

Monthly Media Monitor



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

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World Communications Day 2023



Pope Francis greets pilgrims in St. Peter's Square.
Photo by John Wykes, OMV

It is the Easter Season — which means we are preparing, once again, for the celebration of World Communications Day!

The only official day of observance mandated by Vatican II, World Communications Day for any given year begins the previous year, with the announcement of the theme for the day being published on September 29 — the feast of the Archangels. The actual message for World Communications Day is then published on the following January 24 — the memorial of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists. Finally, World Communications Day itself is celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost — this year on May 21, 2023.

The theme for this year is “Speaking with the heart— ‘The truth in Love’ (Eph. 4:15)”. The pope begins his message by recalling that, in previous messages, the importance of listening has been emphasized. “Once we have practiced listening,” continues the pontiff, “which demands waiting and patience, as well as foregoing the assertion of our point of view in a prejudicial way, we can enter into the dynamic of dialogue and sharing, which is precisely that of *communicating in a cordial way*. After listening to the other with a pure heart, we will also be able to speak *following the truth in love* (cf. Eph 4:15)”.

Look for the this and other World Communications Day messages on the Vatican website (vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages).

On other news...The Lanteri Guild is an effort by Oblates of the Virgin Mary in the USA to make our Founder, Venerable Bruno Lanteri, better known and loved. In March, the Oblates published a newly-revamped version of the Lanteri Guild Newsletter. The issue featured “When Love is Stronger than Death” by Fr. Bill Brown, OMV, key dates from the life of Venerable Lanteri, testimonials about 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 the Dicastery for Communications oversees all communications offices for the Holy See and Vatican City State?

In its long history, the Dicastery has had different names and different responsibilities.

After a time and in the early years of this century, it became clear that the various media entities of the Holy See needed to work together in this era of media convergence. Vatican Radio, the Vatican newspaper, and the Vatican press office as well as Vatican TV were all in their own “worlds” so to speak. When the dicastery took oversight of all of these groups, it went from being one of the smallest dicasteries to being the largest one in the Church. Paulo Ruffini, a lay man, is the prefect. He is the very first lay man to head a Vatican dicastery.

Ordinations and So Much More ... (continued)

impact of Lanterian spirituality, Oblate prayers, a OMV vocation update, and “Navigating Seasons of Grieving” (an excerpt from the book *Men of Mercy, Sons of Mary*).

Also from the USA... Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV sent me the following e-mail a few weeks ago. “I thought you’d be interested to know,” said Fr. Tim, “that I just finished recording one hundred 10-minute meditations for the Hallow app. They will be posted in August — one a day. Nine of them give a teaching on how to pray with Scripture in the way St. Ignatius teaches. Ninety of them are meditations that take people through the whole Spiritual Exercises.”

Fr. Tim added that this daunting project has taken a while to put together, with the recording itself taking ten days. The first part of the production was done before Christmas with other recording days being done in both March and April. “Quite a project,” Fr. Tim exclaims...and he is correct.

The photo below shows the room where the talks were recorded — the Hallow app paid for time in a professional studio setting to obtain good quality audio.

Also in the USA... the annual fundraising Gala took place on April 29th. Unfortunately, this newsletter was written before the event actually occurred, but we can say that media were used extensively both before and during the event. With the theme of “Nunc Coepi —

where a lifetime of service begins,” the Gala was promoted by a “Save the Date” video published on YouTube. Also, another video on the history of the U.S. Province was reportedly in the works. Of course, a lot of on-line website work offered visitors the ability to purchase advertisements in the gala program and to donate to the Oblates via various sponsorship levels.

That’s the news for the month of May. We wish you are very Happy Easter Season — and a festive World Communications Day!



An audio technician at work in the room where the talks by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV, were recorded.