June 18, 2012

Dear sponsors and friends,

The spirit of the Assumptionists and Assumption College were truly embodied in Father Georges Bissonnette. We honor his memory once again in hosting the 39th annual Father Bissonnette Invitational Tournament. The FBI Tournament has enjoyed great success each year, making it one of the finest tournaments in Central Massachusetts.

This wonderful day would not be possible without the continued generosity of our sponsors and supporters. Since its inception in 1974, this event has raised nearly $1.4 million for the College.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the College’s student Financial Aid Fund and the Athletics Department. Requests for financial aid from our students have increased significantly in the past few years. Without your support, it would not be possible for many of our students to attend Assumption College and receive the benefits of a private, residential, Catholic liberal arts education.

Thank you for joining us today. We deeply appreciate your support of Assumption College, our students and our Athletics Department.

Sincerely,

Francesco C. Cesareo

Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D.
President, Assumption College
Assumption College was founded by the Augustinians of the Assumption in September 1904. The school expanded steadily, and, by mid-century, numbered around 400 students. In 1950, the Assumptionists celebrated both the 100th anniversary of their founding and the granting of a University Charter by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to confer graduate degrees. Liberal arts offerings were expanded and Graduate Studies and summer courses were initiated during this period.

A devastating tornado struck the campus in June 1953, claiming three lives and prompting Assumption to rebuild and use the Greendale site as the location of Assumption Preparatory School, and to relocate the College. A new campus was prepared for the College on Salisbury Street. The College entered a new era in 1969 when about 120 women enrolled in the Class of 1973 as Assumption’s first coeducational class.

Today, Assumption College offers a Catholic liberal arts, sciences, and pre-professional studies education to some 2,100 undergraduates and approximately 700 graduate and continuing education students. The campus has experienced significant growth recently, adding four residence halls, the Information Technology Center, Testa Science Center, Multi-Sport Stadium and Campus Ministry Center since 1998. With 180 acres, Assumption has the largest college campus in Worcester.
Fr. Georges Bissonnette, A.A.
1921–94

The Father Bissonnette Invitational Golf Tournament was established in 1973 to honor Fr. Georges Bissonnette, A.A., the twelfth president of Assumption College, and to provide scholarship funds to Assumption students. Fr. Georges has been remembered by many generations of Assumption students as the spirited professor of Philosophy and Political Science, always intent on sharing his encyclopedic knowledge as well as his remarkable insights.

Fr. Georges served as the dean of the Faculty (1962–68) and then as the twelfth president of the College (1968–72). It was during his presidency that the Lay-Religious Board of Trustees was established and Assumption admitted female undergraduates for the first time.

A noted lecturer and scholar in Russian history and Soviet Studies, Fr. Georges pursued graduate degrees at Columbia University, receiving an M.A. from the Russian Institute, as well as M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Public Law. He also studied in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. It was largely due to Fr. Georges’ influence that the Foreign Affairs major was instituted at Assumption.

Fr. Georges’ most famous book is undoubtedly Moscow Was My Parish, describing his two years (1953–55) as the only Catholic priest in the Soviet Union. Actively involved in the Worcester community, he served as vice president of the Chamber of Commerce (1971–78), director of the Y.M.C.A. (1960–80) and director of the United Way (1965–80). He also served for many years as the chaplain of the Harmony Club.

Throughout his life, Fr. Georges had one love: Assumption College. A man of varied interests and unusual accomplishments, he remained in many ways the simple and unassuming son of poor French Canadian immigrants. His warm personality and disarming simplicity endeared him to many. May his memory inspire many to pursue equally lofty goals in living service to the Church and the Commonwealth.

– Written by Fr. Claude L. Grenache, A.A. ’59
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Attention Alumni!
Please join us for these upcoming events.
Visit www.assumption.edu for details and future gatherings.

Saturday, June 23
Rhode Island President’s Reception, Pot au Feu
(followed by Providence’s award-winning WaterFire)

Saturday, July 28
Cape Cod President’s Reception, Hyannis Yacht Club

Saturday, September 8
Assumption Prep Reunion

Saturday, September 29
Fall Homecoming, Alumni-Athletics Hall of Fame
and Alumni Admissions Day

March 2-10, 2013
Discover Italy with President Cesareo

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www.collegecentral.com/assumption

The Assumption College online alumni community is coming this fall, allowing all alumni to (re)connect. More information will follow this summer.

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Carolyn Clancy ’82

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