

Monthly Media Monitor



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

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The Metaverse...and Other News, too!



The Metaverse is coming — are you ready? Are any of us ready? (Image — cointribune.com)

We begin the new year by addressing something that has been in the news lately. What is the Metaverse and why are people so excited about it? And scared by it?

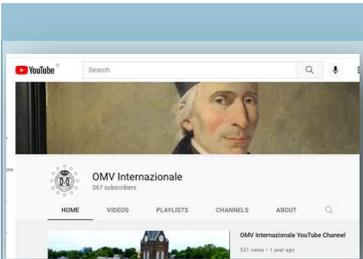
The Metaverse is a virtual environment which serves as a 3-D extension of the Internet. For example, instead of playing a video game and then walking away to go shopping, the Metaverse means you would be plugged in all the time. Elements of the real world would mix with the virtual — with help from special goggles where you could view the virtual world as an extension of the real world (both “worlds” clearly visible to the user). Shopping lists, phone calls, calendars, and the like could be opened and engaged at the same time, even as you walk down the street. In short, the Metaverse would be the extension of the Internet into a space that is its own virtual world, complete with headsets that present an interactive, three-dimensional virtual world of augmented reality.

Where is all this going? Please allow this author (Fr. John Wykes, OMV) to quote himself: “Just because something is possible does not mean it is practical or desirable.” When the drooling over Metaverse possibilities begins to settle down, practicality will take over. Chances are that certain aspects of the

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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



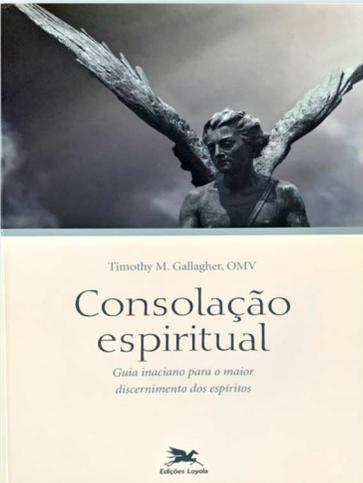
Did You Know...?

...that that the Oblates of the Virgin Mary have an international YouTube Channel?

It is called “OMV Internazionale” and features a number of videos from various parts of the world. Many of the videos have been made directly for the Channel, while others (such as some OMV USA videos) have been made for another OMV You Tube Channel and then saved to a playlist on OMV Internazionale.

There are playlists for various countries in which the OMVs live and minister. There are also specialized playlists, such as the “Nunc Coepi Extras” playlist and the “La Scienza” playlist (the latter featuring videos from the chaplaincy of Fr. Mauro Oliva, OMV).

There are 62 videos in all. Check them out!



A book by Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV that has been recently translated into Portuguese.

Metaverse... (continued)

Metaverse will prove to be very helpful (such as engineering or medical applications). Others will be problematic (even now, young addicted virtual gamers have a growing difficulty with social interaction because they never learned to read non-verbal communication properly — they have rarely interacted with other human beings face-to-face). In any event, as Oblates of the Virgin Mary who seek to understand the means of social communications, it behooves us to follow this technology and understand its implications — both positive and negative.

Meanwhile, content creators are busy building assets to populate this new 3-D Internet environment. A “brave new world” awaits us — are we ready to respond to it?

In other, Oblate related news... Fr. Fabrizio Crucitti, OMV was ordained to the priesthood on December 7. The blessed event took place at our OMV Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in San Vittorino on the far east side of Rome in Italy. This joyful event was streamed — the video of which can be found on YouTube under the title “Ordinazione sacerdotale di Fabrizio Crucitti presiede la celebrazione S.E. l'Arcivescovo Benotto”.

Collaboration with lay people is an important part of OMV life — and this can include working with Catholic youth. At OMV-staffed St. Mary’s Parish in Alton, IL, the youth group (called the “God Squad”) made a fun, short video for the St. Mary’s Facebook page on December 9. Featuring three God Squad members, the video is a thank you to those who bought special blankets as a fund raiser for the youth group. On December 24, the same parish published a Merry Christmas video, featuring video clips of parish life at Christmastime.

Meanwhile, omvusa, the Oblate YouTube Channel for the U.S. Province, published an updated vocation video entitled “Becoming an Oblate of the Virgin Mary (2021-2022),” featuring clips from previous versions of the video plus newly-updated clips as well as new dates for “Come and See” vocation visits to Boston. Both scenes of prayer as well as fun, light-hearted scenes of recreation are featured.

The same channel published a “Merry Christmas from the Oblates of the Virgin Mary” video, featuring interesting video clips from many parts of the USA, including Hawaiian Gardens, Denver, Alton, Milton, and Boston.

That’s the news for this month. Happy New Year and see you in February!