

Celebrating Our 10th ANNIVERSARY 2010 - 2020

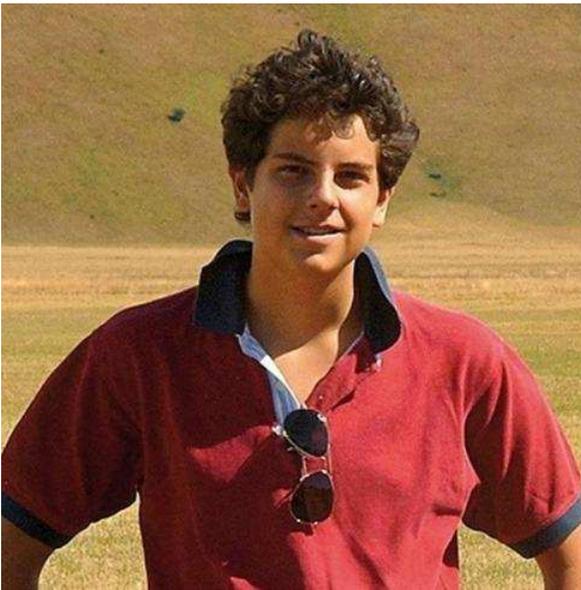
Monthly Media Monitor



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

Volume 11 Issue 7 — October 2020

Carlo Acutis, Pray for Us and our OMV Media Apostolate!



Carlo Acutis will be beatified on October 10

It might seem odd to begin this issue with a picture of an ordinary teenage boy who likes playing video games and designing websites. However, this “ordinary” boy will be beatified within the next couple of weeks, so it is worth looking at the life of this new 21st Century digital media saint.

Carlo Acutis was born in 1991 (yes, you read that correctly, BORN in 1991). Even at the tender age of five he had a strong devotion to the Holy Eucharist and Mary, often visiting the local church in Milan (Italy) to pray at the tabernacle and put some flowers in front of a statue of Mary. This surprised his family as they were not devout and skipping Sunday Mass was not a big deal for them. Young Carlo’s devotion inspired his mother to go to church more frequently.

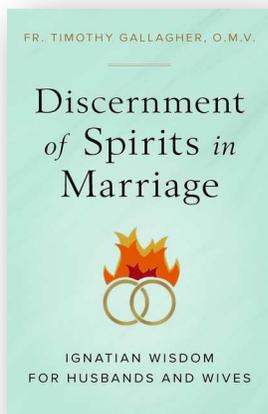
As Carlo got older, he showed an aptitude for things digital. He loved computer games but decided that he needed to limit his play time to just one hour per week. He defended fellow students who were bullied in school. He was known for his cheerful disposition. A talented computer programmer, he designed his own website on Eucharistic Miracles, collecting information from all over the world. When he was afflicted with leukemia he offered his suffering for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Universal Church. His dying request to his parents was that he be buried in Assisi, as he had a great devotion to St. Francis. To the surprise of many, a number of poor and homeless people attended his 2006 funeral — they had been given food and nourishment by the teenage Carlo who often spent his evenings ministering to the poor in the streets.

A miracle worked through his intercession was verified by medical experts last year. This 15-year-old boy, who will be beatified in Assisi on October 10, has been called a patron of youth and the internet. What a great model for today’s young people — and, quite frankly, for the rest of us as well. A true saint of the digital age. And perhaps a saintly friend, we could say, of Venerable Pio Bruno Lanteri, who also used the media to proclaim the truth.

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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



In other, OMV media-related news: CoVid 19 continues, but so do innovative ways to reach out to people using social communications. In the United States, Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV directed a “virtual retreat” on discerning the will of God. The retreat took place from September 25-27 and was hosted by the Diocese of Lansing (Michigan). Based on Fr. Tim’s book, *Discerning the Will of God*, the retreat invited people to come in person to the St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt, Michigan, where retreatants could meet in small groups and listen to talks by Fr. Tim (given virtually). People could also tune into the virtual retreat from their own homes.

Fr. Tim also has yet another new book being published. This is called *Discernment of Spirits in Marriage* (the cover is pictured at left). According to the blurb written by the publishers, Fr. Tim “aims to free you from discouragement and assist you in finding peace in your spiritual life and in your marriage. He will help you determine what is of God and what is not and will show you how the enemy works to

discourage you in your daily spousal interactions in order to undermine both your spiritual growth and your marital bond. Best of all, you’ll learn what to do about it!

Fr. Tim also has other media initiatives in the works. These include a series of podcasts on the Servant of God Leonie Martin (sister of St. Therese) on Discerning Hearts, two new TV series to be taped for EWTN (the Eternal Word Television Network) in November, some videos for Fr. Robert Spitzer, and several virtual retreats.

That’s the news for this month. Be sure to check out our “MMM Flashback” below as we continue to celebrate ten years of publication. God bless you and see you in November.



MMM Flashback June 2010



The very first issue of the Monthly Media Monitor came out in June of 2010. At that time, of course, the main article was about the MMM itself, its purpose, and its focus.

This author (Fr. John Wykes, OMV) had been amazed by how much media-related ministry Oblates of the Virgin Mary were doing. And I wanted to tell others about it. Thus was born the Monthly Media Monitor, “your guide to the Oblates of the

Virgin Mary and their involvement in the world of the mass media!”

“It is nice to know,” continued the article, “that this apostolate is not a one-man show, but something that is lived actively by many members of our community. Oblates of the Virgin Mary make videos, give presentations, appear on television, radio, print, and even end up on YouTube.” At this time, YouTube itself was just five years old.

Other articles in the same issue covered a number of stories.

These included a new TV series by Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV on EWTN (“Living the Discerning Life”), an appearance by OMV friend Tim Van Damm on EWTN’s “Life on the Rock,” and a “Media Quote of the Month” from the Vatican document *Guide to the Training of Future Priests Concerning the Instruments of Social Communication* (1986).