

## Reflection Thursday Week 22 – 2023

At their recent Chapter, that occurs every six years, the Assumptionists focused on the important elements of their mission that will be their focus for the next six years. Prime among these priorities lies in their motto *Thy Kingdom Come*. What St Paul says to the Colossians and says to us is that Jesus has rescued us from the darkness of sin and evil, granted us the freedom of forgiveness so that the light of Christ will shine more brightly within us. Called as we all are to develop the kingdom of God within us and around us, we do this together. Helping the Kingdom of God grow within us enables us to help it grow around us. God uses us to help develop the kingdom of God around us. This means allowing and wanting the presence of God, the presence of Christ, to grow stronger within us. In reaching out to others and discovering how God is present in their lives, the presence of Christ – his light - then grows stronger within us. Rather than a matter of either/or it is a both/and.

**St Augustine of Hippo:** *Your kingdom come. Come it surely will, whether we ask or not. Indeed, God has an eternal kingdom. For when did He not reign? When did He begin to reign? For His kingdom has no beginning, neither shall it have any end. But that we may know that in this prayer also we pray for ourselves, and not for God (for we do not say, Your kingdom come, as though we were asking that God may reign); we shall be ourselves His kingdom, if believing in Him we make progress in this faith. All the faithful, redeemed by the Blood of His Only Son, will be His kingdom. And His kingdom will come when the resurrection of the dead shall have taken place; for then He will come Himself!*