



EDITOR'S DESK

*"Centered in Jesus Christ and responsive to the needs of the time, we, the Assumptionists in the United States Region, are men of prayer and study living in fraternal community. Committing ourselves to collaborative leadership and formation in the Church, we teach, preach and foster education in all its forms. Impelled by the spirit of the founder, "we go wherever God is threatened in man and man is threatened as image of God."*

*(Rule of Life 4)*

*We are committed, then, to a mission of forming and training strong believing leaders for our Church and for our world.*

*We believe that, like so many of us and our friends, you have benefited from this mission over the years and that you have been guided by the same goal in your families and in your lives and work.*

*So, we recently asked some of you to share with us some of your thoughts about how you have been affected by this Assumptionist mission of "education in all its forms" and how you carry out this same mission in your life?*

*In this edition, we want to share some of the responses we received and posted on our bulletin board. Let us know what you think.*

*And we're also proud to tell you that the Assumptionist Center in Brighton is alive and growing. With six new graduate student residents, our extended community now numbers more than thirty! Come visit us some time.*

*And don't forget to check out our website at [www.assumption.us](http://www.assumption.us).*

*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).*

**EDUCATION IN ALL ITS FORMS** by Dennis Gallagher, A.A.



Father Dennis Gallagher, A.A.

Nobody is likely to accuse the Assumptionists of being an overly homogeneous lot – it doesn't take long to discover that religious community is not a gathering of like-minded friends – but one does often enough hear an appreciation for the thoughtfulness that characterizes our approach to pastoral service. I am persuaded that this is no accident, but rather an expression of an enduring dimension of Fr. d'Alzon's gift to the Church, who insisted on the doctrinal character of all of our apostolic work and who encouraged us to foster "education in all of its forms."

Around the region this particular trait is manifested as much, then, in the homilies preached at St. Anne's, the chaplaincies at Bentley and Babson, and the Sunday discussion groups among our extended Assumptionist community in Brighton as it is in the classrooms at Assumption College. It is as much a factor in Fr. Robert's labor of translating, Fr. Norman's wide and deep reading, Brother Paul's efforts to elucidate the wisdom of Benedict XVI, as it is in the College's brown bag lunch conversations on St. Augustine and C.S. Lewis. Education in all its forms means just this - that in their preparation and execution all of our apostolic activities are informed by a desire to "speak the truth in words that people can understand," to use Fr. d'Alzon's characteristic words.

At a time when we find ourselves too often lost between the Scylla of relativism and the Charybdis of fundamentalism, this particular aspect of our charisma, which makes us ready, in the words of St. Peter, "to give reasons for the hope that is in us," has a particular relevancy and force. It is also a gift in the service of unity, because the very effort to draw out the reasonableness of what we believe helps to establish common ground with all those who desire to understand and give voice to their spiritual yearnings. It is in function of the very love for the Church to which we were called by our founder that we are called to be bridge-builders in the midst of a fragmented and divided world. Since education at its best is the "drawing out" of the substance of our humanity, it is "in all of its forms" a source of abiding hope.

Please pray that this particular mark of the Assumption, manifested in the lives of religious and lay associates alike, may continue to bear fruit in us and around us.

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

**WHAT'S NEW AT THE ASSUMPTIONIST CENTER IN BRIGHTON?**



- :: Six new residents,
- :: New staff members,
- :: Monthly "Conversations at the Center"



:: Bishops Robert F. Hennessey and John P. Boles visit our Center.



From the very beginning, our apostolate has taken on various forms, in particular: teaching understood in the broadest sense of the word, study, communications media, pilgrimages, ecumenism, parish ministry, organizations for the lay apostolate, social work, service to the younger Churches.... In response to Assumption's distinctive vocation, we must never cease to keep ourselves available and ready to do new things.

Rule of Life, #18

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE CORNER

There are many responsibilities that the Assumptionists face while implementing their mission of forming and training strong religious and lay leaders for our Church and the world. In his article, Father Dennis asks for your prayers for that specific aspect of the Assumptionists' mission; please keep in mind that this mission needs financial support as well, that especially now cannot be omitted.

The Assumptionists rely on the generosity of our good friends and donors like you. Without your continued support, the Assumptionists would not be able to continue their efforts at extending the Kingdom of God. It really takes every individual's involvement, however small it might have to be, to help turn this educational goal into a reality through daily actions. Please take a moment now to prayerfully reflect upon God's many blessings in your life and consider a donation to help allow this educational dimension of the Assumptionists' mission to bear fruit in us and around us.

