

ASSUMPTION TOGETHER

The Spirit has gathered us to live the same call to holiness according to the Beatitudes and the Evangelical Counsels, whatever our vocation. Together we want to live a real solidarity on the international level so as to be witnesses to the tenderness of God and the transforming power of the Gospel.

From the very beginnings of the Assumption, M. Marie Eugénie of Jesus saw that collaboration and sharing between sisters and laypeople would be essential to accomplishing the work she had undertaken.

Some years ago we began to take this path again with greater boldness, but we never imagined that Assumption–Together would grow the way it has. We are deeply grateful for this grace.

Together with the laity in this General Chapter, we have observed that during the past six years new lay groups and communities of the Assumption have sprung up in all the Provinces. They reveal a new face of the Church.

During this General Chapter, as well as in the Provincial Chapters and the various CGPs, we have experienced our **complementarity**. Our relationships are founded on friendship, mutual respect and working together: Aware of living communion in diversity, we have left each one the liberty to proceed at his or her own pace. We believe that life springs out of such relationships.

The Way of Life¹ has become a reference point for all who want to commit themselves to an Assumption **Lay Fraternity or Community**. The cross² that they wear is a confirmation of a road already traveled and an invitation to go further.

Together we contemplate the same realities in order to commit ourselves to the **transformation of society**. We are happy to see that in certain Provinces, the laity are taking the lead in educational and social projects. This whole process is something worth pursuing.

Through what we have lived together with the laity, we sisters see how the **charism of the Assumption** has been **enriched** as it has **become incarnate** in a new way in today's world.

In response to the mutual desire to move forward, we Sisters take the following orientations. The laity will elaborate their proposals by continent.

¹ *The Way of Life is a guide proposed to those who wish to live, as laity, their Baptismal grace according to the charism of the Congregation and with the spirituality of the foundress, M. Marie Eugénie.*

² *A cross is given during the commitment ceremony.*

ORIENTATION 1

To deepen together both our understanding of the charism of the Assumption and the sense of the Transcendent to help us to articulate our faith and spirituality for today.

1. Encourage participation in theological and biblical courses, meetings, retreats and sessions on the local, continental and international levels.
2. Study the charism using the Texts of MME, the modules for the laity, The Way of Life and the leaflets for the Canonization.
3. Study the spirituality of the laity, the following of Christ, the life of the Church, the great Christian sources, and the sacred texts of religious traditions.

ORIENTATION 2

To grow in solidarity among ourselves and with the world.

1. Help each other move toward a lifestyle of solidarity marked by engagement for Justice, Peace, and the Care of Creation.
2. Create active solidarity networks at all levels and participate in those that already exist.
3. Use all the available means at our disposition so that our solidarity takes on an international dimension.

ORIENTATION 3

To allow the life of Assumption Together to grow through better animation and communication.

1. Each sister and each community is asked to become more involved and committed in knowing and understanding the different modes of participating in Assumption Together
2. Welcome and accompany (the laity), not just individually but as religious community, and share life and prayer.
3. Share freely and joyfully the charism of the Assumption wherever we work (schools, parishes, centers, etc)
4. Propose different levels of belonging to Assumption Together.
5. Become more efficient in the translation and communication of documents.
6. Consult the existing web page: www.assomption-ensemble.org and contribute to it.

ORIENTATION 4

To strengthen the structures of Assumption Together by respecting the pace by which each person and group moves toward their own level of engagement.

1. Create an open space to welcome people of all religions and cultures.
2. Foster mixed (religious and lay) teams: Educational, JPIC-S, Youth and Vocational groups - on the local and provincial levels
3. Strengthen the national, provincial and continental structures and name sisters and lay persons to be responsible for the different levels.
4. Work out together a concrete plan for providing for gradual financial self-sufficiency.