

Celebrating Our **10th ANNIVERSARY** 2010 - 2020

Monthly Media Monitor



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

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Covid Second Wave Can't Stop the OMV Media Apostolate!

Covid numbers are going up again in Europe as well as other places around the globe. But OMVs remain active in the media apostolate — seeking to spread the truth of God's love and mercy in the midst of the pandemic.

We can start with a little review of our seminarians (two of whom are seen in the photo). Despite Covid, they are continuing their formation using various means.

In the Philippines, all seminarian classes are on-line, which is often made difficult because of the poor internet connections. But in-house classes and formation continue there. In the USA, most courses are being taught on-line. In Nigeria, the seminaries were completely closed for a few months. Now they are open again — with some strict restrictions in place. In Brazil, all the seminarians' classes are on-line.

We ask for God's blessings upon our seminarians and their formators/instructors as they persevere through this awkward time.

In other media news — St. Mary's Parish in Alton, IL, USA had their annual Oktoberfest Fundraiser this year, but on-line. This more unique way of doing an Oktoberfest consisted of a on-line, Facebook Live tapping of the first keg as well as on-line auctions. The pastor, Fr. Jeremy Paulin, OMV, appeared on local radio to promote this event. The radio program was "Let's Talk" and aired on October 19.

Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV, has been keeping busy, as always. Just a couple of days ago (October 28 and 29), Fr. Tim was busy recording a ten-part series on Venerable Pio Bruno Lanteri's message of overcoming spiritual discouragement. This series was filmed at the Lanteri Center in Denver, CO by Autumn Leaves Productions and will be available sometime in the coming months.

Fr. Tim will be the host of a five-part television series for EWTN. The series, also on overcoming spiritual discouragement, will be filmed by the network from November 9 through 13. Our OMV-staffed Holy Ghost Church in Denver, CO will host the video shoot — thanks to the generosity of the pastor, Fr. Chris Uhl, OMV. The series will air on EWTN sometime next year.



Gison Dos Santos (left) and Kaue Ribeiro, shown here renewing their vows earlier this year in Brazil, are just two of our seminarians who are continuing their classes on-line during this difficult time of Covid.

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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

Covid Second Wave Can't Stop OMV Media... (continued)

Fr. Tim also did the cover story for the latest *The Priest* magazine. “Last spring,” said Fr. Tim, “the editor, Fr. Dave Bonnar, contacted me and asked if I would write an article about prayer in the priest’s life. As I say in the article, I realized that I couldn’t cover the topic in the limited space of an article and so chose to write on the holy hour — a personal sharing with an invitation to priests.” The article is entitled “The Heart of Prayer.”

The Theme for World Communications Day 2021 has been announced by Pope Francis. The theme is “Come and See’ (Jn 1,46) — Communicating, encountering people as they are and where they are.” Expanding on this, the Vatican website reminds us that the words “Come and see” are central to the Gospel. But before these words are uttered, there is first an encounter with people. There are “looks, testimonies, experiences, encounters, and closeness. In a word, life.” The official announcement continues, “We do not know the truth if we do not experience it, if we do not meet people, if we do not participate in their joys and sorrows....In the call of the first disciples, with Jesus who went to encounter them and to invite them to follow Him, we also see the invitation to use all media, in all forms, to reach people as they are and where they live.”

World Communications Day is the only day of special observance mandated by the Second Vatican Council. The theme for World Communications Day for a given year is announced the previous year on September 29th, the Feast of the Archangels. The message for World Communications Day is published by the pope on January 24, the memorial of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists. The actual World Communications Day is then celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost.

Have a blessed month of November and make sure you check out our “MMM Flashback” below as we continue to celebrate ten years of publication. God bless!



MMM Flashback November 2010



Ten years ago this month, the November 2010 issue of the *Monthly Media Monitor* announced that Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV, was writing a new biography of OMV Founder Venerable Pio Bruno Lanteri.

The article said that the writing stage of the project followed an 18-month period of intense reading and research. Fr. Tim started writing the first draft of the book at the Jesuit Regis College in Toronto, Canada — an arrangement Fr. Tim said was

“ideal.” He hoped to make “substantial progress” on the first draft of the book (later the book was completed and entitled *Begin Again*).

The same issue spoke of Fr. Dave Yankauskas, OMV and his love of iconography. Fr. Dave had invited famed iconographer Marek Czarnecki to speak at Saint Francis Chapel in Boston. Fr. Dave then decided to attend an interesting Icon Retreat/Workshop directed by Czarnecki. “I hope,” said Fr. Dave in the article, “to take what I learn in

the workshop and distill it down to give my own retreats and workshops, plugging-in with Ignatian elements.”

The issue concluded with some interesting insights into social media. For example, it was stated that the fastest growing segment on Facebook at the time was 55-65 year old females.