



EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings and welcome to this issue of **the assumptionist...**

Every year we are blessed with the opportunity to meet more of our Assumptionist brothers from all corners of the world. In this issue we are pleased to introduce you to three Assumptionists from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Father Salvatore, Father Omer and Father Vincent each share their experiences of life in the Congo and their dreams for rebuilding and healing their crisis-ridden homeland.

Also in this issue of **the assumptionist...** We take a closer look at the strides the Assumptionists are making to build a Christian community at Assumptionist Center. We have been fortunate to have many dedicated and gifted young men live with us over the years, many of whom have come from other countries or are graduate students or young professionals. They have brought to us many unique talents and remain very involved in the building of the Assumptionist Center community.

Patricia Haggerty, a long-time member of the St. Anne community, shares her story of the wonderful transformation of the music ministry at St. Anne - St. Patrick's - the latest stride being made to foster the growth and evolution of this beloved parish. Plus she introduces us to Peter Anthony Morin, the Director of Music and his wife Helen, Director of the Youth Choir. Together, through hard work and dedication, Peter and Helen have brought the music standards at St. Anne - St. Patrick's to a whole new level!

Share our joy in celebration of the canonization of Marie-Eugénie of Jesus (1817 - 1898) on June 3, 2007 in Rome.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and encouragement of our newsletter. If there is anything that you would like to share with our team, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at: newsletter@assumptio.org

For more stories and information on the Augustinians of the Assumption please visit our website at www.assumption.us

CONGOLESE ASSUMPTIONISTS by Beth Fleming

We are so fortunate to have in our midst here in the U.S. three Assumptionists from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Father Salvatore Kasereka Musande and Father Omer Mbusa Sivendire live in the Emmanuel House Community in Worcester and study at Assumption College. Father Vincent Machozi lives in the Brighton Community and studies at Boston University.

Father John Franck, who spent 1970-1972 as a volunteer teacher in Beni-Butembo, near the border of Uganda, speaks of his joy in living again with young Congolese: "It's a great sense of joy having young Congolese Assumptionists living here. They remind us of a reality that can sometimes seem so far away, a reality that the media tends to forget, that of the crisis facing the Congo and so many other African countries. The way they preach and the stories they tell at meals and meetings keep our horizons open wide and not simply focused on Assumption College, or Worcester, or even the USA. They bring a completely different experience of Church...of one where Church is central to the life of people, where people take time to celebrate their faith, where the challenges of evangelization are so different, where the needs are so great. Their reactions, however discreet and unassuming, to the way we do things remind me that there are other ways of looking at life and open my eyes to new ways of seeing things. Their presence on the altar gives us all a concrete reminder that the Church is so much bigger than the little corner of reality we see here." What more important lesson is there than to try to understand another human, another culture, another way of doing things, another's struggles?

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with **Father Salvatore**. He was ordained in the Congo on November 21, 2000, after which he worked as assistant to the Superior in Nairobi, Kenya where he studied Theology. In September 2001, he was appointed as assistant to the Provincial Treasurer of the Assumptionist Province of Africa and moved to Butembo, Eastern Congo where he stayed at the Kitatumba Parish. Given the results of that experience and given the many needs of the African Province in the field of management, he was sent here to the U.S. to pursue studies in Management.

Fr. Salvatore's calm presence could not mask an excited hope in the future of his country. He explained that his education here at Assumption College will be used in managing the many projects that the Assumptionists in the Congo, 217 strong, have going on at the moment. He told me that there are so many projects and so much work to be done that there are few left to manage and oversee it all. He and Father Omer will take on this responsibility, armed with their degrees in management from Assumption College, when they return to their homes.



continued from page 1 He explains, "It is my hope that our studies will contribute to the development of the Assumptionist presence in the Congo and I hope that it will also be the contribution of Assumption College to the reconstruction of the Congo, as a whole. Indeed the country needs new ideas from within and from the outside for self-consciousness and change for the "good". Each of the citizens of the Congo is welcome to contribute to a new country."



