

Monthly Media Monitor



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

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Statue from OMV Shrine Present at Consecration



Pope Francis spends a moment of silence in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The statue was brought in from our OMV shrine in San Vittorino. Image from Vatican News.

The dramatic consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25 was made even more dramatic by the presence of a statue brought in from San Vittorino.

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima has its usual home at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in San Vittorino — east of Vatican City. The Shrine is staffed by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary as well as the Oblate Sisters of the Virgin Mary of Fatima.

The statue was carefully packaged and transported to St. Peter's Basilica. It was then temporarily placed in the sacristy until it was moved into the basilica, close to the main altar. Pope Francis prayed

the Act of Consecration while sitting in a chair facing the statue. Afterward, with the help of two small children, flowers were placed at the base of the statue. Millions around the world tuned into the stream from Vatican News to pray with the Holy Father.

Even with a war shattering Eastern Europe and CoVid experiencing a resurgence in many parts of the world, the Oblates of the Virgin Mary have continued their work to reach out to others using the means of social communication.

In this age of digital technology, it is important to remember that music remains a beautiful and important means of communication. On March 14, a special "Spiritual Encounter" was held in Rome at the Church of S. Maria in Vallicella, marking the 400th Anniversary of the Canonizations of Sts. Philip Neri, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila, and Isidore the Farmer. The event included the reading of passages from the Imitation of Christ as well as orchestral performances conducted by our

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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 Fr. John Idio, OMV, far left in the above photo, not only makes videos but seeks to help others to learn this craft?

Fr. John recently submitted a paper to be used at a Training/Workshop for Catholic Diocesan and Religious Directors of Social Communication, held in Abuja in Nigeria. The name of Fr. John's paper was "Basic Elements of Producing Documentaries."

In his presentation, Fr. John teaches communicators basic concepts of pre-production, production, and post-production, including finding a theme for the film, gathering equipment, preparing for the film shoot, editing, and distribution. The goal of the presentation is to give communicators the confidence to produce their own interesting and informative documentaries.

Statue... (continued)

very own Fr. Pierre Paul, OMV. Music included selections from such greats as Grieg, Respighi, and Vaughan Williams. The orchestra was from the Academy of Music of St. Peter's. The event was captured with a very impressive set-up utilizing three cameras and a switcher. The live, multi-cam stream is preserved as a video on YouTube: "Incontro dell'Oratorio in Musica - Chi segue me non cammina nelle tenebre".

Digital technology helps to communicate to those who cannot attend in person certain presentations and reflections. This happened once again with a retreat given by Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV at the OMV-staffed St. Mary's Parish in Alton, IL, USA. "Finding Freedom from Discouragement: Practical Guidelines from St. Ignatius of Loyola" was a one-day retreat offered on March 19. Those who could attend in person did so at the parish church and at Suddes Hall, the parish gym and multi-purpose hall. Those who could not attend in person could attend virtually via Zoom. The retreat day was registered as a Zoom Event and categorized into three parts: "Morning Talks," "Mass and Adoration," and "Afternoon Talks and Questions".

Fr. Andrea Brustolon, OMV, was interviewed recently about his book, *Custodici dagli angeli*. The on-line interview was conducted by Franca Rizzi Martini and uploaded to her eponymous YouTube Channel. Born in Milan, Franca Rizzi Martini is a writer and teacher whose channel features a number of book reviews. The interview is entitled "Custoditi dagli angeli di padre Andrea Brustolon".

Recently I (Fr. John Wykes, OMV) did an interview with Dr. Maria Grazia Marciani. A neurologist who also has a licentiate in bio-ethics from the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum University in Rome,

Dr. Marciani studied the life of our Founder, Venerable Bruno Lanteri, and wrote a book on his physical sufferings. It is hoped that two versions of this interview, one in English and the other in Italian, will be ready before Holy Week.

God bless you all — especially during this precious time of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. Happy Easter!



Franca Rizzi Martini (left) interviews Fr. Andrea Brustolon, OMV (right)