

THY KINGDOM COME  
**Augustinians**  
*of the Assumption*

# *the assumptionist ...*

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Winter 2003

## ASSUMPTIONISTS IN EAST AFRICA ... IN KENYA AND TANZANIA

### FROM YOUR EDITOR'S DESK

As the last of the Thanksgiving dinner leftovers get finished and Advent purples appear, I am aware of how much we have to be grateful for as members of the Assumptionist family.

We are grateful for the grace to serve the people of God in the Church of Kenya and Tanzania. Fr. Richard Brunelle tells us a little more about those missions. We are also thankful for the Asian mission to which we are being invited ... and for the Filipino and Vietnamese communities who are working with us to make this dream into a reality.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to celebrate long years of service in the Assumptionist family (with Brother John Thomas McHugh, Father Roland Guilmain and Father Dennis Gallagher) ... and to have shared the joy of the Religious of the Assumption as they received the first vows of Sister Teresa Nha Trang.

As we celebrate 100 years in Worcester, we are able to acknowledge those who have collaborated with us over the years as well as the on-going generous support of so many alumni, parishioners and friends.

Unfortunately we can only give you highlights in these pages; should you be interested in more information and photos, please go to our website at [www.assumption.us/headlines.htm](http://www.assumption.us/headlines.htm).

To all of you in our extended Assumptionist family, our grateful prayers and warm wishes for a joyful Christmas and God's blessings in 2004!

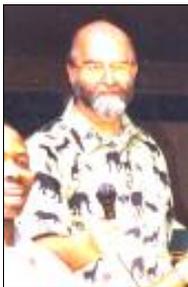
Father Donald Espinosa, A.A.

On November 21, the Assumptionist



Frs Richard Brunelle, AA & Alexis Babineau, AA

parish in Arusha sponsored an International Festival of Church Choirs to celebrate Founder's Day, the 123<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Fr. d'Alzon's birth into heaven. Choirs from Kenya and Uganda joined many from Tanzania to promote good parish liturgical singing. The festival ended with the Eucharist and dinner for more than 200 guests at the parish center.



Fr Luc Martel

Why this festival on Fr. d'Alzon's feast day? Fr. d'Alzon wanted his religious to promote good liturgical celebrations. Our communities in East Africa, particularly our parish in Arusha, have made this work part of their mission.

The Arusha parish itself has several excellent church choirs, three in the parish church in town and one in each of the four mission posts.

The Assumptionists have

come to East Africa to help the local church develop into a robust branch of Christ's vineyard. Good church music is only one of our goals.

We promote sound Christian formation



Fr Alexis Babineau, AA and friends

through schools and catechetical programs and invest substantially in medical dispensaries and other social programs. On another level, several of us teach at the Spiritan Major Seminary training future brothers and priests. Fr. Luc Martel, the Superior of the East African Mission, is the business manager of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. Furthermore, all of us Assumptionists in East Africa, where we have five houses (2 in Kenya and 3 in Tanzania), are involved in one way or another in the formation of our own brothers. Thank God, there are good vocations to religious life as well as to the diocesan priesthood.



Fr Richard Brunelle, AA (author of this article) and young Assumptionists

**CLASS OF 1953 MAKES ANNIVERSARY GIFT TO ASSUMPTIONISTS**



Our sincere thanks to the Prep class of 1953 who chose to make a special gift to the Assumptionists on the occasion of their 50th anniversary celebration. It's heartwarming to know that the Prep alumni continue to see themselves as members of the extended Assumptionist family. Thanks !



Photo by Chris Christo

**A WORKSHOP FOR FUND-RAISING FOR AN ASSUMPTIONIST FOUNDATION IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Under the patronage of Saint Lorenzo Ruis, we have begun to organize a fund-raising program so that we can support the establishment of the Assumptionists in the Philippines and beyond into Asia. On October 13, a group of Assumptionists, candidates and friends met to pray together and to make plans. A



A Filipino Assumptionist Choir is born ...

couple concrete proposals were made.

We discovered surprise musical talent in our novices and candidates, who will present a Benefit Christmas Concert in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on Sunday afternoon, December 7 at 2:00. And plans have begun for a pilgrimage and Fiesta in Sturbridge late next summer.



