

Monthly Media Monitor



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

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A New International Website...and More

This month we are happy to start off this issue with news about oblati.org, our OMV international website.

[Oblati.org](http://oblati.org) has been around for years, but what launched last month was a brand-new version of this international website for the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.

It is a very simple website — this is deliberate so that people will want to go to our more localized websites (for example, omvusa.org). [Oblati.org](http://oblati.org) is seen to be a “hub” — almost like an airport terminal.

The language can switch from English to Italian with a simple click of the appropriate flag at the top right corner of the webpage. Information on our Congregation, our Founder, and our Mission can be found at the top. Additionally, a list of countries where the Oblates minister can be found near the middle of the home page. Clicking on any country is akin to packing your bags and visiting that country. Therefore, all the information conveyed is in the language of that particular country. Click on “England” and the information is in English. Click on “Brazil” and the information is in Portuguese. And so on. This information includes a life of our Founder, Venerable Lanteri, in that particular language. This means, for the very first time, the Oblates have a website that features a life of our Founder written in multiple languages (Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and German).

Near the bottom are various links, including a video player that has a “highlighted video” from our OMV Internazionale YouTube Channel.

Feel free to visit and explore www.oblati.org.

In other news, Fr. Justin Huang of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Vancouver, Canada is a diocesan priest who is a big fan of OMV Founder Venerable Pio Bruno Lanteri. His homilies, uploaded to YouTube, have featured quotes from Lanteri and have emphasized the theme of

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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 that the first pope to be captured on motion picture film (and the first pope to have his voice recorded) was Pope Leo XIII?

Pope Leo's pontificate began in 1878 and ended with his death in 1903.

It was in 1896 that the pope appeared on film. Apparently some European leaders had heard rumors of his ill health, so Pope Leo thought a brief appearance on film would allay their fears. In the silent film, the pope can be seen walking with a cane, then sitting down. He also gives his blessing while looking at the camera (seen in the frame capture above).

The sound recording, which is also available on the web (just Google it), is of the pope praying the Ave Maria.

New International Website... (continued)

beginning again. "Begin Again: Go Out of Yourself" is his homily for December 13 of last year, while the live streamed New Year's Eve Holy Hour is on the theme of beginning again and features five quotes from Venerable Lanteri. Fr. Huang's homilies can be found on the "St. Anthony of Padua—Vancouver" YouTube Channel.

Speaking of YouTube, the OMVs in the USA have made a very nice video of St. Joseph Retreat House in Milton, MA. The video, which featuring a "floating" camera giving a wonderful tour of the house and its surroundings, is called "St. Joseph Retreat House — Beautiful Scenic Peaceful and Prayerful — Oblates of the Virgin Mary."

Another beautiful video, this one made by Fulgura Films in France, captures the unveiling of new icons in the crypt of our student residence chapel near Paris. Look for the video on Vimeo under the title "Dévoilement des Icônes - Vendredi 15 janvier 2021".

The actual blessing of the icons took place yesterday. The bishop of Natterre, Bishop Emmanuele Adamakys, the Greek metropolitan of France, presided at the blessing. No news yet on a possible video upload of this ceremony.

On January 16th, Fr. Michele Babuin, OMV, one of our priests at San Vittorino in Rome, guided a special Sacred Scripture meeting on Abraham and holiness. The event was streamed live on YouTube and included the Holy Rosary as it was prayed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

Also in Italy, Br. Luca Chirizzi, OMV was ordained to the diaconate yesterday, January 31, at the Cathedral of Teramo in Italy. Due to the pandemic attendance was limited. However, the ceremony was streamed live on YouTube on the channel "Diocesi di Teramo-Altri".

Meanwhile, the streaming of daily Masses continues during this time of pandemic. Every country where our Oblates reside does some sort of streaming every day — either for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, a daily Holy Hour, or both.

That's all our news for this month. We pray that you have a deeply spiritual Ash Wednesday and a good start to the Lenten Season. We'll see you in March!



Fr. John Luong, OMV, has been highlighting OMV masks — a great way to promote the Oblates during this trying time.