

Monthly Media Monitor



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

Volume 10 Issue 2 — February 2019

A New Year with New Ventures



Posing in front of the new vocational backdrop is (left to right): Fr. Tom Carzon, OMV; Br. Brenden Bell, OMV; Br. Paul Kallal, OMV; Fr. John Luong, OMV (Vocation Director); and Br. Leland Thorpe, OMV. The backdrop was used in January at the FOCUS vocational conference in Indianapolis, IN, USA.

The first month of 2019 was an active and interesting one for Oblates of the Virgin Mary throughout the world.

Fr. John Luong, OMV, Vocation Director of the OMV U.S. Province, spoke to us recently about a new backdrop he is using for vocational work.

“I wanted a backdrop that had something to do with (the OMVs),” said Fr. John. “St. Clement (in Boston) was the ideal image since it is the chapel of our seminary. Unlike other backdrops, ours has a curvature frame. My hope ...is to make it more engaging—to give it that 3D effect.”

The backdrop was certainly effective at a recent vocational conference in Indiana as it provided a spiritual setting for relics of St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and St. John Paul II (three Marian Saints of Mercy). Many prospective candidates came to spend time at the OMV

table and to pray by the relics. There was also printed material available at the table.

Fr. John thanks a number of people who helped with the image, including John Grover who took the original high resolution image and Schwartzkopf Printing in Alton, IL for their assistance.

In other media related news, this author (Fr. John Wykes, OMV) worked with Sr. Bernadette Reis, DSP on English-language commentary for the Papal Mass for the Baptism of the Lord. I hope to help provide commentary for future papal events. The commentary was carried around the world by Vatican Radio, EWTN, Catholic TV, and others. Visit <https://youtu.be/45RL5CMazgl>. I'm at 25:00.

I also made a very short video of our General House in Rome. You can see the video here: <https://youtu.be/GaZBIWNYnVM>

(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



Did You Know...?

...that Fr. Paul Etafo Ubebe, OMV, has received a communications award?

One of our Oblates in Nigeria, Fr. Paul is the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Nigerian Delegation of the OMVs. On January 29th (just a couple of days ago), Fr. Paul received an award from the Catholic Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (Northern Region). He received the award for his contributions to the apostolate of social communications in Nigeria. In response, Fr. Paul dedicated his award to the Oblates of the Virgin Mary as well as to Catholic TV in Nigeria.

Congratulations Fr. Paul!

A New Year... (continued)

Just a reminder that this video is just one of many on our “OMV Internazionale” YouTube Channel. The international channel includes *Nunc Coepi* (the life of Venerable Lanteri) in three different languages. To see this channel, visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGByokYSF8f0F3XLKvu9tLQ>

More news from Italy — as we all know, both music and the spoken word are very old forms of media. In liturgy, they can communicate God’s love and truth and lead us to a deeper prayer experience. To this end, Fr. Pierre Paul, OMV is organizing the liturgies for the special February meeting of bishops at the Vatican. His liturgical planning includes the daily Mass as well as the Liturgy of the Hours.

On January 24th, Pope Francis released his annual Message for World Communications Day. Even though the day is not celebrated until the end of the Easter Season, the message is always released on the Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists. To read the message, visit http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco_20190124_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html

Back in the USA...as we reported before, Philip Rivers, football player with the Los Angeles Chargers, is very open about his Catholic faith and often speaks of the need to “begin again.” After a recent Mass at Holy Ghost Parish in Denver, CO, Fr. Chris Uhl, OMV (pastor) met Rivers and gave him a copy of the book *Begin Again* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV (this is the biography of Venerable Lanteri). Seeing the title of the book, Rivers smiled, recognizing in the title his often repeated theme of “Nunc Coepi” (Now I begin). See the photo at the bottom of this page.



Fr. Chris Uhl gives Philip Rivers a copy of the book *Begin Again*.

The Counsels of Mercy are various quotes by OMV Founder Venerable Lanteri on God’s mercy. They have been proven to be very popular and so have been reprinted many times — mostly in English. Now this valuable pamphlet has been translated into French. The French version of the Counsels can be found here: <https://oblatesvm-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/bruno-lanteri/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2018/08/2018-Counsels-of-Mercy-FRENCH.pdf>

Well, that’s all the news we have for this month. God bless you and we will see you next month!