Father Vincent was ordained on June 26, 1994 in Angers, France, where he was studying theology. Before coming to the U.S. in September 2003, he was based in Kinshasa, the capital city of the D.R. Congo, teaching theology to young religious. Now, he is studying for his doctorate in Theology at Boston University. He hopes to continue teaching and working on grassroots social transformation when he returns to his country.

He has already begun to bring the story of the Congo to the world through the development of the website www.benilubero.com, web development being a skill that he is learning here in Brighton. Fr. Vincent says, "My Assumptionist brothers at the Brighton Center have been always very supportive of my project. In return, I hope that my presence has been helpful to them in some way." Fr. Claude Grenache notes that Fr. Vincent's presence in the community brings the African Church into focus regularly. He notes that "Americans tend to be pretty isolationist and think that the world ends at our borders. Having Vincent around breaks that impression and allows us to be really Catholic in the sense of universal."



Father Omer has been here in Worcester since August 3, 2002, when he enrolled at Assumption College to finish his Bachelor's degree in Management. In May of 2007, he will graduate with his MBA in Management. He is thankful for the time he has spent here in the U.S. He has met many people who are "open to internationality" and his English has improved greatly due to the kindness and patience of those he has met.

The Assumptionists in the Congo are involved in schools (elementary, high school, and a college), social development and communications. At the heart of the mission of each project is the education and betterment of the people in order to build a stronger country. Fr. Omer will specifically be involved in overseeing the Assumptionists' large palm tree plantation when he returns home. He sees the project as a means for local people to earn a living and improve the condition of their families through better health and education. Fr. Omer's greatest hope is that he and the Congolese Assumptionists can be among those helping the country to heal and recover from the war and build a democracy. This indeed is our hope, too.

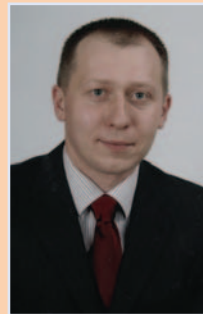
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BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT ASSUMPTIONIST CENTER by Donald Espinosa, AA

It has always been part of the Assumptionists' commitment to the Kingdom of God to help young (and not so young) believers to share in the experience of building and living Christian community. With that in mind, the community of the Assumptionist Center in Brighton has invited young men to live with us and join in our mission of building such a community. We have been gifted with a number of generous and committed young men in the last years, graduate students and young professionals who have become part of our community.

Along with sharing our prayer and joining us for Eucharistic celebrations, they share our table (as well as the chores in the house). Table conversations have become really enjoyable with folks from half a dozen different countries, who have lived in many more countries; our members are and have been graduate students, teachers, professors and even a realtor and a theatrical Production Manager. To help us to benefit from the treasure of our diversity, we gather now and again after Sunday Mass to hear presentations by members of our community and to engage in discussions on such topics as: Ecumenism Today, the Church in Asia, the Logic of Christianity, and the history of the Peace Process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Two of our current residents come to us via Rome. Professor **Christian Goebel** was born in Bochum, Germany and studied in Munich, Rome, Cambridge (England) and Rome



again, culminating in a Doctor of Philosophy degree. Christian has been teaching in Rome for the past six years (Lateran University, University of Saint Anselmo and Beda College). Currently he is a Visiting Fellow at the Jesuit Institute at Boston College. When he is not "mountaineering," (one of Christian's greatest passions), he is providing ethical training for army officers with the German Armed Forces where he is presently a captain of the reserve. A few weeks ago, Chris shared with us some thoughts from the book he is currently writing: *The Logic of Christianity: A philosophical foundation of 'ecumenical thought.'*

Recently, **Christopher Kelly**, who has also been part of our community this year, shared with us his thoughts and experiences of New Evangelization. Chris, a native of Worcester, studied last year at the Emmanuel school of mission in Rome. The Emmanuel Community is a lay Catholic community founded about 30 years ago in Pare Le Monial in France. There are over 8,000 full members of the community worldwide. (www.emmanuelcommunity.com). "While living and studying in Rome last year," Chris says, "we traveled to many different places throughout Europe doing mission trips, including Ireland, Portugal, France, Belgium, and Amsterdam. We also participated in most of the liturgies at the Vatican and would work with the youth and the poor around Rome." While continuing his involvement with the Emmanuel community, Chris is also the Production Manager with Blue Man Group here in Boston.



