

THE ASSUMPTIONISTS

AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION | PROVINCE OF NORTH AMERICA



August 28, 2018 | Feast of Our Father Saint Augustine

Dear Partners in God's Kingdom,



“The seventy [two] returned rejoicing” (Luke 10: 17). This was how Saint Luke described the reaction of the disciples after returning from their mission.

Indeed it is also with great rejoicing that we share with you the fruits of your support to our brothers in formation since the time you received our Annual Appeal letter last Easter. Two of our brothers entered the novitiate in Manila last June. Two of our brothers professed their final vows in Quebec City last July. Two of our brothers were ordained to the diaconate in Mexico last August. It is indeed with great rejoicing that we thank God for these vocations.

Added to these blessings, one of our priests in Quebec City celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood last July. Two of our priests here in the US will celebrate their 50th anniversary as religious on the Feast of Our Father Saint Augustine. We praise and thank God for these many blessings.



We celebrate and achieved these milestones because of your continuous support and goodwill. You are part of God's many blessings to us. We hope that you continue supporting us. Your prayers, your generosity, and your goodwill will always be appreciated!

“We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, In accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12).

In Christ,

Fr. Alex A. Castro, AA
Provincial Treasurer



DEAR FRIENDS,

It is with great joy that I join the Assumption Family both as Vocations Coordinator and editor of this newsletter!

You will also notice our newsletter has a new look as a result of group efforts in bringing our content to the people of our time.

This edition highlights our ministry in renewing society through our Residency Program at the Assumptionist Center in Boston. Both, current and former residents share their lived experiences in being part of a community that is centered in Christian living through prayer, study and community. Our residency program sends a message to our increasingly individualistic society, life is truly lived to the fullest when it is intentionally shared with others. We experience conversion when our focus is shifted from I to WE. After all, Jesus himself shows us the way to live in communion with each other!



-Andrew Mercado,
Vocations Coordinator



WHERE A DREAM COMES TRUE

For over ten years, the Assumptionist Center has been fulfilling a dream to build a Christian community composed of religious and lay men animated by the Assumptionist Rule of Life. Our mission statement affirms that we strive “to be centered in Jesus Christ and responsive to the needs of the time, we are committed to collaborative leadership and formation in the Church as we teach, preach and foster education in all its forms.”

In view of achieving this goal, we provide a home for single men, lay or religious, who are studying/working in the Boston area. We invite them to share an experience of Christian community, living in a supportive, fraternal and international ambiance. The Center also serves as the location for various Assumptionists administrative functions: provincial, local, treasury, development, and hospitality where guests are most welcome.

As this new academic year unfolds and this initial dream continues to become a reality, the center’s members have once again committed themselves to sharing their spiritual journey through prayer/liturgy, their academic/intellectual challenges and their social/celebratory experiences that contribute to building up the community and by extension, the Church. Our long held dream continues to become a reality on a daily basis!



Ever been in an airport before? Remember the anonymous crowd from all around the world, treated like cattle by agents working under pressure? Ever tried the overpriced, unappealing food that they serve in mid-air? Now, let's reverse this kind of experience, but keep in mind the international aspect. Imagine warm meals carefully prepared; people who care about you although you did not know them six months ago; a place with as many accents as in an airport but centered on our common humanity. Well, now you have a good idea of what the Assumptionist Center is like.

-CEDRIC DUSSART, CURRENT RESIDENT



Housing as a graduate student in Boston can be difficult, the Assumptionist Center has proven to be ideal and conducive for student life. In addition, the good food, thanks to our lovely cooks is plentiful and nourishing! Perhaps most unique to the center is the community of students who live here. The exchange of ideas, academic or not, and also the companionship has helped me endure difficult times and has challenged me to grow as a person.

-ERWIN SUSANTO, CURRENT RESIDENT



As an Australian studying music in the United States, living at the center I have enjoyed the various communal experiences throughout the year. I have particularly enjoyed participating in the Conversation Sundays, Christmas Carols Sing-a-long, Chinese New Year and the 4th of July BBQ. These events have allowed me to develop strong friendships with my housemates and provided me with opportunities to connect with people from the wider Assumptionist family. I have also valued the monthly birthday celebrations especially our traditional "toast and roast."

