

**EDITOR'S DESK**

*In the Assumptionists' Mission Statement for the United States Region, we describe our role to collaborative leadership and formation in the Church, we teach, preach and foster education in all its forms. In this issue of our newsletter we would like to share a short story of the Assumptionists and Assumption College in which Father Donald presents the Assumptionist commitment to the ongoing formation of leaders within the Church. Also in this issue you will find some updates from two of our communities. Father Claude provides an overview of recent events at the Assumptionist Center Community in Brighton while Father Donat shares some news from the Emmanuel House community at Assumption College in Worcester.*

*Joe Pagano provides a report about one of our regional initiatives for lay people – a Monthly Evening of prayer and reflection, presented and organized by a collaboration of Assumptionists and our lay friends. Pat Haggerty offers another report from St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish in Sturbridge. This time it is a story about another dimension of the Assumptionist commitment to the formation of future Assumptionists. Pat describes the ceremony of first profession of annual religious vows for Brother Ronald and renewal of vows for Brother Dinh.*

*Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement of our newsletter as well as the life and the works of the Assumptionists. As the end of the year approaches we would like to welcome you to become more involved in our works. You can do this by sharing your stories with us, participating in our programs and by supporting the works of the Assumptionists.*

*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](mailto:newsletter@assumptio.org).*

*For more stories and information on the Augustinians of the Assumption, please visit our website at: [www.assumption.us](http://www.assumption.us).*

**ASSUMPTIONISTS AT ASSUMPTION COLLEGE** by Donald Espinosa, A.A.

Fr. D'Alzon always underlined the importance, in the task of working to extend the Kingdom of God to which he had committed his religious family and their lay collaborators, of education as a primary means. Education has been understood, throughout the history of the community, to take on many different forms. And when the Assumptionists of the United States Region formulated their Mission Statement again just a few years ago, they defined themselves in these words:

"...committing ourselves to collaborative leadership and formation in the Church. We teach, preach and foster education in all its forms."



Assumption in Greendale

In early 1904, a small group of Assumptionists purchased two houses on Fales Street in the Greendale section of Worcester for a total cost of \$12,000. On June 3, Father Emmanuel Bailly, Superior General of the Assumptionists, after a formal Visitation, wrote: "Let us not hesitate to begin, even though we have to begin small and with few youngsters." In October, classes began ... with six students (and seven by January). There were five Assumptionist priests (of whom two were teachers), three Assumptionist brothers and two laymen.

The school was financed by a monthly fee of \$10 per student, and by gifts (especially from local clergy) as well as by the wages earned by the Assumptionists who preached parish missions, retreats and helped in parishes on weekends.

The religious were constantly with the students, in study hall, during recreation, taking part in the games, nursing the scrapes and scratches, and even repairing and patching students' clothing.

Many changes occurred and much growth took place over the next fifty years. And then, on June 9, 1953, at 5:12 P.M. a devastating tornado hit Worcester doing massive damage to Assumption High School and College in Greendale.

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Assumption on Salisbury Street

On December 3, 1954, Assumption began a week-long celebration of the Golden Anniversary of its founding, then planning and fund-raising began for the new College campus. A little more than three years later, the Salisbury Street campus opened its doors to 201 students.

From its earliest years and in keeping with Father D'Alzon's practice of inviting associates to share in his vision of helping students to become strong and committed believing leaders, Assumption has always welcomed lay collaborators in the mission. 1968 saw a major development in this collaborative effort. Until that time, the Board of Trustees of Assumption College had been constituted solely by Assumptionists who owned and controlled the institution. In June 1968, after having received authorization from the Holy See, they changed their By-Laws and voted themselves out of existence in order to be replaced by a new Board, of which two-thirds of the members were laypersons and one-third Assumptionists. Since that time, the Board of Trustees, and not the Assumptionists, owns and controls the College.

Over these past forty years, the Assumptionists have worked to understand the fundamental importance and meaning of their mission as Sponsors of Assumption College. Even though our numbers have diminished (and Assumption College has continued to grow to its current state), it has remained the concern of the Assumptionists to support the growth and "coming-of-age" of the institution all the while challenging the college to remain true to the founding vision and mission. Father Dennis Gallagher, A.A., Regional Superior of the Assumptionists



Father Dennis Gallagher, A.A.

in the United States and Vice-President for Mission of Assumption College has recently described his role in these words:

"The role of the Vice-President for Mission is an extension of the role of the Assumptionists as sponsors of Assumption College. ... the challenge of trying to assure that the animating spirit of the College, rooted in the spirit of Father d'Alzon and Saint Augustine, is kept alive into the future."

