

Monthly Media Monitor



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

Volume 9 Issue 7 — October 2018

"Veni, Vidi ...Vici!"

The famous phrase of Julius Caesar which headlines our MMM is said to have originated in a letter describing his brutally decisive victory at the Battle of Zela in 47 B.C. It was a turning point in Caesar's life and ushered in a new age of consolidated power which, eventually, emerged as the Roman Empire.

The phrase, "I came, I saw, I conquered" has been used repeatedly by others throughout history. In this month's Monthly Media Monitor, I use it again...with all-important ellipsis inserted between "vidi" and "vici." I'll explain the ellipses in a moment.

I (Fr. John Wykes, OMV) am writing from my new home — our Oblate of the Virgin Mary General House in Rome, Italy. For the next three years (perhaps more) I will be serving our Congregation in the role of Director of Communication. Working directly with Rector Major Fr. Dave Nicgorski, OMV and with others who will be part of a team, I hope and pray that this will be a new era in OMV communications.

Our goal is two fold: to strengthen intra-Congregational communications and to strengthen communications between the OMVs and the rest of the world.

The first aspect is one that is rather "hidden" if you are not an Oblate of the Virgin Mary, for intra-Congregational communication is just that — strengthening communication within the Congregation itself. These will take various forms including shared resources, valuable links, videos, articles, and other means. Details have yet to be ironed out, but the initial discussions are promising.

(continued on page 2)



OMV General House — Rome

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



Did You Know...?

...that the Vatican has announced the theme for World Communications Day of 2019?

The only official day of observance mandated by the Second Vatican Council, World Communications Day observes and reflects upon an important theme every year. The theme for a certain World Communications Day (which is celebrated at the end of the Easter Season) is always announced the previous September 29, on the feast of the Archangels, the well-known messengers of God.

See:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2018/09/29/180929b.html>



Veni, Vidi... (continued)

The second aspect is more “public,” and will take the form of a more robust international website, short YouTube videos on our history, and other videos from around the world. As with the first aspect, this second aspect has details yet to be worked out, but, once again, the initial discussions are promising.

Today (October 1) we had four hours of meetings here at the General House regarding communications and our future.

So why the ellipsis in the title? Well, I have come to Rome and I have seen it (Veni). I have also come into this new communications position and have seen various possibilities (Vidi). But it is not yet time to say “Mission Accomplished” — or even “Mission Underway.” So the “conquering” part of this endeavor (Vici) will take some time.

In the meanwhile, I have been living in Rome for only five days. This means I still need to finalize some residential paperwork, get a new cell phone, practice more conversational Italian, and otherwise get more acclimated. We hope to have much more in store for you in the months and years ahead. Stay tuned!

In other OMV media news, the Lanteri Center for Spirituality was featured in a CNA (Catholic News Agency) article. The article, entitled “Spiritual Direction — What is it, who needs it, and why?” was authored by Mary Rezac and is a great overview of the spiritual direction (and spiritual direction training) offered at the Lanteri Center. To read the full article, please visit: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/spiritual-direction-what-is-it-who-needs-it-and-why-16351>.

A reminder that the two series that Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV hosted for EWTN are now available for purchase on DVD. One series is called “Venerable Bruno’s Spiritual Direction for Lay People” and the other is “Liturgy of the Hours for Lay People.” Find these and many other resources at this link: <https://www.frtimothygallagher.org/store>.

Fr. Tim also has a new book coming out very soon. It is called *Setting Captives Free: Personal Reflections on Ignatian Discernment of Spirits*. An .mp3 version of talks given on this topic is available at the link in the previous paragraph.

Well, that about does it for this month’s Monthly Media Monitor. Look for future issues to be sent to you from a new e-mail address...more information on that in future e-mails. Also, please pray for our communications ministry in Rome, that we may truly be attentive listeners and generous contributors to the world of the mass media.

God bless you and see you next month!