Once again, the Assumptionists thank you for the support and friendship you have shown us in the past. Please let us hear from you soon.

the assumptionist...

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BULLETIN BOARD

Assumptionists taught me in the classroom - French, Philosophy, Art and Religious Studies at Assumption College, shaping my intellect and desire for knowledge. As importantly, Assumptionists educated me in the many classrooms of life - sharing a meal with the community at 50 Old English Road, chatting in the Campus Ministry Office, eating lunch in the dining hall, praying together in the Chapel. Sharing life with the Assumptionists was an education in Christian values - a life long lesson in the Gospel message to love God and one's neighbor as one's self. What I learned in the classroom was given flesh through example. I try to carry this same mission in my own life. After almost 20 years of working in the corporate arena, I am finally fulfilling my life long dream as a high school Religious Studies teacher. ... And I remember the many lessons in Christianity that were taught through my friendships with the Assumptionists.

Sarah, high school Religious Studies teacher

I learned from the Assumptionists that the unexamined life is not worth living. The Assumptionists taught me what the important questions in life are and how to think about them. The burning questions of life, death, love and God have stayed with me as a layman and shaped how I think about everything.

Richard, VP, health care corporation

As I enter through the front door of 330 Market St., I see at the end of the hallway the chapel. I can see from where I am the steady light by the tabernacle, where Christ is present in the Eucharist. I stand at the chapel's threshold; the altar table is in the center, and on both sides of the room, the wooden chairs face each other. I sit to pray. The beautiful mosaic windows suffuse the whole chapel with a serene glow. I am home.

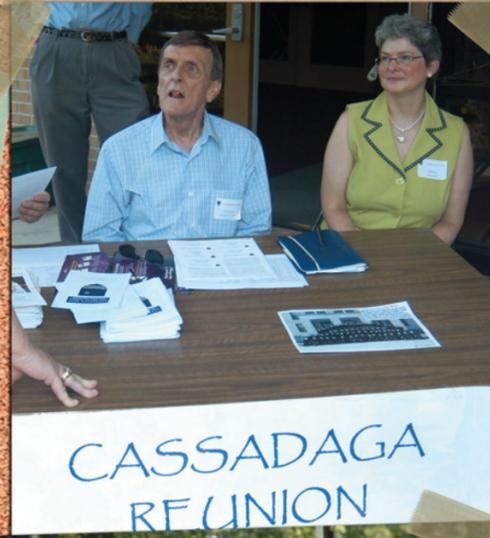
I and my family live in St. Columb House, next door, and from our residence we feel the steady warm glow from this chapel. This chapel has been a source of joy and healing for us; our hearts in winter. The chapel—its physical space and mystical reality—represents for me the kind of hospitality the Assumptionist community at Brighton, Massachusetts has extended to me and my family. The quality of the welcome and the sincere care and respect each member of the community has shown us have created for us a real home, a space for healing, strengthening, and growing. The Assumptionists live out a spirituality of hospitality: a joyful sharing of their gift of community, of God's word and presence with whoever enters this house. It is a hospitality that transforms and sends on a mission whoever breaks bread with the community.

My family is a better family because of our being a part of the Assumptionist community. I am a better person, husband, and father because of my day-to-day encounter with the members of this community. And I bring this spirituality of hospitality with me in my scholarship and teaching at Boston College: every classroom I enter I bring with me this Assumptionist gift for creating sacred space where colleagues and students can find a home, a place for healing, growing, and searching for their Christian vocation.

The Assumptionists embody what I wish I could better live. Among my most comforting memories are the solace I found in evening prayer and the uncommonly thoughtful and inspiringly instructive homilies I heard. These are not small things. They are central to the worrisome life of the very vulnerable Church. They are abidingly important to my spiritual life

Charles, college president

The Assumptionists live an embracing, spiritually profound, and intellectually rigorous tradition that better reflects my "struggles" with faith than any other religious community I have encountered.