New Vietnamese friends join the extended Assumptionist family

**FEAST OF THE VIETNAMESE MARTYRS**

The Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Assumption College resounded with new sights and sounds ... and the Emmanuel House community of Assumptionists and candidates was feasted with new tastes on Saturday, November 22. Our new brother, DINH Vo Tran Gia, introduced us to some 50 members of the local Vietnamese Catholic



community ... and together we celebrated the feast of the Vietnamese Martyrs. After Mass, we gathered at Emmanuel House for fellowship and wonderful Vietnamese food. Welcome, friends, to Assumption College and to the Assumptionist family!

**THE EMMANUEL D'ALZON MEDAL AWARDED**



Emmanuel d'Alzon Medal

On November 12, the Assumptionists celebrated 100 years of presence in Worcester, Massachusetts. On that occasion, it was our great joy to acknowledge a long-time friend and brother. In the presence of his colleagues and family, we awarded the Emmanuel d'Alzon medal to Dr. Marc LePain in recognition of his generous commitment to the Assumptionist educational mission.



Marc & Patty LePain with Frs John Franck & Dennis Gallagher  
Photo by Dan Vaillancourt

**A special word of gratitude ...**

We would like to express our sincere thanks to two alumni: Bob Catalonotti of the AM Lithography Group and Bob Clark of Clark Mailing Services for their help in producing this newsletter. If you would like to help underwrite an issue of *the assumptionist ...*, please let us know.

Please pass on your copy of *the assumptionist ...* to a friend ...  
... someone to add to our mailing list?  
Please write, call or e-mail (newsletter@assumptio.org)...

# ASSUMPTIONISTS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES

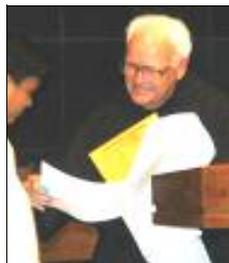
One of the wonderful experiences that the Assumptionists and the extended family have had a chance to share recently has been the celebrations of a number of anniversaries of its members. In fact, in recent months, we have recognized and celebrated a total of 125 years of faithful service to God's people.

On September 14th, a large group gathered on the College campus to celebrate the 25th anniversary of priestly ordination with



Brother John Thomas McHugh, AA renews his vows in the hands of Father Dennis Gallagher, AA, Regional Superior

The first celebration marked 50 years of religious profession for Brother John Thomas McHugh.



Just a few words from J.T.

Over the years, JT has cooked, served in parish and Shrine ministry, run the Print Shop at the College ... and continues—even today—to minister to the sick and elderly confined to Nursing Homes.

October 3 marked 50 years of priesthood for Father Roland Guilmain. During those years Roland has served as



Fr Roland with friends, Hai and Chinh in Worcester).

Dean of Men at Assumption College, Pastor in Mexico City, Director of the Assumption Guild, Provincial of North America and, most recently, the driving force in our Missions Office (and superior for our elderly brothers at Old English Road in Worcester).



Family and friends join Fr Dennis Gallagher, AA to celebrate 25 years of priesthood

Father Dennis Gallagher. In addition to a large number of family members, he was joined by his brother Assumptionists (of whom he is the US Regional Superior), members of the Assumption College community (where he is Vice-President for Mission and a member of the faculty), parishioners from St. Rose of Lima parish (where he serves on weekends), and many other friends.



... and the celebration continues

*"Jesus Christ is at the center of our life. We commit ourselves to following Him in faith, hope and charity. Like Him, witness of the Father's love and bound in solidarity with his fellow men, the Assumptionist seeks to be a man of faith and a man of his time."*

**Assumptionist Rule of Life**

**SISTER TERESA NHA TRANG, RA** made her **FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS** at Our Lady of Vilna Church in Worcester MA on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2003.**



Along with her mother, father, brother, and two sisters from North Carolina, she was surrounded by the sisters and brothers of her religious family and by friends and members of the Worcester Vietnamese community.



Sr Claire, RA, Provincial Superior, & Sr Teresa Nha-Trang, RA sign covenant

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Photo by Dan Vaillancourt

*We wish you a happy and holy Christmas and a grace-filled 2004*