

Celebrating Our 10th ANNIVERSARY 2010 - 2020

Monthly Media Monitor



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

Volume 11 Issue 4 — April 2020

Virus is Powerless Against OMV Media



Oblates from around the world take to social media during the pandemic. Left to right and top to bottom: A reflection on the Good Shepherd is streamed from Italy, Mass streamed from Austria, Mass streamed from England, Mass streamed from the United States, health tips streamed from Nigeria, Mass streamed from Brazil, Mass streamed from France, Eucharistic Adoration streamed from the Philippines.

The Corona virus has met its match!

There is no doubt that the pandemic has taken people from their place of work, closed down schools and universities, and has forced people (sometimes by threat of heavy fines) into seclusion. Sadly, it has taken many lives, and made many others seriously ill.

But the Corona virus has not stopped OMV Media. Instead, the virus has emboldened and enlivened it.

Like so many other religious congregations and diocese, Oblates of the Virgin Mary (perhaps some for the first time) have recognized the extraordinary power of social media. Reflections are streamed. Masses are celebrated on-line. Pastors check-in with their flocks. And helpful advice is shared.

Oftentimes, the personal touch is appreciated by the people — a short video reflection on the readings of the day or a short video tour of an OMV community house have been examples of how doing something a little different can help console people who are in isolation. In Alton, IL, USA, St. Mary's pastor Fr. Jeremy Paulin, OMV has been

(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

Virus is Powerless Against OMV Media (continued)

activating Facebook live and chatting with his parishioners — greeting them as they digitally indicate that they are watching his video. The daily afternoon “check in” is appreciated by many in his flock. Also at St. Mary’s, a sacred music concert was streamed on Facebook. Not surprisingly, hardly anyone could attend this concert in person — its main purpose was to provide music for those listening and watching on-line.

As you can imagine, the primary reason for which social media has been used by OMVs during the last month has been to stream the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass — most of the time over Facebook Live. Just some of the places are seen in the photo collage on page one. Thanks to modern technology, the use of a phone, or, in the case of England the use of an iPad, can bring the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to those deeply saddened that they cannot go to church. OMVs have been streaming Masses in South America, North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

One or two places had been already up and running with multiple cameras in place before this all started. The best example of this would be St. Clement Shrine in Boston, MA, USA, which had already been streaming every Mass with multiple cameras for years before the pandemic even began. Now that the pandemic has hit the USA with full force, St. Clement has used their existing technology to continue the streaming service. Others in the Boston area have also done special streaming — for example, Fr. John Luong, OMV, has been streaming Eucharistic Adoration from the community house chapel in Boston. Fr. Jerry Joaquin, OMV, has been streaming Eucharistic Adoration from the house chapel in Cebu, the Philippines. And Oblates in Austria have been streaming scriptural reflections.

It is a strange and difficult time for us all. May God bless you and may the glory of the Easter Season fill you with the warmth of hope of the Resurrection.



MMM Flashback

September 2015

Five years ago, the September Monthly Media Monitor summarized media coverage of the General Chapter of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.

It mentioned how the General Chapter is held once every six years and includes the election (or re-election) of the Rector Major — the Father General of the Congregation. Fr. John Idio, OMV, was part of this historic event and captured various parts of the Chapter on video. The

highlight videos were usually three minutes in length and were posted every day. Written summaries were also posted, taking the form of three paragraphs of text. Two versions of the text were prepared — one in English and one in Italian.

It was the first time an OMV General Chapter had been captured on video, including the moment when the new Rector Major, Fr. Dave Nicgorski, OMV, was elected. Fr. John even interviewed the new Rector Major less than one hour after his election.

The remainder of this issue talked about other OMV-related media news, including the appearance of Fr. Sean Morris, OMV, in *Columbia* magazine, the filming of *Nunc Coepi — The Life of Venerable Bruno Lanteri*, the release of the Crossroad audio book version of Fr. Tim Gallagher’s *Discerning the Will of God*, and a number of other stories as well.