I have worked with the Assumptionists for more than 12 years. I have, from behind my secretary's desk, been at times invisible among them as they quietly worked and went about their lives. After my first few months with the Assumptionists it occurred to me that we lay people so often tend to keep our "lives" and our "work" separate. I could see clearly that the Assumptionists exist in stark contrast ... their lives are their work and their work defines their lives ... Thy Kingdom Come. The Assumptionist hallmark, as I've personally come to recognize it, is their remarkably genuine collaboration with lay people. And, I believe, it works both ways ... it fosters a spirit of genuine cooperation and communication between lay people and religious which, finally, enriches all immeasurably. If you're reading this, it's probably because you know an Assumptionist in one way or another. My spirituality has been touched by the Assumptionists and my work and my life are no longer two separate entities. As a matter of fact, being in my office isn't my job ... it's simply where I spend my days! Thy Kingdom Come!

Jane, parish secretary

My life is all about education. I have been in that field for thirty years. Education is the focus of everything I do. Currently, as an administrative leader, I see my role as one of facilitating education while expanding my own. At the base of that mission is the foundation of collaboration. We don't do anything in isolation, and we have to understand the importance of working with others and being strengthened by them.

I believe this is what the Assumptionist mission is all about as well. Maybe that is why I have such a connection with the Assumption community. They espouse what I firmly believe. Through the process of living that mission, I can more readily connect my spiritual life and my work life. They appear more seamless. The Assumptionists have helped me to see that connection and that meshing.

Over these past thirty years, I have been a part of an Assumptionist parish; I have worked with the Assumptionists; I have collaborated with them. I am a music minister in my parish of St. Anne's, and I am on the Editorial Board of the Assumption Newsletter. I consider the Assumptionists my spiritual leaders and my friends. All of this provides richness to my life and helps me live out my own life's mission—to grow, to keep searching, and to keep learning.

Patricia, elementary school principal

To be sent, with very little warning and even less inquiry as to my wishes in the matter, to a French and French-speaking high school of which I had never heard; with mandatory attendance on Saturdays ... might well have come in second had I been given the alternative of a trip to the guillotine at age 13. It would not be too great an overstatement to say that I hated every moment of the ensuing four years. Nor excessive to add that I have been grateful ever since for the Assumptionist education received there. The instruction ... and the lesson, taught by my parents and annealed by example - as well as in the halls of the Prep (if only later to take root) - that allowing God to act in this world through one's service to others, utilizing the gifts He has given us - is our raison d'etre, provided a life-changing and life-long foundation. ... without that foundation, I would be immeasurably poorer.

Jim, APS '66, Attorney

Let's face it, the Assumptionists' commitment to our education grounded us in our personal development, intellectual formation and moral conviction. Just as our parents participated in the miracle of our coming into being and fostered our earliest education, the Assumptionists played a significant role in our further growth, beliefs and behaviors. These are gifts we can never repay but should always remember with gratitude.

Donald, corporate board chairman and CEO



## **CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF 1868 by Father Emmanuel d'Alzon, A.A.**



Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, A.A.

Jesus Christ known by us is the knowledge which we want above all to communicate first, by preaching. ... Our second means is education, teaching. If someone asks us what education means for us, we reply that education is the formation of Jesus Christ in souls, just as teaching is the enlightenment of souls by the splendor of Jesus Christ. ... Our works are all

those by which people can be raised up again, and instructed, and learn about leading a good life, and hereby democracy itself can be made Christian. [quoted in Emmanuel d'Alzon: To Educators at Assumption – Some Writing of Emmanuel d'Alzon on Education, 36-38]

## **'COME TO SEE THIS MAN...' The Mission For The Kingdom - Letter 7 of the Superior General, Richard Lamoureux, A.A., 2003**

Some apostolic activities are closer to the heart of our mission than others and might more appropriately be called "Assumptionist works" ... education and teaching, related to Fr. d'Alzon's emphasis on study and on providing citizens with a solid basis that will enable them to act intelligently in society. (16)



Fr. Richard Lamoureux, A.A.

Our mission can be pursued in today's world in a variety of ways:

- :: by a kind of preaching that is solidly Scriptural, faithful to the Church's teaching..., intellectually rich, attentive to the questions and needs of the faithful, and addresses to them in a language and in a spirit that will touch their hearts and lead them to conversion;
- :: by journalism and other media that put us in contact with a wide audience... and obliges us to witness to faith in simple and often indirect ways;...
- :: by education which engages us in the pursuit of understanding ... Education in broad terms...: in schools at all levels, in a variety of disciplines..., in education programs in special contexts (a parish, a social agency...) and for special groups (immigrants, adult learners,...)
- :: by youth ministry, a special effort to make the Gospel accessible to young people today. (36-37)