

Monthly Media Monitor



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

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Magazines, Podcasts, and More...

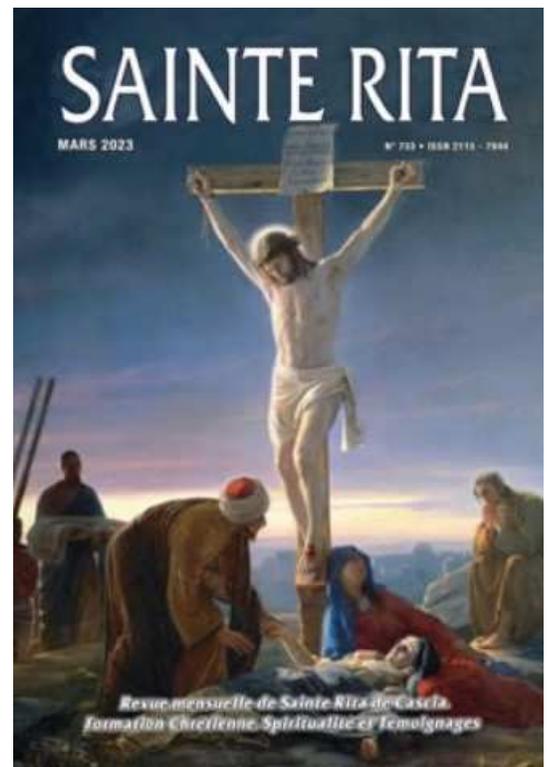
We begin this edition of the Monthly Media Monitor with a look at *La Revue Sainte Rita*. This monthly journal comes from our Shrine of St. Rita in Nice, France and has been published for many years.

“*La Revue Sainte Rita*,” states the on-line description of the publication, “is a monthly journal of Christian formation, spirituality, and testimonies. You will find articles on the life and spirituality of St. Rita, teachings of the Church on current themes, reflections on the spiritual life, and testimonies of Christian life.”

The March issue (pictured here) features an editorial by Fr. Patrice Véraquin, OMV; pages on discernment edited by Fr. Alain Vaillancourt, OMV; and articles on such diverse topics such as awakening the missionary impulse of women; meditations on the Stations of the Cross as prayed at the Colosseum; and praying with the Bible.

Back issues of the publication as well as other information can be found on the Shrine’s website: sainte-rita.net

In other news... we were recently contacted by a lady who hosts a very interesting (and emotionally touching) podcast. Called “Blink of an Eye,” the podcast is the creation of Louise Phipps Senft, who hosts the program. Her son, Archer, was in a serious accident, paralyzing him from the neck down. As both Louise and Archer got to know Fr. Lanteri, they were amazed by a number of parallels, including a weakness in the chest (both Lanteri and Archer experiencing this as teenagers), and that Lanteri and Archer even resemble each other physically. Beyond that, the date of Lanteri’s death and the date of Archer’s accident are the same – August 5th.



The March issue of La Revue Ste. Rita

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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 TikTok is creating a lot of controversy? And a lot of concern?

TikTok is a popular app that originates in China. Unlike other apps, TikTok does not prevent third parties from accessing information. If you have TikTok you already agreed to this — like most people you may have selected “I agree” without reading the fine print.

The agreement means that the communist Chinese government has full access to any and all information you put on TikTok. Some people are concerned about what the Chinese government will do with this information. Stay tuned as this is a developing story.

Ordinations and So Much More ... (continued)

This prompted both Louise and her son Archer to pray to Venerable Lanteri. The focus of their prayer is a request for a full and complete healing for Archer. They are hoping that this will be the miracle that will lead to Lanteri’s beatification or canonization.

Louise asked me (Fr. John Wykes, OMV) to appear on her podcast and so I did. The podcast can be found at BlinkOfAnEyePodcast.com under the title “Fr. Bruno Lanteri’s Healing Legacy with Fr. John Wykes, OMV”.

UPDATE: Archer had a heart attack not long after I did the podcast. Louise and family ask for continued prayers.

In the space we have left, let us review something that has been getting a lot of attention lately: synthetic media.

Synthetic media is all the rage right now. It is amazing but also scary. Cloned voice recordings and deep fake technology means being able to take a familiar painting or film scene and easily change the race, gender, and voice of the subject with a few clicks of the mouse.

Some are predicting that this will change advertising with what is being called data-driven synthetic media. Using data that social media collects from your YouTube, Facebook, and TikTok accounts, advertisers will be able to effect a rapid turnaround and provide you with hyper-personalized ads in real time. This sort of thing was predicted in the 2002 science fiction film *Minority Report*, in which retina scans of a passing customer prompted a CGI talent to blurt out that customer’s name, directly addressing the customer and asking them how they liked the product they purchased recently. Now, twenty-one years after Steven Spielberg’s sci-fi opus, it looks like such an approach to advertising could become reality very soon.

Others talk about much more sinister uses of the technology, including the faking of important decision-making processes by high-ranking officials. This so-called “weaponization” of synthetic media could actually pose a threat to some countries’ national security, some contend.

Let us pray for our world and that all of us will be inspired to use the media well – and responsibly.

God bless you — and have a Happy Easter!



Fr. Luis Costantino, OMV, Rector Major, chats with a good friend. They knew each other for years before Francis became pope.