



# Diary of the Chapter

31<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of the Augustinians of the Assumption  
Rome, May 2 - 23, 2005

n. 8

Friday, May 13, 2005

## Richard Lamoureux is elected Superior General.



On Friday, May 13, the 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter of the Augustinians of the Assumption, meeting in Rome, elected Fr. Richard Lamoureux, (63) for a second six year term (2005-2011) as Superior General.

The suspense was over quickly...

Fr. Richard Lamoureux, elected in '99, left the

door wide open. At the end of a day of prayer and discernment on Thursday, he declared before all the members of the Chapter that he was indeed available for a new term. "If you ask me to serve again," he declared, "I will do it willingly. These last

six years have been a positive experience for me. It is up to you to decide if they were

also positive for the Congregation. Please note, however, that I am six years older and have a little less energy. What is most important is that you feel free to choose the man the Congregation needs for the next six years."

**"Many Gifts in one body"**

## A Well Known Figure

In the Congregation, Richard Lamoureux's legacy is well known. During these last six years, he has traveled around the world meeting religious, communities and local Churches.

Born in Worcester, MA, September 3, 1942, he hails from a family of immigrants from Quebec. His father was a day laborer. His mother cared for the two children, Richard and his sister, Sylvia.

He was introduced to the Assumptionists at Assumption Preparatory School and Assumption College in his native city. He studied there until the age of 20 when he entered the Assumptionist novitiate in Saugerties, NY. After taking his first vows, studied philosophy at St. Gerard, Belgium (1963-65), and Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome (1965-67). He received his Masters degree in Divinity at the Weston School of Theology in Boston (1967-68).

## A Passion For Architecture

He would have wanted to be an architect. As a child he played at designing major highways.

As a young religious he asked to study architecture but his Provincial Superior found that request a little unusual and didn't pursue it. But that did not dampen Richard's passion and interest.

During his Roman days, he often played hooky to visit churches and monuments. And, later, when he was asked to prepare a doctorate, he chose to specialize in Art History at Boston University and the University of New York.

For his doctoral dissertation he chose a 15<sup>th</sup> century architect, Leon Battista Alberti, master architect of San Sebastiano in Mantua near Padua.

## In Love With Italy

"I love the 15<sup>th</sup> century," Confides Richard Lamoureux, "Romanesque more than Gothic. Architecture is an element of urbanism. It is much more than a technique or an esthetic. It uses a diversity of material for a unique work. It is a language of men on themselves. It is a vision, a perspective on the place of man in the city and in the world."

During these many years, he continued to visit Italy and savor all the riches, natural, artistic, cultural and culinary. He loves Italian cuisine and is something of a gourmet cook himself.



### “The election ceremony”

The voting: L. Martel (1), J. Ramananbitana (2), E. Ratalata and L. Van der Klaauw (3)

The balloting: Tellers E. Ratalata and M. Marciel (4)

Results: R. Lamoureux reelected General Superior (5)

The ovation: (6) (7)

Congratulations: M. Poirier (8), M. Bento de Souza (9), M. Martinez (10), D. Gillier (11) and B. Jouanno (12)

Having been ordained on March 27, 1971 and having completed his post graduate studies in 1976, he was assigned to Assumption College in Worcester, MA to teach Art History. He also directed a community for

young men considering an Assumptionist vocation. In 1984 he was appointed Superior of the North American Province which comprises Canada, the USA and Mexico. Working with the Province of Africa, he was instrumental in founding new communities in Kenya and Tanzania. In 1990, he returned to Assumption College as Provost.

On May 11, 1999 at the 30<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, he was elected Superior General of the Assumptionists following Claude Marechal (1987-1999). He thus became the 8<sup>th</sup> successor of the Founder, Fr. D'Alzon, and the second Superior General along with Fr. Wilfrid Dufault from the USA.

Good natured and good humored, he is an excellent organizer. "He likes to get to the bottom of things," says one of his American colleagues who worked with him for many years. He has an astonishing capacity for work with great powers of concentration and analysis that help him ask the right questions and seize the real issues.

He speaks several languages and has a contemplative streak. He speaks English, French, Italian and Spanish. He is familiar with German and Dutch. He enjoys traveling, meeting people and lively conversation. He also loves nature and silence. "He has a deep contemplative streak," asserts an American colleague. This explains his interest in all art forms: architecture, literature, painting and music, as well as his taste for prayer. In fact, he once seriously considered becoming a monk.

Reelected as expected on this Friday, May 13, during the 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter, Richard Lamoureux will pursue his mission with a new team of Assistants that the Chapter will elect in the coming days.

*P.S. By the end of December, 2004, there were 876 Assumptionist religious: 584 priests, 152 perpetually professed, 140 temporarily professed. The Assumptionists are present in 26 pays.*

### **The last Council of Congregation**

The Council of Congregation met for the last time with these members, on Friday, May 13. The agenda: report of the General Bursar, approval of the accounts for 2004, requests for the Solidarity fund, report of the Procurator General, information on the prophetic gestures.



Top to bottom, left to right:

G. Leroy, E Munoz, L. Maurissen, N. Martinez, E Rospide, A Antoni, J. Franck, M. Lemmans, J-M Meso, M. Bento de Souza, L. Martel, D. Carton, B. Griere, M. Poirier, R. Lamoureux, R. Mihigo, B. Holzer, J. Navarro.