- ❖ Currently there are ten Assumptionists and Religious Sisters of the Assumption who serve as members of the Board of Trustees of Assumption College
- ❖ There have been twelve Assumptionist and four lay presidents of the College
- ❖ Currently there are three Assumptionists teaching at the College

### DEVELOPMENT OFFICE CORNER

With the end of the year just around the corner we are encouraged to pause to review, reflect and plan. Many people examine their financial and estate plans to ensure their family's goals are being met. Kindly addressing your charitable giving priorities between now and the last day of the year can help assure maximum benefits for you and for your charitable intentions. Federal tax laws and those of many states make it possible for you to reduce or eliminate taxes on contributions you make for charitable purposes.

Supporting the Assumptionists financially can be an effective way to help us take proper care of the elderly Assumptionist brothers, to help in the formation and education of future Assumptionists and to support the on-going programs of collaboration with laity to form strong Church leaders.

Consider supporting the Assumptionists by gifts of cash (which mailed before December 31 qualify for tax deduction for 2007), stocks, bonds and other assets. If you are over the age of 70 ½ the US Congress has made it possible to make tax-free gifts directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) before the end of 2007.

As the end of the year draws to a close, act now to make sure you have accomplished your charitable goals for 2007. Please contact our office if we can be of assistance to you. In addition, your financial advisor or accountant can provide you with more information specific to your needs.

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### the assumptionist...

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**NEWS FROM EMMANUEL HOUSE COMMUNITY** by Donat Lamothe, A.A.

❖The autumn season is always a busy time at Assumption College, and the Assumptionist communities at work there are fully involved. The students and professors are deeply into their courses. We see groups of prospective students being given guided tours around the campus.

❖Frs. Donat and Salvator went apple picking the last Saturday in September, bringing along Alex Martin, a candidate from India. For Fr. Salvator and Alex this was a new experience, as apple orchards do not exist in India or the Congo. We came back with more apples than we needed, so some were shared with the Sisters at 11 Old English Road.

❖We have been getting to know our new college president, Dr. Francesco Cesareo. He spent time with the community at Emmanuel House this summer while waiting for his residence to be prepared. His family moved into a home at 10 Old English Road at the end of July.

❖The members of the Worcester communities were in attendance at the various events held in connection with the inauguration of Dr. Cesareo as the 16th president of Assumption College over the four day period from October 11 to 14, 2007. The celebrations began with an academic lecture given by Avery Cardinal Dulles on the challenge of remaining faithful to the Catholic Liberal Arts tradition of higher education.

❖On Friday, October 12, a special Mass was celebrated in the College chapel, and the academic ceremony of inauguration took place in the Plourde Recreation facility that afternoon with a colorful procession of faculty and guests from other colleges attired in the appropriate academic regalia. The annual President's Council dinner was held Saturday evening at Mechanic's Hall in Worcester. Over 400 people were part of this elegant event. It was a busy time but a joyful one.

❖Fall is a busy time at Emmanuel House. Fr. Salvator and Alex have been helping with raking leaves; Fr. Donat has been doing similar things in preparation for winter which will come even if

the Fall has been unusually warm. Alex Martin's birthday occurred this month; Fr. Dennis decided that we would all go out to an Indian restaurant. Alex was delighted; he misses the spicy cuisine of his native land.

❖Fr. Donat continues to direct Assumption Schola Gregoriana. This 25 voice choir, dedicated to keeping the gregorian chant tradition alive for today's catholic congregations, is in its tenth year of activity. Last November it produced a limited edition CD of chants of Lent and Eastertide. This November it will record another CD dedicated to the chants of Advent and Christmas. Fr. Donat has just completed an icon of St. Marie Eugénie, founder of the Religious of the Assumption who was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on June 3, 2007. It will be placed in the college chapel.