As we all attempt to do for one another (lay residents and staff, alongside Assumptionists, both professed and in formation), Chris and Chris teach, model and learn more about what it means to be members of a believing and growing Christian community. We thank God for the gift of our Assumptionist Center community, and we thank you for your prayers and support in our mission here in Brighton!

We are called to follow Christ radically on the paths of the Gospel. Prompted by his Spirit and inspired by Mary's example, we choose to risk our lives in the adventure of encountering God.

Our religious consecration, which is an outgrowth of the treasure we received at baptism, impels us to grow constantly in faith, hope and love.

MUSIC MINISTRY AT ST. ANNE-ST. PATRICK'S by Patricia Haggerty



Helen and Peter Morin with Pat Haggerty

“Rejoice, oh heavenly powers. Sing choirs of angels.” These are the opening words of the Exsultet, sung at the Easter Vigil. These words echo hope; these words intone praise and rejoicing. The opening of the Exsultet represents the spirit of rejoicing that exists at St. Anne-St. Patrick’s over its music ministry.

St. Anne-St. Patrick is very fortunate to have a dynamic Director of Music in the person of **Peter Anthony Morin**. In fact, not only do we have Peter as our director, but we also have his wife, **Helen**, as a violinist supreme and director of the Youth Choir. In just a few years, Peter has elevated the music standards at St. Anne-St. Patrick’s. He has the adult choir singing music it never thought possible. He has instituted a cantor program that utilizes parishioners to lead the psalms at each of the

Sunday masses. He directs a spring concert that benefits either the Haitian missions or another worthy cause.

To add to the beauty of music in the Sturbridge area, both Peter and Helen have instituted the Rimscha Concert Series. This is a series of free concerts throughout the year that bring to our church professional musicians of local, national, and international acclaim.

The Rimscha Concert Series evolved from the donation of a grand piano to our parish. The piano, once owned by Edouardo Rimscha, was the donation of Napoleon Suprenant.

Recently our parish has had the amazing good fortune of acquiring a new organ through the donation of two anonymous benefactors. This new organ was donated in memory of Florence Dussault, a deceased member of our parish who was instrumental in hiring Peter.

Peter and Helen Morin can look at the music program with pride. When Peter was hired he said his aspiration was to “create a singing parish where people were taking ownership of the liturgy.” I know this is happening. One need only visit St. Anne-St. Patrick’s to find out!

MEETING WITH LAITY IN WORCESTER, MA - FEBRUARY 11, 2007

The gathering of lay people with Fr. Richard Lamoureux, our Superior General, was a moment to take stock of the various alliances between AA’s and lay collaborators at the local level of our communities and apostolates. Its symbolism was striking: Fr. Richard, representing in his person the animating spirit of Fr. Emmanuel d’Alzon, surrounded by a



Sr. Cathleen Toomey, Joe Pagano, Julio Navarro, A.A., Emmanuel Kahindo Kihugho, A.A.

group of men and women dedicated to the same goal of witnessing to God’s kingdom in their lives and work. For d’Alzon it was the very urgency and scope of that witness which underscored the desirability of drawing together lay and religious to this common end. At a time when our declining membership reminds us AA’s of how much our founder was able to accomplish with a quite modest number of religious, the presence of

lay friends from a variety of different places in the region keeps us alert to the fact that lay collaboration has been, from the beginning, an integral dimension of the Assumption charism. The desire expressed by many at the meeting to strengthen these bonds by prayer, by ongoing formation, and by service was a real source of encouragement.

by Dennis Gallagher, AA

What struck me about the meeting is the diversity of those who attended; married couples active with Assumptionists in their parish, former students of Cassadaga and the prep school, young faculty members at the college to retirement age Religious of the Assumption, lay people who work in Assumption-sponsored ministries to volunteers who serve in a number of ways. Given the diversity of the group and common affection for the Assumptionists, I walked away energized by the possibilities of greater lay involvement.

by Joe Pagano