father Vincent Machози, Congolese religious from the Province of Africa, was brutally murdered. He gave his life for a just cause: the defense of men and women humiliated and deprived of their basic rights."

Fr. Benoit Griere, A.A., Superior General

"Our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Saint Augustine

We work to build up the Church by proclaiming Jesus Christ. We give priority to education in the faith, to training responsible lay people, to awakening and affirming Christian vocations...

Rule of Life #16

For vocation information: <http://assumption.us/vocations/>. For Lay Assumptionist information call: 617-783-0400.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FR. OLIVER

OVER 100 YEARS WITH AN ASSUMPTIONIST HEART...

- + March 12, 1916
- + Assumption College in 1934
- + professed as Assumptionist
- + ordained in 1944

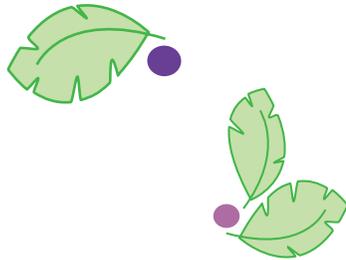


...THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...

- + Springfield, Massachusetts
- + Worcester, Massachusetts
- + Quebec, Canada
- + Paris, France
- + Rome, Italy
- + Saugerties, New York
- + Cassadaga, New York
- + Sturbridge, Massachusetts
- + Arusha, Tanzania
- + Nairobi, Kenya

... IN MULTIPLE MISSIONS IN THE SPIRIT OF VATICAN II.

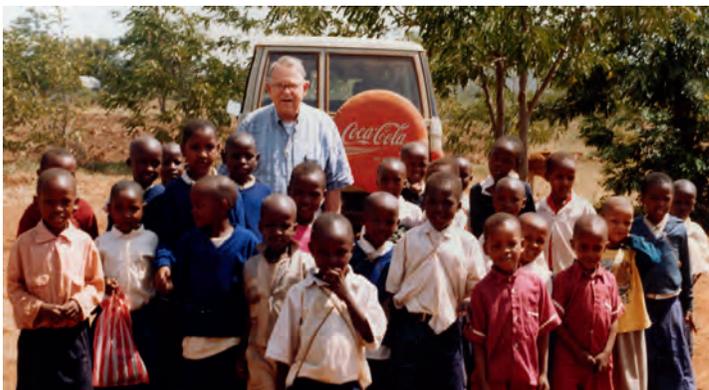
- + Teaching and Preaching
- + Headmaster
- + Religious Superior
- + Novice Master
- + Cursillo Movement
- + Retreat Ministry
- + Ministry to Divorced
- + Parish and Shrine
- + Ecumenism
- + East African missions, with the support of the **Friends of Father Oliver (FOFO)**
- + Lay-Religious Alliance



"I believe wholeheartedly in the Assumptionist dream and its future possibilities. This is the best stage of my life!"

Fr. Oliver

THANK YOU, FATHER OLIVER, FOR THAT LIFE!



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GRATITUDE FOR 100 YEARS