**MONTHLY EVENINGS OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

by Joe Pagano



In October Fr. Dennis Gallagher and Dr. Marc LePain, truly a "dynamic lay/religious duo" led the first in a monthly series of evening of recollections to be held during the academic year. Open to all, the majority of participants last month attend Mass on Sundays at the college chapel. Featured writings of Fr. d'Alzon and St. Augustine followed by commentary helped us understand how our individual lives are enriched by association and participation in the spirit of Assumption. Kneeling in silent reverence before the Blessed Sacrament followed by a brief social capped a memorable evening. As the Assumptionists seek greater collaboration with the laity throughout the world, we are blessed in our local community to have the leadership of Fr. Dennis and Marc LePain collaborating with this initiative.



**Christ is the one who gathers us together. We live in community according to the spirit of Saint Augustine:**

**Live in a household of perfect harmony, having but one heart and one mind intent on God.**

**We strive to lead a fraternal life which is characterized by frankness, cordiality and simplicity.**

Rule of Life #3

**“LORD, I WISH TO FOLLOW YOU, BUT FIRST LET ME.....”** by Patricia Morin Haggerty



Michael Page, Brother Ronald Sibugan, A.A., Victor Ozoeze  
 commitment with “Here I Am, Lord.” Their renewal of vows was sealed with the words of the psalm, “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.” Certainly, the whole assemblage rejoiced following the moving profession of vows by both Brother Dinh and Brother Ronald. Father Dennis declared, “I accept your profession in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” and the entire community rejoiced!

It was a beautiful late summer evening. The weather was warm, the sun was out, and the guests were assembled. It was the celebration of first vows for Brother Ronald Limboy Sibugan and the renewal of vows for Brother Vo Tran Gia Dinh.

Both Ronald and Dinh had served the parish of St. Anne-St. Patrick. So, it was only fitting that this beautiful ceremony of commitment should take place at St. Anne’s Pavilion. The Pavilion was filled with friends, guests, and members of the Assumption family. The liturgy was concelebrated by Father Peter Precourt and Father Dennis Gallagher who were joined by several Assumptionists around the table of the Lord. Both young religious felt a lot of support surrounded by their fellow Assumptionist fathers and brothers.

The music selected by Ronald and Dinh resonated their feelings of emotion, commitment, and gratitude. They joined the community and affirmed their com-

Following the liturgical celebration, a reception was held in St. Joachim’s Parish Center. Guests shared stories, memories, and wonderful food. Brothers Dinh and Ronald were in demand - searching out friends, receiving congratulatory wishes, and getting hugs and handshakes.

The celebration was the outward sign of an inner journey that both young religious have traveled - and continue to travel. When I spoke to Brother Dinh, he said, “God always finds a way to satisfy our searching. Don’t stop searching for God with a sincere heart.” Brother Ronald echoed that “community is a big part for him in his journey.” We know that God is traveling with them on their spiritual journeys. He has told them, “I am with you. I have called you each by name.” Let us each continue to support these two wonderful Assumptionists through our prayers and emotional support.



Brother Vo Tran Gia Dinh, A.A.

**NEWS FROM BRIGHTON COMMUNITY** by Claude Grenache, A.A.



❖The Brighton Community was saddened by the sudden death of Fr. Georges Tavard on August 13. He was about to board a plane for the return to Boston. A Memorial Service was held at Assumption College on September 16.

❖That same day, Brother Stephen was taken to the hospital where he remained for about a week and was transferred to the Nursing Home near us. He has since returned to the community and has been able to join us on a regular basis for Sunday Mass and our Wednesday community social. He has received a number of visits from friends and family.

❖Brother Ronald was assigned to our community after making first vows on August 28. In fact, he moved in that very evening. He has begun the Pre Theology program at St. John’s Seminary in Boston.

❖Brother Dinh, our other brother in formation, has begun the final work on his dissertation at Weston School of Theology. He is focusing on the Church in Vietnam and the ways the Church there is facing some urgent and difficult problems.

❖Ronald and Dinh needed a Formator and Fr. Roland was assigned to that responsibility. We were very happy to welcome him to our community. He is a much admired prayerful presence among us.

❖Donald has been recuperating well from his latest knee repair surgery. He has even begun to walk with canes instead of the walker. He has also accepted some important responsibilities for the region and the Province. Thanks to this age of electronic communication, he has been working from his room.

❖Our two Vincents are completing their academic work. Vincent Leclercq hopes to make his defense before returning to Paris in December. Vincent Machozi still has a little more to do before his defense but is working diligently on this project.

❖Claude has begun his 8<sup>th</sup> year at Bentley College. He is teaching a course on World Religions this semester.