

Monthly Media Monitor



A Media Apostolate Newsletter of the Congregation of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary

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OMVs in the Virtual World



Left to Right and Top to Bottom: Fr. Claudio Weronig, OMV, gives a homily in Curitiba, Brazil; Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV, prays the Eucharistic Prayer in Alton, USA; Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV gives a weekly reflection in Southampton, England; Fr. Innocent Oviemuno Obi, OMV gives one of his daily reflections in Lagos State in Nigeria; Fr. Patrice Véraquin, OMV gives his weekly Thursday reflection in Nice, France.

For Oblates of the Virgin Mary throughout the world, the ongoing pandemic is an opportunity to reach out to the flock in more innovative ways using the mass media. Though we cannot mention every single instance of these initiatives in this issue, we hope, at least, to give you the notable highlights.

During this time of CoVid, the streaming of Masses, especially over “Facebook Live,” continues from OMV shrines and parishes in many parts of the world. This is true of Paroisse St Enfant Jésus in Montreal, Canada; St. Clement Shrine in Boston, USA; St. Mary’s Parish in Alton, USA (and other US foundations); Paróquia São Paulo Apóstolo in Curitiba, Brazil; St. Boniface Catholic Church in Southampton, UK; the OMV Formation Center in Cebu, Philippines; and other places as well.

Sometimes this time of Covid has inspired our places to make improvements to the streaming experience. For example, at St. Mary’s in Alton, USA, the parish decided to invest some money to move from a one camera set-up to a multi-camera set-up. This has allowed a variety of views of the ambo and the altar.

(continued on page 2)

The Monthly Media Monitor is published in English by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary on the first day of every month, except for June, July, and August (summer break in the northern hemisphere). This publication is not a monthly summary of OMV life in general. Instead, it is an instrument to disseminate news concerning the work of Oblates of the Virgin Mary in the apostolate of social communications. Part of the OMV apostolic work is to propagate the truth through the mass media. This newsletter celebrates the works of this important media apostolate.

— Fr. John Wykes, OMV, Director of Communications, OMV General House, Rome

OMVs in the Virtual World... (continued)

The streams are not limited to Masses. For example, special Holy Hours are streamed from the rectory chapel in Alton, USA. The daily Holy Hour is also streamed from the Formation Center in Cebu, Philippines. Fr. Claudio Weronig, OMV, in Curitiba, Brazil, streams both daily Masses as well as regular spiritual reflections. Fr. Innocent Oviemuno Obi, OMV, in Nigeria has been giving daily Lenten video reflections and posting them on YouTube. Fr. Patrice Véraquin, OMV, has video reflections (“St. Rita Thursday”) posted every Thursday on Facebook from Église Sainte Rita in Nice, France. Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV, stationed at St. Boniface Church in Southampton, England, has also been posting a video every week – most recently on the Beatitudes. Other reflections, such as one on St. Joseph on St. Joseph’s Day, have been streamed from our Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in San Vittorino, Italy.

Sometimes presentations are made on video and then streamed later. A few weeks ago, Fr. Mark Avila, OMV, a Scripture scholar and teacher living in Rome, made a PowerPoint presentation in Italian to accompany his voiceover of a Scriptural exegesis for Lent. The presentation was later uploaded and shown as a special presentation at our parish and student residence in Pisa. Fr. Mark teaches at the prestigious Pontifical Biblical Institute (“Biblicum”) in Rome (currently teaching virtually since Rome is in a “red zone” lockdown). Fr. Mark also used communications technology to give a special Lenten Day of Recollection for religious who reside in the Archdiocese of St. Andrews & Edinburgh in Scotland.

This author (Fr. John Wykes, OMV) also gave a “virtual” retreat to those hailing from Scotland. However, these particular Scottish seminarians live at the Scots College in Rome. When the lockdown of Rome started, the superior at the college nixed our plans to go to a retreat house and decided a virtual retreat would have to do. So both group meetings and individual sessions were done virtually, using mostly Skype but also Zoom.

In other news... on March 1, *Nunc Coepi* (our film documentary on the life of Venerable Lanteri) was shown on Italian Catholic Television — TV2000. The network carries its broadcasts throughout Italy.

Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV, has yet another new book being published. It is called *The Discerning Priest – Ignatian Wisdom for Daily Life in Priesthood*. It went to the printer in mid-March which means that it should be available for purchase sometime within the next few weeks or so.

Last but certainly not least, our U.S. Province is still holding its annual fundraiser (the Gala), but due to the pandemic and thanks to the magic of communications technology, the event is being held virtually. People chairing the event are scheduled to speak, as are at least two seminarians who will give their vocation testimonies. The guest speaker is Arthur Brooks, a Harvard professor, author, and former president of the American Enterprise Institute. Those who tune in to watch will be able to give donations in real-time throughout the evening. This exciting on-line Gala will take place at 7:00 p.m. (Eastern Time in the USA), on April 24. Visit omvusa.org for more information.

Well, that is our news for this month. Stay safe and healthy as we continue to tread the long path through this pandemic. God bless you and may you have a Blessed Holy Week and a Happy Easter! See you next month!