-MATTHEW THOMSON, CURRENT RESIDENT



I've been the grandfather of the Brighton community for 11 years now and I'm still impressed by what's happening here.

Diverse in cultures and backgrounds by living in community, residents share ideas, points of view, disagreements and common chores. Some join the Assumptionists community in chapel for liturgy and prayer. Table conversation can go from the very serious to sharing jokes or personal stories. Our residents quickly realize that they are members of a special family, and not just boarders.

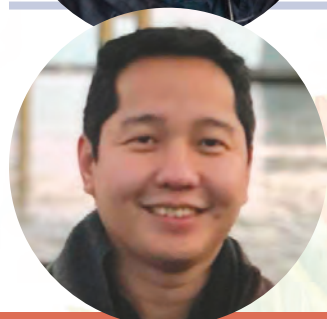
I enjoy living in this lively, intellectual ambience because it keeps my mind active and my heart young.

-FR. ROLAND, ASSUMPTIONIST IN RESIDENCE



After my time at Saint Anne Saint Patrick parish in Sturbridge I was transferred to the Assumptionists Center to continue my graduate studies at Boston College. I am happy to join the Assumptionists Center in Brighton where the community affords me ample opportunity to concentrate on my studies and interact with other students like myself.

-FATHER PETER OMWOYO, A.A., NEWLY ASSIGNED TO CENTER



As we begin a new academic year, my hope is that we will continue to provide a comfortable place to live, study and grow in an environment where a Christian community can flourish. In doing so, we share house chores, carry each other's burdens and joys in a fraternal way and discern God's will for us for the future. It seems like an arduous task, but we continue on this journey with our hearts open to God's grace.

-BR. BLAIR NUYDA, A.A., DIRECTOR OF THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM



My husband, Brian Bialas, introduced me to the Assumptionists in 2010 when we had just started dating. At that point, I was working on completing my doctorate and I felt like I was too busy to make time for my faith. Since then, Brian and I celebrated our sixth wedding anniversary and we now spend most of our time chasing around our little boy, Andrew, who is 15 months old and who loves to run around the Assumptionist Center! We are excited to share our faith and the Assumptionist community with him, as I find a new challenge in balancing being a good mom, a good wife, a good scientist, and a devoted Catholic. In light of the Assumptionist Charism and the spirituality of Father d'Alzon, the center serves as our spiritual home for the Lay Assumptionists in the greater Boston area.

-ALLISON BIALAS, LAY ASSUMPTIONIST



My past eight years with the Assumptionists at the Center has been like working at home for a family I love. It is a home where everyone of various cultures and backgrounds care for one another as they would their family. I also think that I am the only Buddhist/Assumptionist in the congregation!

-MICHELLE OMIECKI, "MARTHA" OF THE COMMUNITY



My two years at the Assumptionist Center in Brighton were full of love and fellowship. I was first welcomed into the community by the loving embrace of the late Fr. Claude. One special memory for me was decorating the house for Christmas and singing Christmas carols. The strong feeling of fellowship that I felt in those moments made me deeply appreciate being in a community which prepared me for the next stage in my life, the seminary.

-BASIL MATHAI, FORMER RESIDENT



"Conversation Sundays at the Assumptionist Center offer a wealth of riches. These conversations have cultivated my theological imagination, fostered community amongst attendees, and motivated me to live out my faith anew in concrete and novel ways, for example, through a combination of art and journaling, as inspired by Br. Blair. Through story sharing and collective reflection, Conversation Sundays have allowed me to explore aspects of my life and my faith I would not have previously considered before."

-NICK MUNSEN, CURRENT RESIDENT



While we come from diverse backgrounds, the regular opportunities for prayer and liturgy has helped me walk more intentionally with Our Lord. Our community life and friendships are deepened as a result of the spiritual and communal experiences. This deeper connection is why I have found a true community here at The Assumptionists Center.

-JOHN SKALKO, CURRENT RESIDENT

FAITHFUL TO THE WILL OF FR. D'ALZON, OUR COMMUNITIES ARE AT THE SERVICE OF TRUTH, OF UNITY AND OF CHARITY. THUS THEY HERALD THE KINGDOM.

RULE # 5



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A *Dream*
COMES TRUE

